

CLAY ELECTRIC

CLAY ELECTRIC
CO-OPERATIVE, INC.
618-662-2171 • 800-582-9012
FLORA, ILLINOIS

NEWS

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

To all Members of Clay Electric Co-operative:

As I announced at Clay Electric's Annual meeting in September of last year, I will retire June 30, 2014. This will end my career in the electric utility industry after forty-four years, with approximately thirty-eight of those years working for electric cooperatives, and since June 2002 working for Clay Electric Co-operative.

I have been blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with



people, employees, Board members and support organizations that focus on giving the best service possible to the members of the cooperative. It seems as though the cooperative program is one of the few remaining organizations that still hold to the concept of doing what is in the best interest of the member/owners. It has been great to be a part of an organization that holds this concept in high esteem.

Thanks to the employees, the Board of Trustees and the members of Clay Electric Co-operative for allowing me the opportunity to serve in the position of General Manager of Clay Electric Co-operative.

Sincerely,

John E. Meng
Exec VP/GM

Youth Day

Sen. Dale Righter and Rep. David Reis met with students representing Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 2 in Springfield. More than 200 students from down-state Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During breakfast, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process and encouraged them to talk to their state senators and representatives about issues that interest them. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Illinois State Museum, Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.



Pictured from l-r are: Rep. David Reis, George Bonham, Meredith O'Brien, Doug Hockman, Taylor Warner and Sen. Dale Righter.

The day was sponsored by the AIEC and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.

Clay Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Clay Electric Co-operative serves more than 3,232 meters over 942 miles of line in parts of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Richland and Wayne counties. For more information visit www.ceci.coop.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

March 31, 2014

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

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2014, and the Special meeting held on March 13, 2014.

Accepted 7 new members for service.

Canceled 7 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$23,042.37.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February, 2014.

Disbursed and Reviewed "Executive Summary, AIEC Board Meeting" Discussed Call To Order Program.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including newly implemented Conceal/Carry Weapons policy, Audit Report, Strategic Planning meeting, Prairie State production status, and **Disbursed** SIPC Administrative and Finance Dept. Summary.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to projected power cost

adjustment in SIPC budget.

Approved the Managers report as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng including Financial and Maintenance reports, and a report on a recent theft of Cooperative property, and details of the Sheriff's Dept. investigation, and future preventative measures. Also informed that the quarterly payment to CFC had been made. Also a report on the Manager Succession Plan and related issues, and **Approved** deletion of Policies 800-1 & 800-3 due to redundancy with recently approved Policy 100-3.

Informed that the Clay Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members would be held on Thursday, September 4, 2014 and that Trustee positions subject to election are Districts IV, V, & VII with nominating petitions available beginning May 5, 2014 to be submitted on or before July 23, 2014. Also heard a report on the availability of bleachers at Charley Brown Park for the Annual Meeting.

Gen. Mgr. Meng reported on the status of the Window Replacement / Security project, the ordering of an SEDC Server, and rock for the Cooperative facility.

Approved the execution of an agreement with NISC for Paperless (Digitized) Board Meeting reports.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng on the progress of the

Marathon Project.

Informed that 3 area students Meredith O'Brien Flora HS, Taylor Warner Clay City HS, and George Bonham North Clay HS were selected to attend the Cooperative sponsored Youth Day to Springfield, IL & the Youth Tour to Washington, DC.

Heard reports by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to progress on the Work Plan Project, February Safety Meeting topics of CPR, AED, & First Aid training, and the recent purchase of AED's that used normal inexpensive batteries.

Approved attendance by Attorney Pearce to an upcoming Legal Seminar.

Disbursed, Reviewed, & Accepted the Annual Audit Report.


Disbursed "London Witte Group Professional Services" proposal for 3 years Services Contract.

Approved Agreement with Hoosier Energy for use of Noble Sub.

Heard a report on repairs to a ¾ ton Pickup truck, and **Reviewed and Approved** bids on a new pickup truck to be purchased from Northside Ford quoted at \$31,119.00

Approved the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased member pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Adjournment.



**CLOSING THE BLINDS
HELPED ME ENJOY A MOVIE.**

When the A/C is on, I keep the sun out. It's nothing huge, but it's worth the effort. It's also worth two tickets to a summer blockbuster.

Find out what you can do at TogetherWeSave.com.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Tamper resistant receptacles

What are tamper resistant receptacles (TRRs)?

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover



plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using

the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

TRRs by the Numbers

- Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.
- It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles.
- Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50¢ more than a traditional receptacle.
- Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

For more information on TRRS, visit www.esfi.org.

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Employees of Clay Electric Cooperative recently gathered to celebrate the 30th year anniversary of Journeyman Lineman Dan Henderson. Dan started his career with Clay Electric in 1984. Dan resides in rural Flora with his wife Jill. They have 2 daughters Nicole and Kate.

Take a vacation from high power bills

Soaring temperatures and sultry summer nights can cause electric bills to skyrocket. This summer, take a vacation from high electric bills by making your home—and your family's habits—more energy efficient.

Beat the heat

Air conditioning helps most Americans beat the sweltering summer heat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill. Proper maintenance and smart use of your home's cooling system will help keep your electric bill in check.

First, make sure your air conditioner's external unit is clean and free of debris. Clear away dead leaves or overgrown plants and weeds to enable the unit to perform as it should.

Second, change all of the air filters inside your home quarterly, or more often in homes with allergy sufferers or smokers. Fresh filters not only reduce the strain on your cooling system, but improve the air quality in your home.

Third, the DOE recommends that you set your home's thermostat as high as possible, while still maintaining a comfortable environment for your family during the summer months.

Bumping the thermostat up at least two degrees can make a noticeable difference on your power bill. Investing in a programmable thermostat can lead to even greater savings by automatically adjusting it so that the cooling system runs more often when you are at home and less often when you are away.

Made in the shade

Windows are not only great sources of natural light in your home, but also great sources of heat during the summer. Curtains, blinds, and shades are some of the most cost-effective ways to make your windows and home more energy efficient. These window coverings offer low-cost, stylish solutions to shield the sun's rays and keep the interior of your home cool and comfortable. Proper weather stripping and caulking around window panes and casings will also improve the function of your windows by keeping the cool air in and the hot air out. Solar film applied to your home's existing windows will further repel the summer heat.

Daily grind

Today's appliances are more energy efficient than ever, performing better and using less electricity than they did in the past. But despite their functionality and efficiency, most major household appliances give off heat when in use. During peak daytime temperatures, the residual heat from appliances can put an unnecessary strain on your home's cooling system and send your power bill soaring. Cooler temperatures in the early morning or late evening make these ideal times for running the dishwasher or washing and drying clothes. When possible, turn off your dishwasher's dryer cycle. This prevents even more residual heat from warming your home and saves on your power bill. Washing your clothes in cold water and hanging them out to dry are also great strides in reducing your household energy consumption.

You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes around the house can add up to big energy savings.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, EnergySavers.gov, TogetherWeSave.com

