

Who will map your future?

You can find out on the Youth to Washington trip

OK. So you aren't really into politics. As a junior in high school, you're thinking about college and where you're going to come up with more than \$100,000 to pay for higher education. You're also trying to decide what you want to work at the rest of your life to make that college experience pay off.

Oddly enough, the very people who may have answers to those questions are wearing the title of state legislator or seated in chambers of the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C.

Before you know it, you will be voting in your first election and the weight of the country's decisions will partially belong to you. Will you support a Congressman who wants to pass Cap & Trade? Will you be in favor of farm subsidies? Oh, and when you get the opportunity to meet your Congressman, in addition to these questions will you ask: What has Congress done to make higher education more affordable and will I be able to find a job when I graduate?

Electric and telephone cooperatives in more than 40 states believe that young people deserve a first-class opportunity to educate themselves in the government process. Each year, the cooperatives across the nation sponsor more than 1,500 high school students to make the trek to Washington to get that personal initiation, and they have a lot of fun in the process.

It all begins in Springfield on March 28, 2012 during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative



Congressman John Shimkus met with the 2011 Youth Tour participants David Graham of Flora and Megan Kessler of Ingraham during their tour of Washington, DC.

Youth Day where nearly 300 students will visit the State Capitol and spend much of the morning meeting with legislators. You will tour the Supreme Court and spend the afternoon touring local sites.

To be considered for this trip, see your guidance counselor for details.

This year marks the 53rd trip to the nation's capital and promises to be as exciting as ever. Students learn the principles required to keep cooperative members working together for the cooperative's success by establishing their own "chip and pop" cooperative while on the bus trip.

While in Washington during the week of June 15-22, in addition to meeting with Congressman from Illinois, students are treated to tours

of historic sites, given the opportunity to make life-long friends and receive information to help determine career paths.

Hopefully, at the conclusion of the tour, you will understand the only crystal ball in Washington is the one you help develop through your participation in government and public service. The future of the country depends on the youth of today getting involved.

To learn about this opportunity, contact your Guidance Counselor or Doug Hockman at Clay Electric Cooperative 618-662-2171. You may also check out the Youth Tour through the Association Of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) at www.aiec.coop for additional details.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

October 24, 2011

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by Bob Pierson.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 26, 2011.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$42,477.91.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of September, 2011.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of

September, 2011, along with information on Soyland debt, extreme weather storm line loss graphs, and the payout for transformer replacement, as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan regarding the recent AIEC Board Meeting along with the Executive Summary.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including information on financials, revenue, expenses and margins, and legislative updates.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning the status of the FEMA application for ice storm repairs that occurred as a result of the February 2011 ice storm.

Discussed medical insurance variations and Directed Gen. Mgr. Meng to explore other options.

Discussed the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting arrangements.

Discussed, Reviewed, and Approved adjustment of fees, effective January 1, 2012.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning the re-pricing options of loans.

Reminded of the November Board meeting time change at 6P.M. because of Daylight savings time.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased member pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to the expense of repairs to a digger truck.

Disbursed the health newsletter "Embody Health"

Adjournment.

Clay County Water Update

Clay County Water, Inc. continues to work on obtaining the necessary easements required for the Phase 3 project. Even if you do not intend to connect to the water, please be considerate of your neighbors that would like to connect. We will be bidding the project out in the very near future.

The Phase 3 project includes about 50 miles of water line located in Southeast Xenia, South Stanford, South Harter, South Clay City Townships, and a few other short line extensions in the area.

If you have not been contacted, or would like to sign up for water service to your location, please call. Do not put this off any longer.

We plan on opening bids for the project by early February, 2012 and start construction as soon as weather allows in the spring or early summer of 2012.

Doug Hockman 662-6666, Sue Pettit 662-4305,
Bob Pierson 662-7471, Kye Hemphill 662-4590,
Bill Seelman 662-8479, Dwight Edgington 678-2782
Kevin Henry 618-838-6123, or Hank Hilmes 662-2388.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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Flora, Illinois 62839
618-662-2171
800-582-9012

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Three ways to pay your electric bill

We offer credit or debit card payments for your monthly electric bills. We accept **VISA, MASTERCARD, Discover** and American Express for payment of your electric bill. We also have e-check or check by phone. Just by stopping in or calling, we can charge your payment on your credit card. Call 662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012 to arrange for credit card payments.

In addition to this we also have the **Automatic Clearing House (ACH)** payments available. This payment is deducted directly from your checking account on the 24th

of the month. There is no forgetting to pay or worrying about payment if you are away from home and you still receive the same monthly bill card showing your amount and usage.

We also have available **Budget Billing**. This is a fixed budget plan based on the applicant's previous twelve months billing history. So if you are on a tight budget or a fixed income, this plan might be what you need.

This might also be the time to sign up for our **Special Electric Rates**. If you have permanently

installed electric heat, be it an electric furnace, heat pump, ceiling strip heat, baseboard, or geo-thermal, you may qualify for our electric heat rate or our total electric rate. The electric heat **rate 21** is for homes that have electric heat but may also have a gas appliance such as a water heater or range. The total electric **rate 31** is for homes that are total electric and do not have any gas appliances.

To implement any of our payment services or for more information on our special rates, please call your Cooperative office at 662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012.

Heat rises. And when it slips past your ceiling, it melts snow on the rooftop.

It's an easy way to tell if you need new insulation.

Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.

GUESS WHICH HOUSE HAS BETTER INSULATION IN THE ATTIC.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Is a space heater your best choice?

When the weather starts to get really cold, most of us are happy to settle into the comfort of our homes and workplaces. But sometimes, those places just don't see to get warm enough. Even though we turn up the thermostat, our feet may still feel frosty, or an arctic draft may be sending shivers down our backs.

Portable space heaters offer one solution to the problem of cold rooms. Most electric space heaters are very simple devices that use coils of what's known as resistance wire to generate heat. If you've watched the coils inside your toaster glow bright orange, you've seen resistance wire in action. Often, a fan blows air across the coil to spread the heat around the room. Some space heaters wrap the wire around ceramic pieces or encase it in a sealed, oil-filled radiator. Both of those approaches allow for more even heat, and help the heater to remain warm even after the electricity stops flowing through.

(There are also non-electric space

heaters, but those may not be suitable for indoor use without ventilation. Most generate heat through combustion – the process of burning a fuel such as kerosene or wood pellets – and they create fumes, moisture and deadly gases like carbon monoxide.)

While a space heater can generate a tremendous amount of heat in a very short time, it may not be the most economical or efficient solution for ongoing needs. Even a fairly small space heater can consume 1500 watts of electricity, the same as 20 standard 75-watt light bulbs. Running it 8 hours a day at \$.115/kWh can add \$40.00 to your monthly bill. Usually, whole-house systems are far more efficient.

If you have a room that's cooler than the rest of the house, or one with an annoying draft, the real problem may be that the room is not properly sealed. That means any kind of heater is going to have to work a lot harder – and a large amount of the warm air you cre-

ate is just going to seep out of the room. By identifying and solving the real problem, you may eliminate the need for the space heater and improve your comfort all year 'round. It may be as easy as caulking around a window or improving the weatherstripping on a door.

If you do decide to use a space heater, think about safety. Space heaters that are certified by agencies such as Underwriters Laboratories have built-in safety features, but you'll want to think twice about keeping them where young children or nosy pets might be tempted to touch them. They should also be kept a safe distance from paper and other combustible materials.

If you have a room that's just not comfortable, or if you're wondering whether a space heater is the right choice for you, let us at Clay Electric advise you. It's one more way we provide free advice when you want it and help when you need it.



THE HOT FACTS ON SPACE HEATERS

- Electric space heaters typically use coils of resistance wire to generate heat, like toasters.
- Some have fans to spread heat around the room.
- Others use ceramic pieces or oil-filled radiators to store heat.
- Usually not the most economical or efficient solution for home heating.
- Even a small one can use 1500 watts of electricity (same as 20 standard 75-watt light bulbs).
- Running a 1500 watt heater, 8 hours a day at \$.115/kWh can add \$40.00 to your monthly energy bill.
- Cool or drafty rooms usually need better sealing, not space heaters.
- Don't place space heaters where young children or pets may touch hot areas.
- Keep them away from paper and other combustible materials, too.
- Many non-electric space heaters are not safe for indoor use without ventilation.
- Our Energy Advisor has free advice when you want it and help when you need it.