

Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ www.cec.coop ■ 618-662-2171 ■ 800-582-9012



From the Manager

Valentine's Day is coming up soon. At Clay Electric Cooperative, we love our members. You are special to us in ways that customers of regular businesses aren't. As a member of a cooperative, you are part owner. At our annual meeting in August, our membership comes together to elect the directors who will guide and direct the cooperative forward. The money we collect from you through our rates goes directly to providing you with safe and reliable electricity. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, each year we calculate how much it costs us to provide power to all our members, and the rest is recorded to be paid back to the membership as capital credits. Clay Electric will hold onto these funds for a time as a safety net in case of the need to make major repairs, deal with difficult economic and power market issues, etc. Each year, we look back and repay those funds to the membership. This year, we will be paying back the years 1982 and 1983.

You will have seen a credit on your January bills. Your board of directors

is always balancing the collection of sufficient revenue to keep your cooperative fiscally healthy, taking the least amount of money from our members. With our end of the year calculations, the board decided the cooperative could afford to return a portion of FY 2022 revenue to our members. Clay Electric Cooperative returned \$250,000 to our members on our January bills. **7163-001** We hope in these difficult times that this provided some small bit of reprieve following the holiday season and the extra expenses that come along with it.

This past year, we upgraded our billing system. Our new Meridian billing system is much "smarter" than our old system. It hasn't been a flawless upgrade, as no technology has ever been implemented without bugs, but we are happy with the new system as we continue to get familiar with it. Part of this new system is a new payment app. In our new app, you can make payments and view your account information. The Clay ECI app is available for iOS and Android devices

and can be downloaded through the App Store or Google Play. Just search "Clay ECI" and look for our green logo. Once downloaded, register your account and you'll have access to your information anywhere you go. Please remember that our members who also receive water from Clay County Water, Inc. will need to register those accounts separately as they are managed separately to our electric accounts.

Don't forget to be on the lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call you win \$5 off your next bill!



Matt Conklin
CEO



Speaking up about workplace hazards is everyone's job

How many days do you walk into your workplace, unaware of anything new around you? If you are like most people, probably most days. You walk straight to the break room for some hot java and then to your work area to start your day.

Most of us assume we are safe from on-the-job hazards that can cause incidents, injuries and deaths — yet these things happen every day. Though you may not see or notice them, hazards are present in our workplaces and homes.

Workplace hazards, unless they are obvious (think chemical spill or an obvious trip hazard), can fade into the background or be left for someone else to remedy. However, workplaces that enable every worker — regardless of title or position — to notice and respond to hazards make the workplace safer for everyone. A culture of safety saves lives.

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), workplaces should enable all employees to do the following:

Identify hazards

Nine Elements of Successful Safety and Health System, published by the NSC, categorizes hazards as:

- **Chemical:** inhaling, ingesting or contacting chemical substances.

- **Physical:** slips, falls, exposure to fire and electrical hazards or being struck by something.
- **Biological:** contact with blood-borne pathogens, mold, wastewater or poisons from plants or insects.
- **Ergonomic:** working at incorrectly designed workstations, repetitive work or forceful exertions.

As you go through your workday, consider the workstation, environment, tasks and machinery you use. Also think about distractions or factors such as temperature, lighting or noise. There are also other types of hazards, such as an uncomfortable work chair, a cluttered walkway or equipment that requires a lot of force to operate. Speak up if you notice an unsafe environment or scenario.

Prevent hazards

Everyone's response to hazards is essential for a safe workplace. The NSC recommends taking the following precautionary measures in the workplace:

- Avoid distracted walking.
- Use caution in high-traffic areas, such as doorways and around corners.

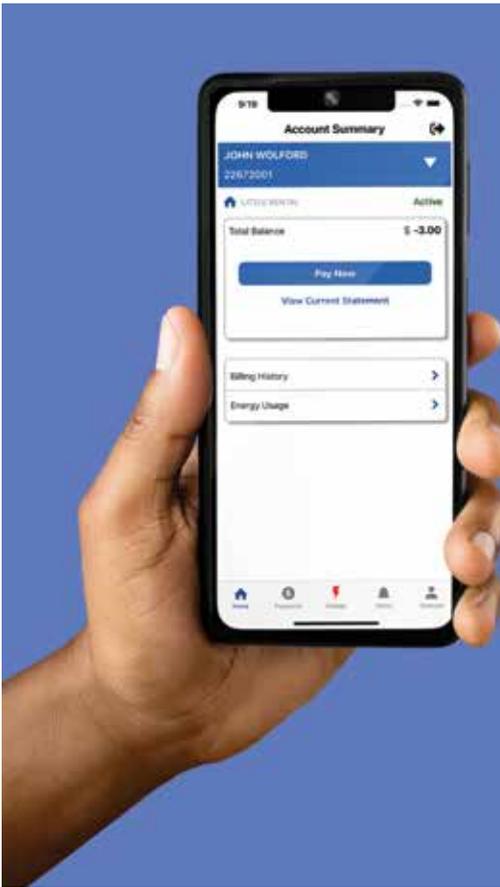
- Store heavy objects close to the floor and away from walkways.
- Check workstations for exposed cords.
- Stack materials in such a way that they will not fall.
- Ensure that cups and glasses have spillproof lids.
- Close file cabinet drawers.
- Replace burned-out lighting.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Know the process for reporting hazards.

In addition, always observe lockout/tagout procedures and immediately address conditions that could cause a slip, trip, fall or another type of injury.

Promote hazard awareness

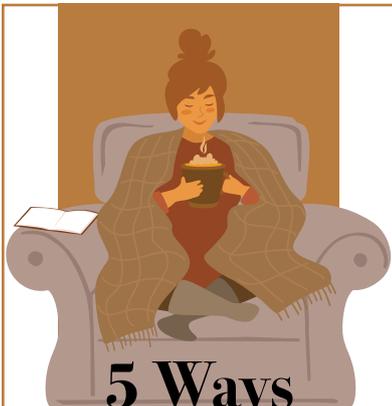
Employers should incorporate hazard awareness in the workplace to reduce and eliminate risks. A “find and fix” approach should be part of every workplace safety and health program. **13478-001** This mentality empowers employees to speak up when they see hazards and, in turn, makes the workplace a safer place.

For information about electrical safety at work and home, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Clay Electric Co-operative has a new app for iOS and Android devices. Search for 'CLAY ECI' in your app store and **DOWNLOAD TODAY!**



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

- Mind the thermostat.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.
- Get cozy.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.
- Don't block the heat.** If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.
- Take advantage of sunlight.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.
- Block air leaks.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

December 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Ill., beginning at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Kevin Logan, Richard Rudolph, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski and Josh Schnepfer. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof. Evan Smith was absent.

The invocation was given by Matt Conklin and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

REVIEWED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board;

■ **REVIEWED**, NCSC Report from the Board.

APPROVED, the write-offs.

APPROVED, the Deceased Estates.

DISCUSSED, the one-acre plot of land north of Flora. **TABLED**, a decision pending Matt Conklin's discussion with the farmer for a farming contract.

APPROVED, the 2023 Voting Delegates as presented, that being the same slate as 2022.

APPROVED, SIPC Waiver with Matt Conklin having the authority to sign such waiver.

REVIEWED, CFC report from the Board.

WERE INFORMED, CRC has a New President/CEO.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC Board Meeting.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC Board Meeting.

WERE UPDATED, on the NRECA Annual Meeting.

At 6:15 **APPROVED**, entering into executive session.

At 6:35 **APPROVED**, exiting executive session and returning to the regular meeting.

DISCUSSED the proposed 2023 budget including:

- SIPC Power Costs;
- Capital Credits;
- Advertising and Donations;
- Capital Items;
- 2023 Budget.

APPROVED, the 2023 Budget as presented.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in November 2022;
- November 2022 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss 14945-002;
- November 2022 Form 7;
- November 2022 Balance Sheet;

REVIEWED, the Safety Report for the month of December.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Truck 12 Replacement;
- Radio Tower Maintenance;
- Retirement of office staff member;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

WERE INFORMED, a new vehicle was purchased upon recommendation of the Transportation Committee.

DISCUSSED, Radio Tower Maintenance.

APPROVED, the quote from Allstate to repair all the critical issues with the Radio.

DISCUSSED, a retirement of office staff member in 2024.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Jan. 23, 2023, Feb. 27, 2023 and March 27, 2023 at 5 p.m., and April 24, 2023 at 5 p.m. and the strategic planning meetings on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2023.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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