

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

At Clay Electric Co-operative, our commitment to our community goes beyond keeping the lights on. We're proud to partner with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on Wednesday, May 21st at the Clay Electric Co-operative headquarters board room from 1 to 5 p.m. Blood donations save lives, and we encourage all eligible members to consider giving. Just one donation can help multiple people in need — so if you're able, please join us in making a difference!

We also want to take a moment to talk about our dedication to keeping your electric rates as affordable as possible. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, our mission isn't about making profits — it's about delivering the best possible value to our members while ensuring reliable service. To make sure

our rates are fair and equitably distributing the cost of operation across the membership, we are currently undergoing a Cost-of-Service Study. This process helps us evaluate our rate structure, ensuring that each member pays their fair share for the electricity they use. Our goal is simple: to keep the power on at the most efficient rate possible while maintaining the high standard of service you expect. **13002-001**

Speaking of reliable service, this spring has been an active one for thunderstorms. We want to assure you that our crews are always ready — rain or shine — to respond quickly and safely to any outages. Our team works around the clock to ensure that when storms roll through, you can count on us to restore power as efficiently and safely as possible.



Matt Conklin
CEO

As always, we appreciate the trust you place in us to power your homes and businesses. Thank you for being a valued member of Clay Electric Co-operative!

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 will win a \$5 discount on your next bill!

Released balloons can go from heartfelt sentiment to significant hazard. They can harm wildlife through ingestion or entanglement, contribute to pollution as they eventually become litter, and cause power outages and safety risks by interfering with electrical lines.

CONSIDER THESE ALTERNATIVES TO A BALLOON RELEASE

- Throw biodegradable confetti.
- Blow bubbles in a bubble release.
- Light candles or lanterns.
- Plant trees, hand out flowers or sprinkle flower petals.
- Dedicate a memory garden or bench.
- Paint stones.
- Donate to a charity to support a meaningful cause.

These eco-friendly options honor special moments without harming others or the planet.

Safe Electricity.org



Keeping cool on all levels

Are you struggling to keep the second story of your home cool on these sizzling summer days? As heat and hot air rises, so does the temperature on your upper level. Keeping it cool can be a challenge, even if you have an air conditioner. The key is to limit heat gain and to keep the air circulating.

These steps can help cool down your upper floor, as well as keep your entire home cool.

- **Keep blinds and drapes closed.** Close blinds or curtains when the sun is shining to reduce solar heat. Light-colored window coverings are most effective at blocking heat energy from the sun. Consider investing in thermal blocking drapes or insulated shades to keep your rooms cool.
- **Limit heat being created upstairs.** Devices such as computers and hair dryers emit hot air. Use them downstairs to help reduce heat upstairs.
- **Use ceiling fans.** Ceiling fans make you feel cool by circulating air and providing a cooling sensation on your skin. Set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise in the summer to push cool air downwards and turn them off when you leave.
- **Adjust the dampers.** Control airflow by adjusting dampers up and down to restrict or increase airflow. If the second floor is warmer in the summer, keep dampers on second-floor vents fully open, and only partially open the vents on the first floor to force more cool air to the second floor.
- **Check for air leaks.** EnergyStar.gov estimates that between 25% and 40% of the money spent on cooling and heating homes is lost due to air leakage problems. Identify air leaks in your home and use caulking, weatherstripping and insulation to seal the gaps.
- **Turn the fan from auto to on.** Use “on” instead of “auto” to keep your thermostat fan on and maintain air circulation throughout the home. This allows the entire house to stay cool, whether or not the air conditioner is running.
- **Evaluate ductwork.** Check your ductwork for leaks or improper sizing to ensure even air distribution in every part of your home. If you don't feel cold air coming from second floor vents, or you see old and cracked seals in your ductwork, it could be time for maintenance. **13019-001**
- **Check your air filters.** Regularly change your air filters to optimize airflow — dirty filters decrease air movement.
- **Add portable air conditioners.** Use portable AC units in rooms that need extra cooling. They are relatively easy to install, effectively remove heat and provide a cool environment for sleeping.
- **Adjust HVAC systems.** Consider a zoned HVAC system, with thermostats on each floor, to control the temperature on each floor separately.
- **Keep heat-generating appliances off during the hottest hours.** Your dryer, oven and television produce heat, causing your air conditioner to work harder. Limit use of these appliances to early morning or evening when possible and consider grilling outdoors if you plan to cook.
- **Don't forget the attic:** If your roof and attic area are not properly insulated, heat will seep in through the roof and heat the second floor. You can also have an attic fan or vents installed to help remove hot air from the attic.



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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Unleashing the Power of OUR Community!

Clay Electric Cooperative's Community Spotlight is featured in each issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine and on our Facebook page each Thursday.


If you have a community event you would like to see spotlighted, send your submissions to us by email at Admin@ceci.coop or by mail to Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. — Community Spotlight, PO Box 517, Flora, IL 62839



DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.



**Clay Electric
Co-operative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

**Board Room
7784 Old Hwy 50
Flora, IL 62839**



**Wednesday, May 21, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.



**Come to give blood May 19 to 31 for a limited edition
Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last!**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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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

March 24, 2025

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 3:30 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025.

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

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety.

HEARD, the Auditor's Report from Earl Ridlen. Thereafter, at 4:05 p.m., Earl Ridlen left the meeting.

APPROVED, the Auditor's Report as presented.

REVIEWED, the Quarterly Safety Meeting held March 11, 2025.

REVIEWED, the Monday Morning Safety meeting held March 18, 2025.

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**, CFC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, CRC Report from the Board.

HEARD, an update on the Cost-of-Service Study.

REVIEWED, the Federated Cybersecurity update and Patronage Capital Check.

REVIEWED, the CRC member newsletter.

REVIEWED, the NRECA update.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC board meeting and reminder of AIEC Annual Meeting Voting Delegates.

DISCUSSED, upcoming Board Training and Events including:

- CFC Forum Registration;
- NRECA Legislative Conference;
- ACES Conference;
- AIEC Annual Meeting.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in February 2025;
- February 2025 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- February 2025 Form 7;
- February 2025 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report.

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

- Member Tree Discussion;
- NISC Patronage Capital Credit Check;
- Labor Negotiations;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report including Youth to Washington;

■ Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, an issue with tree removal. **13974-001**

APPROVED, compensation to the member with the tree removal issue. This was approved 8-1 with Richard Rudolphi voting no.

REVIEWED, the NISC Patronage Capital Credit Check.

WERE UPDATED, on Labor Negotiation. Matt Conklin will commence negotiations and bring specifics to the Labor Committee.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

HEARD, five juniors went to Youth to Springfield Day.


APPROVED, sending Haven Cash and Brendan Landreth to Youth to Washington Tour.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on April 28, 2025 at 7 p.m., May 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. (moved to Tuesday due to the holiday), June 23, 2025 at 7 p.m. and July 28, 2025 at 7 p.m.

DISCUSSED, retirement of employees and a succession plan to advertise for the position.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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