



## Students introduced to state government

On Wednesday March 28, 2012, students from North Clay High School, Sierra Bonham, Flora High School, Ashley McKnight and Chaperone Doug Hockman from Clay Electric, had the opportunity to see their state government in action.

We toured the Supreme Court, and enjoyed a brief overview by the Marshal of the court about how a case gets to the Supreme Court and the process of conducting business in the courtroom itself. We then toured the State Capital and met with Representative David Reis and Senator John O. Jones. Both Representative Reis and Senator Jones visited with our group and answered questions that the students had for them. The students then had the chance to meet and hear presentations from Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon and Secretary of State Jesse White.

The afternoon was spent touring the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Old State Capital.

Sierra and Ashley will also be participating in the “Youth to Washington” tour in June for 1 week, where they will tour the nation’s capital and see all of the sites of Washington D.C...

The “Youth Tour” is an annual event sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative and the Electric & Telephone Cooperatives of Illinois. All that is required to enter is that your parent(s) are members of Clay Electric, you are a high school junior, and you write a short essay. The winners are chosen by the participating schools that judge their written essays. Check with your guidance counselor next year for the official rules to enter.



*Pictured at top, from the left are: Sec. of State Jesse White, students Ashley McKnight and Sierra Bonham and Rep. David Reis.*

*Pictured above, l-r, are: Doug Hockman, Sierra Bonham, Senator John O. Jones and Ashley McKnight.*

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

**February 27, 2012**

**T**rustees 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 Danny Schnepfer.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held January 30, 2012.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

**Canceled** 10 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$17,540.07.

**Accepted** the disbursement list

for the month of January, 2012.

**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 the financials, and the upcoming SIPC Annual Meeting.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of January, 2012 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

**Discussed** upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting plans.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding ARES Power Marketing.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr.

Meng concerning a policy covering the use of cellular phones by employees while driving a Cooperative vehicle, the digitized mapping progress, the spray permit compliance, revamping the online bill presentation and payment format, Two Way radio issues, Southern Services project, the dangers of cutting Clay Electric lines by Fire Departments, nomination petitions for Trustees, the AIEC/CECI member survey and the insurance renewal process with Federated Insurance.

**Adjournment.**



## Clay County Water Update

**C**lay County Water, Inc. has awarded the Phase 3 construction bid to Wayne Lapington of Louisville, Ill. The construction has begun. We continue to work on obtaining the necessary easements required for the project. Even if you do not intend to connect to the water, please be considerate of your neighbors that would like to connect.

The Phase 3 project includes about 65 miles of water line located in Southeast Xenia, Stanford, 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, as fees will increase as the project proceeds.

- 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.



## Warm welcome to summer safety

**A**fter a chilling winter, summertime is here! The school year is ending, the weather is warm, the grill is hot and the pools are cool. Time to make sure our children and family members remember to have fun and be safe at the same time. As part of the “Teach Learn Care” TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children know how to stay safe during outdoor play.

Children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. Take some time to get down and view the surroundings from a child’s vantage point to locate possible hazards.

For safety outdoors, Safe Electricity recommends that children and adults follow these rules: Stay away from electrical equipment on the ground and overhead. Never climb a utility pole or tower. Don’t play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. Electrical power poles and utility equipment should never be used as a playground.

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren’t touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets tangled in a tree that’s

near power lines, don’t climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.

- Never go into an electric substation. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Don’t retrieve a toy or rescue a pet that goes inside. Call your electric utility instead. Look up and around you.
- Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders and pool skimmers.
- Water and electricity never mix! Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs, and watch for overhead power lines when cleaning pools, sailing or fishing. Never install pools underneath or near power lines.
- Never touch an electrical appliance if you are wet; always dry off completely.
- Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors. Whether it is a bug zapper, an electric charcoal lighter, or a radio or CD player, caution must be exercised. Be sure you use outlets that have weatherproof covers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent serious shock injuries. Use

portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don’t have them.

- Keep electrical appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from pools, ponds and wet surfaces. “Electricity and water are a dangerous combination,” warns Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. “Caution children and family members about the danger of using electrical appliances in wet areas - even wet grass can create a hazard.”
- Supervise the use of extension cords outside, check them carefully for exposed wires; make sure they are in good shape, and not frayed or cracked. Use only extension cords that are rated and marked for outdoor use, and are large enough to handle the current needed for the device you are using. Check that the prongs on the extension cord plugs are clean, not broken or bent. Make sure the ground prong is intact in a three-prong plug, and avoid use of adapters.

Summer can signal an increase in accidents and injuries. Keep utility and emergency numbers close at hand. Do your part to prevent accidents by sharing important safety information with those you love.

# Electrical storms can be deadly

**M**yth or truth – If it's not raining and it isn't cloudy, I'm safe from lightning. You should never touch a lightning victim or you will also be electrocuted. If I'm in a house, I'm safe from lightning. If trapped outside and lightning is eminent, lie flat on the ground. All of the above are common misconceptions. As part of the new "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges everyone to be sure their loved ones are aware of the dangers associated with lightning and how to protect themselves.

Often underrated, lightning kills more people per year than either tornadoes or hurricanes and causes billions of dollars in damage. Given these statistics, it's extremely important to take lightning seriously and to stay educated on lightning safety.

"Plan outdoor activities around the weather and be prepared to seek shelter if the weather turns threatening," says Molly Hall, Safe Electricity Executive Director. "If thunderstorms and lightning are approaching, the safest location is indoors away from doors and windows with the shades drawn. Avoid water, electric appliances and other objects that could conduct electricity, and use only cordless or cell phones to make emergency calls."

Phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the U.S. A direct strike is not necessary for lightning voltage to enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables and plumbing. Other recommendations to avoid lightning shock and damage include:

- Turn off and unplug appliances well before a storm nears – never during. Don't expect a surge protector to save appliances from a lightning strike, unplug it as well.
- Stay away from electrical outlets, appliances, computers, power tools, and TV sets. Take off headsets and stop playing video games.
- Turn off your air conditioner to protect the compressor from a power surge and avoid a costly repair job.
- Avoid water and contact with piping, including sinks, baths and faucets. Don't wash dishes, shower or bathe during a thunderstorm. Also avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems, but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.
- Do not lie on the concrete floor of a garage as it likely contains a wire mesh.
- Basements typically are a safe place to go during thunderstorms, but avoid concrete walls that may contain metal rebar.
- Don't forget your pets. Dog houses are not lightning-safe and dogs chained to trees can easily fall victim to a strike.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- Do not stand near power, light or flag poles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers, or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least twenty feet apart.
- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim. Ninety percent of lightning victims survive with timely medical treatment.

More information on lightning safety can be found at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov).



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