

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

November is the month for Thanksgiving, and I'd like to give thanks for the tremendous staff of your cooperative. One of our cooperative principles is "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," and we had a chance to live up to that principle in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. A crew from Clay Electric Co-operative joined restoration efforts for those caught in the hurricane's path. When a cooperative is hit with a natural disaster, cooperatives across the country mobilize to help. **11479-001** This is our mutual aid network working. It is reassuring to know that if we were to ever be in need, help would be a phone call away.

In the spirit of giving, we are thrilled to be having our second Giving Thanks Blood Drive, a collaboration with the American Red Cross and Oil Belt Christian Service Camp. This lifesaving event will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, from 1-5 p.m. at the main activity building/gym at Oil Belt Christian Service Camp. For more details and to schedule your blood donation, please visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/ceci.coop or register on the American

Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org. If you can't make it to our drive, we encourage you to participate in one of the other drives happening in Flora this November.

Keep an eye on your mail this month, too! As a not-for-profit cooperative, Clay Electric records any excess revenue collected as margins. These margins are held onto for a while to ensure our financial stability in case of emergencies. After a certain period, this money is returned to the membership in the form of capital credits. This year, we are returning capital credits for the years 1984-85.

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



Stay safe and warm

Your winter home readiness guide

Preparing your home for winter involves several key steps to ensure safety, efficiency and warmth. Here are tips to help you prepare before the temperatures drop, and a few ways to stay safe if a power outage leaves you snowbound.

Inspect your heating system

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

Prepare pipes and water supply

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of your water shut-off valve in case of emergencies.

Maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they are functioning properly.

Prepare your home's exterior

- Clear gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees and bushes away from the house to prevent damage from heavy snow.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from your home's foundation.
- Drain and store garden hoses to prevent freezing.
- Service and store outdoor equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.



- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

Increase home energy efficiency

- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Stock emergency supplies

At home, have enough nonperishable food and water for 72 hours in case of power outages or severe weather. Experts suggest storing one gallon of water per person per day.

Include these essentials in your emergency kit:

- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and batteries
- Warm clothing
- Blankets **18001-498**
- Phone chargers and backup charger sources

Gather important documents, medical supplies/medicines and medical records. Don't forget your pets. Make sure you have enough supplies for them as well.

What to do if the power goes out

Winter weather is unpredictable, with high winds, whiteouts and ice storms. These conditions can cause hazardous roads and power outages.

If the electricity goes out due to a winter storm, you might be in for a prolonged power outage as crews work through the harsh weather to get the power back on.

If this happens, contact your electrical utility as soon as you can so they know you have lost power.

Other actions you can take to stay safe

- **Avoid travel.** Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- **Place a draft block** at the bottom of doors to minimize cold drafts from entering the house.
- **When using an alternative heat source**, follow operating instructions and be sure to ventilate properly.
- **Keep grills, camp stoves and generators** out of the house, basement and garage.
- **Use a tarp and portable canopy** when using a portable generator if conditions are damp or wet.
- **Move fuel-powered generators** at least 20 feet away from the house.
- **Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home.** Infants and people over the age of 65 are often more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

For more information on keeping your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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.



COLOR YOUR FALL WITH KINDNESS.

Give blood.



Clay Electric Coop Blood Drive

Oil Belt Christian Service Camp

Gym/Lobby
555 Park Rd.
Flora, IL 62839

Tuesday, November 26, 2024
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.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!



1-800-RED-CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept. 23, 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, Sept. 23, 2024.

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

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 Clay County Water Management Agreement.

APPROVED, the Letter of Agreement with the Union regarding Domicile Requirement.

APPROVED, the retirement of Capital Credits for the member Estates requesting.

APPROVED, revisions to Policy 800-5 as presented.

INFORMED, of the CFC Patronage Capital refund.

REVIEWED, the Federated Work Comp Mod Summary Report.

INFORMED, of the CRC Patronage Capital refund.

INFORMED, of the UUS Patronage Capital refund.

REVIEWED, NRECA EPA Update.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the Region 5 meeting as there was no AIEC meeting.

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

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

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety.

REVIEWED, the Quarterly Safety Committee Meeting held Sept. 10, 2024.

REVIEWED, Monday Morning Safety meeting held Sept. 23, 2024.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report.

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

- PRN Scorecard;
- Digger Truck and Skid Steer Discussions;
- Upcoming Retirement;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

■ **WERE UPDATED**, on the Prairie River Network Scorecard. **DISCUSSED**, purchasing a new Digger Truck and getting quotes for a new Skid Steer.

DISCUSSED, potential retirements of employees.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Oct. 28, 2024, at 7 p.m., and Nov. 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Dec. 30, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. and Jan. 27, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. **12059-002**

REVIEWED, thank you note from Frank Herman and the Gill Family.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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