

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

From the Manager

As we move through July, summer break is in full swing. Students are enjoying a well-earned rest from the classroom, while many parents may already be looking forward to the return of the school year with just a little bit of anticipation.

At Clay Electric Co-operative, this time of year is also a good time to reaffirm our commitment to the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community. One of the ways we live out that principle is by supporting the young people in the communities we serve. This year, CECI will draw three \$500 scholarships for the children of its members at the 82nd Annual Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026.

Graduates of the Class of 2026 planning on attending college in the fall are encouraged to fill out the scholarship form found on page 6 of this magazine and submit it by mail or in person to Clay Electric Co-operative. Applications must be received at CECI headquarters by Friday, Aug. 21. The scholarships

will be drawn live at the end of the annual meeting. Eligibility requirements are listed on the form, and we encourage students and families to review them carefully. **14786-001**

The 82nd Annual Meeting will be held at Oilbelt Christian Service Camp on Thursday, Aug. 27. Registration will begin at 5 p.m., along with a pork chop or chicken dinner, Klondike bars and entertainment by Guy Ash. We will also have a small health fair with Clay County Hospital, local health departments and others. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., with drawings for bill credits and the scholarship drawing to follow the business meeting. Each member in attendance will receive a \$15 bill credit with their registration.

We encourage all our members to come and exercise their democratic control of the cooperative. As a member-owned cooperative, Clay Electric is guided by the members we serve. The annual meeting is an opportunity to take part in the cooperative process, hear updates and visit with neighbors. We hope to see you there!

In service to our members, our forestry crew continues its important work clearing rights-of-way to improve reliability and public safety. They will continue to be active in areas connected to the Iola substation this



month. Their work area is highlighted on the map included in this section.

Don't forget to search for your member number in the center section of this magazine. Three lucky numbers are hidden each month in Clay Electric News. If yours is there and you call us, you'll earn a \$5 credit on your next bill.

We are grateful for the continued trust you place in your cooperative and remain committed to delivering safe, affordable and reliable electric service you can count on, today and for generations to come.



Matt Conklin
CEO



Electrical Safety *around* Water

Prevent
shocks around
pools, hot tubs and
spas before
they happen.



- Use a qualified electrician for any new pool, hot tub or spa wiring.
- Use covered outdoor outlets.
- Make sure outlets are GFCI-protected and tested monthly.
- Keep cords away from water. Don't use extension cords for pool equipment.
- Replace cracked outlet covers, frayed cords, loose plugs or damaged equipment.
- Choose battery-operated and waterproof TVs, radios and speakers. **11221-001**
- Don't handle phones, tablets, laptops or charging cords when you're wet, and keep them away from pools, spas and sinks.
- Check power line clearance with an electrician or your utility when installing pools, spas and structures like diving boards; and have utilities marked before digging.
- Schedule periodic electrical inspections and upgrades for your equipment.
- Have an electrician show you how to shut off all power in an emergency and make sure the shut-off switch is labeled.

Know the risks: Wet skin + wet surfaces = increased risk when electricity is present.

Warning signs of shock in the water:

- Tingling sensation.
- Muscle cramps.
- Restricted movement.

If you suspect electrical shock:

- Turn off all power immediately.
- Do NOT enter the water to rescue anyone.
- Use a non-conductive rescue tool (such as fiberglass).
- Call 911.

If you feel a shock in the water, move away from the source and get out.

 Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org[®]

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers are increasingly using "smishing" — fake text messages designed to look like they're from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you're owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



 Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.
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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Unleashing the Power of OUR Community!

Clay Electric Co-operative'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 Co-operative, Inc. —
Community Spotlight,
P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839


Efficiency Tip

Keep TVs, lamps and other heat-producing items away from your thermostat. They can affect the temperature reading and cause your cooling system to run longer than needed.



 Safe Electricity.org®

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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.ceci.coop
facebook.com/ceci.coop



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

May 26, 2026

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 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, Evan Smith, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman and Josh Schnepfer. Also present were CEO Matt Conklin and Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof. **14408-001**

The invocation was given by Bill Croy 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]:

Motion by E. Smith and seconded by B. Croy to approve the suggested Agenda as presented.

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held May 26, 2026.

Motion by K. Logan and seconded by N. Gould to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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.

Motion by F. Herman and seconded by R. Rudolphi for the retirement of capital credits for an estate.

APPROVED, the Retirement of Capital Credits for the Estate.

Motion by J. Schnepfer and seconded by F. Czyzewski to enter into executive session to discuss SIPC.

APPROVED, entering into Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

Motion by N. Gould and seconded by F. Herman to exit executive session and to return to general session.

APPROVED, exiting Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by E. Smith and seconded by B. Croy regarding approval of Policy 600-3 update. Discussed the reasoning behind the updates to Policy 600-3.

APPROVED, updates to Policy 600-3.

WERE UPDATED, on Meridian Merger.

WERE INFORMED, the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment was made.

WERE UPDATED, on NRECA issues from Jim Matheson.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan on the AIEC Board Meeting.

REVIEWED, Events and Training including AIEC Annual Meeting and schedule.

Motion by F. Czyzewski and seconded by R. Rudolphi to approve the financial report by Matt Conklin.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in March 2026;
- March 2026 Cash Flow;

- Line Loss;
- March 2026 Form 7;
- March 2026 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report by Matt Conklin, CEO.

Motion by K. Logan and seconded by F. Herman to approve the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin.

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

- Mike Winka Retirement;
- PCA Projections;
- New Service from unmapped territory and Norris could not get easement thus we will serve the new member at our cost to build out;
- CRG Act updates;
- Annual Meeting shirts discussion;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, Mike Winka Retirement.

DISCUSSED, the PCA projections from SIPC.

DISCUSSED, that Norris was unable to get the easements to serve the new member in unmapped territory. Were informed we can get the easements to serve the new member and will work out the cost to build with half paid up front and the other half spread out over five years.

WERE INFORMED, by Matt Conklin of the CRGA updates.

DISCUSSED, Annual Meeting shirts and agreed to get polos this year.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on June 22, 2026 at 7 p.m., July 27, 2026, at 7 p.m., Aug. 24, 2026, at 7 p.m., Sept. 28, 2026, at 7 p.m. and the Annual Meeting Aug. 27, 2026, starting at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m.