

Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

2024

From the Manager

Happy New Year!

Clay Electric Co-operative is happy to welcome in a new year full of new opportunities. As we look toward 2024, there are plenty of opportunities and difficulties on the horizon. Your cooperative has worked hard the last several years to build up the resiliency of the core of the system with rebuilding projects. We are incredibly happy with the work that has been accomplished and the increased reliability we've already seen demonstrated through the last few storm seasons. As we look into 2024, we are thankful for that resiliency and are turning our attention to bolstering other protections for the cooperative and our membership. 8658-002

Cybersecurity is a point of concern for businesses across every sector of the world. As businesses become more and more reliant on technology, the exposure they face to bad actors increases. Your cooperative is no different, and that is why a major focus of 2024 is on increasing our

cybersecurity presence. Your cooperative is partnering with industry leaders to implement a system of protections and redundancies that will protect the vital personal and financial data with which we are entrusted. Clay Electric has maintained industry standard protections over the years, and those protections have served us well in dealing with unsuccessful cyberattacks, but our new partnerships offer better, proactive protection of our data. We are very excited to implement it all this year.

We hope if you have projects you are planning for this year, you will contact us about them. It may be winter now, but the weather will turn, and our members will start working around the home and farm. If you expect to take on a major project, please call us so we can be prepared. A solar installation, a machine shop that will need three-phase power or an upsized transformer, or simply new home construction are projects

that we hope our members will inform us of as early as possible. There are still some supply chain constraints that we face, and we do not want to see our members unduly burdened by these issues. If you know you will be starting a project this year, give us a call so we can help.

Lastly, be sure to keep an eye out for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden within the pages of Clay Electric News. If you spot your number and give us a call, you'll win a \$5 discount on your next bill!



Matt Conklin
CEO

Start Safety Education Early

DO'S & DON'TS AROUND ELECTRICITY



Start discussions about electrical equipment and safety when children are young!

Here are some great safety lessons to teach:

DO



- Stay inside after a storm in case there are downed power lines.
- Place a cell phone on a bedside table, not on bedding or under a pillow.
- Find another tree to climb if an overhead power line is nearby.
- Fly kites, drones or other RC toys in an open area away from overhead power lines.

DO NOT



- Do not go near a downed power line.
- Do not use or set plugged-in items near water, including a sink, pool or bathtub.
- Do not go near or enter a substation to retrieve a toy or pet.
- Do not try to free an object that is stuck in a power line.

Learn other electrical safety tips at:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

Please report any suspicious activity in or near substations, other electrical equipment

Substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them, and their job is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa, depending on their location within the distribution path.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur. **10765-001**

No one should approach a substation, touch the fence or enter the gate unless they are authorized to do so. Paying attention to individuals and activity around substations and other utility equipment helps keep everyone safe. Here are some things to look for:

- Take notice of individuals in street clothes working near or on utility equipment; if you see this, please report it immediately.
- Notice whether individuals are dressed in proper personal protective gear or have utility identification badges.
- Check vehicles or work trucks in the area for utility-branded logos or information.

- Report any suspicious behavior you see, including non-utility employees tampering with utility poles, meters, padmount transformers or other equipment.
- If you notice anything unusual at a substation, please report it to the utility. Examples include the following:
 1. An open or unlocked gate.
 2. A damaged fence.
 3. Obvious damage to equipment inside the fence.
- Call 911 and then the substation's electric utility (Signage on fences should indicate what utility the substation belongs to) if you see the following:

1. Smoke or fire.
2. Non-utility workers inside the substation fence.

Never try to address an issue yourself. Please report any suspicious activity or damage to the police or the utility.

First responder safety

First responders should always wait for the go-ahead from the electric utility before addressing a fire

or vandalism at a substation, power plant or solar farm. First responders should also communicate with and wait for the utility before approaching a downed power line or damaged padmount transformer. **4047-001**

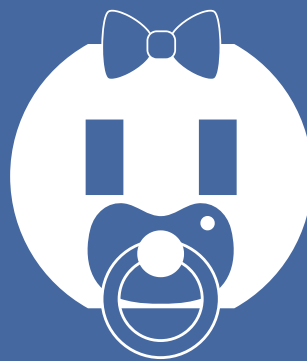
General substation safety

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. and Safe Electricity remind you to:

- Never go near a substation.
- Teach children to never go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Let them know they should always stay away and tell a parent or adult, who should call us to report the incident at 618-662-2171.
- Teach children about the dangers of electricity from an early age.
- Never try to extinguish a transformer that is on fire since water and electricity do not mix. Call 911 to report the fire.
- If you see an issue with or notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power line, contact your electric utility. Never try to address a problem yourself.

Safety Tip

Start discussions about electrical equipment and safety when children are young. When babyproofing your home, don't forget about potential electrical hazards. Learn child safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.



SafeElectricity.org



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

November 27, 2023

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 3:27 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023.

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

The invocation was given by Evan Smith 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.

APPROVED, the retirement of capital credits for some accounts.

REVIEWED, the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment.

WERE INFORMED, of the CFC OneCard Rebate.

HEARD, the CRC News update.

HEARD, the NERC Update.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, an update by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC.

DISCUSSED, upcoming Board Training and the NRECA Annual Meeting.

At 4:06 p.m. entered into Executive Session.

At 4:12 p.m. exited Executive Session and returned to the Regular Meeting.

REVIEWED, the 2024 proposed Budget including:

- SIPC Power Cost;
- Capital Credits;
- Advertising and Donations;
- Capital Items;
- 2024 Budget.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in October 2023;
- October 2023 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- October 2023 Form 7;
- October 2023 Balance Sheet.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Cybersecurity.

WERE UPDATED, on the Meridian Cybersecurity issues.

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

- Facilities Charge;
- Purple Wave Auction;

- Director Per Diem;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, the Facilities Charge; will wait for the Rate Study to see the necessary amount for the Facilities Charge and discuss further at that time.

DISCUSSED, the Purple Wave Auction and the sale of the truck; agreed to use this service again.

DISCUSSED, director per diem.

APPROVED, changes to director per diem commencing Jan. 1, 2024.


REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Dec. 19, 2023, Jan. 29, 2024, Feb. 26, 2024, and March 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.; the Christmas party on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Flora Bowling Alley; and the Safety Committee Meeting Dec. 5.

REVIEWED, a thank you note from Clay County CEO Program. There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Office hours:

7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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