

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



Matt Conklin
CEO

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is “Concern for Community.” Clay Electric Co-operative considers itself a part of the communities we serve. It’s why we do our best to provide opportunities for and to engage with area schools and organizations. We just sent three of our area juniors to Washington, D.C., for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the mechanisms of government in action and take in the history of our nation’s capital. Our Youth Tour participants will be joining us later this month at our 80th Annual Meeting to be held Aug. 22 at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp. We will also draw for our annual scholarships at the meeting. Each year, we draw three \$500 scholarships for the children of our members. To be eligible, they must be members of the graduating class of 2024 with plans to attend an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university or trade school. The form for the drawing can be found on page 6 or in the annual meeting mailer sent to each member and must be returned to the cooperative by mail or in person by Friday, Aug. 16.

This year is our 80th anniversary. To celebrate, we are **Continued on 18C ▶**





Watch the clock to lock in energy savings

As temperatures rise and summer activities heat up, a reliable flow of electricity is essential to ensure Clay Electric Co-operative members stay cool and connected.

August brings some of the most extreme summer temps, which means people will be spending more time indoors to avoid the heat, and air conditioners will be working overtime. This increased use of electricity will cause spikes in demand, also known as energy peaks. During peak times, CECI must work closely with our wholesale power provider to ensure a balanced supply of electricity is always available to meet our community's energy needs. **12955-001**

The electric grid is essentially a giant network that connects power plants, utility poles and power lines to homes and businesses across the country, throughout our state and to our local communities. All parts of the network must work together to ensure the flow of electricity stays balanced 24/7.

When the demand for electricity is higher than usual, power providers must ramp up electricity production — whether from coal, natural gas, wind, solar or other energy sources — and utilities will pay more for electricity produced during the peak. These higher prices, along with the general increase in electricity use, are why you typically see higher bills during the hottest months. In extreme cases, demand can overpower the available supply, causing electricity shortages. During these times, utilities are required to implement rolling power outages to reduce the demand for electricity and rebalance the grid.

When our area experiences extreme

summer heat and higher demand for electricity, you can help by conserving energy. There are many ways to lower your home energy use. Here are a few recommendations to help you save energy (and money) during the summer peak:

- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your cooling system syncs with off-peak hours.
- Speaking of raising the thermostat, did you know ceiling fans can make you feel 4 degrees cooler? Operate ceiling or oscillating fans in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning. Be sure to raise the thermostat while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Remember, fans cool people (not homes), so turn them off when you leave the room.
- Plan energy-intensive activities like laundry and running the dishwasher for off-peak hours. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.
- Unplug electronics when they're not in use or use power strips to manage devices.
- Close drapes and blinds during the afternoon to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.

When we all work together to beat the summer peak, our entire community benefits. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid. **11413-001**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



"From the manager" continued from 18A

increasing the registration bill credit to \$15 for those who come and register. The meeting will feature live entertainment by local talent Guy Ash, and we will have additional door prizes drawn at the end of the business meeting. Twenty-four additional bill credits will be drawn at the end of the night, and a grand prize drawing for a big-screen smart TV will cap things off. Oil Belt Christian Service Camp will once again be our gracious host. Registration for the annual meeting, including entertainment and a pork chop or chicken dinner, will begin at 5 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing all our members there.

Remember to keep an eye out for your member number hidden within this magazine. We've placed three member numbers throughout the pages. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll receive a \$5 discount on your next bill! Happy hunting!



TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.

- 1** Raise the thermostat a few degrees.
- 2** Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.
- 3** Avoid using major appliances.
- 4** Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.
- 5** Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.



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

June 24, 2024

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 Monday, June 24, 2024.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, 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. Bill Croy was present via conference call.

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. **11787-001**

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**, Federated Report from the Board.

OPENED, two sealed bids for the John Deere Mower. Bid one for \$600 and bid two for \$341.

APPROVED, selling the mower and **ACCEPTING**, bid one for \$600.

APPROVED, retirement of capital credits for an estate of a member, at the request of the heir.

APPROVED, write-offs of \$542.32.

At 7:10 p.m., entered into Executive Session.

At 7:21 p.m., exited Executive Session and returned to Regular Meeting.

REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED, Revenue Requirement Study by CFC, rate design and rate increase worksheet.

REVIEWED, Federated Member Updates and heard Federated is seeking a candidate for the Board of Directors.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC updates.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in May 2024;
- May 2024 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2024 Form 7;
- May 2024 Balance Sheet.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including the Quarterly Safety Committee Meeting.

REVIEWED, Monday Morning Safety meeting held June 24, 2024.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report.

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

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report including pictures of the most recent tree trimming project.


REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on July 22, 2024 at 7 p.m., Aug. 26, 2024 at 7 p.m., Sept. 23, 2024 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 28, 2024 at 7 p.m. and the Annual Meeting at Oil Belt on Aug. 22, 2024.

REVIEWED, thank you notes from Kim Welty, Diana and Greg Rutland, Victor Mitchell, Chris Buening and Bob Pierson.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9 p.m.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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