

## Members come out for 67th Annual Meeting

Cool breezes and a sea of cars surrounded a jovial crowd as members of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. gathered at Charley Brown Park Fairgrounds for the 67th Annual Meeting.

John Meng, executive vice president and general manager for the rural electric cooperative gave members a brief but thorough update of the advances made to better their service.

He explained how Clay Electric's wholesale power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) entered into a partnership with seven partners to construct a generating plant at Marissa, Ill. known as the Prairie State Energy Campus. It is a combination of two generating units with the coal supply connected to the plant by a conveyor from the Lively Grove mine. He stressed to members that this new plant is the "cleanest burning coal-fueled plant in the United States."

The first unit of the facility is expected to begin producing electricity by the end of the year with the second unit operational by mid-year 2012. The good news is that 4,000 construction jobs were created during the peak construction of the plant. A total of 547 permanent jobs will result.

The reality of the advances, however, is that wholesale power to the members of SIPC will result in increased rates for Clay members.

Clay, Meng said, has been working with the engineering department at the AIEC, the statewide association representing rural electric cooperatives, to do a cost of service study. It has been calculated



*2011 Directors re-elected at the Clay Electric Co-operative Annual Meeting of Members held on Sept. 8, 2011 were (left-right): Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng, District V Director Danny Schnepfer, District VII Director Bill Croy and District IV Director Richard Rudolphi.*

that the increase will be no more than 7 percent.

"It is felt that this increase will be sufficient to take care of the increased cost in wholesale power rates for 2012 and 2013," Meng said. To help members understand impact on their bills, he said with average usage of 800 kWhs, the average bill will see an increase of approximately \$8 per month.

Meng also thanked members for their efforts a year ago when they contacted Congress to encourage them to consider the impact of "cap and trade" legislation on members.

"I believe this is one of the many reasons the U.S. Senate took no action last year on any of the bills that were under consideration for

climate legislation."

The Environmental Protection Agency is also attempting to put new climate regulations in place. Meng said SIPC will be faced with these as early as January 2012, and that compliance will lead to increased costs to members. He assured members that as soon as the cooperative learns the costs from the new regulations that the information will be passed on to them. Members will be notified through Illinois Country Living Magazine if timing allows.

"The first bill you receive with the adjustment of rates will be about the middle of February," Meng said, apologizing to members for not

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having answers, but explaining that nothing is conclusive to date.

Meng expressed gratitude to members for their patience and kindness during inclement weather in 2011. A spring ice storm and several wind storms have caused outages. Meng said members couldn't have been nicer, many sending cards of encouragement and thanks and also providing treats to help linemen and others who worked consistently to restore power.

"We are encouraged and uplifted

by your acts of kindness and your words of appreciation," Meng said.

Other business included:

- A report of kilowatt hours sold in 2010. Clay Electric Co-operative saw an increase of 6 percent over 2009.
- Indicated that three new services were added in 2010 and line was increased from 951 to 952. The number of defective poles replaced in that year was 181.
- Re-elected three board members:

William Croy, Richard Rudolphi and Danny Schnepfer.

Clay Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 720 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Clay Electric Co-operative serves more than 3,236 meters over 951 miles of line in parts of Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Richland and Wayne counties. For more information visit [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop).

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## August 22, 2011

**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 Neil Gould.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 25, 2011.

**Accepted** 14 new members for service.

**Canceled** 16 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$26,727.63.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July 2011.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of July, 2011 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng along with a report regarding short term loan and an update on

FEMA funding.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Logan regarding the recent AIEC meeting that was held this month including AIEC personnel changes, CFC Director elections, financial reports, legislative updates, EPA final rules, and Annual Meeting committees and attendees.

**Heard** a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including information regarding monthly and year to date budget and revenue standings.

**Discussed** the upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting arrangements, and the certification of proper Nominating Petitions.

**Discussed** the upcoming Region V and VI meeting.

**Heard and Disbursed** a report by Gen. Mgr Meng information on an increase in NRECA rates for benefits.

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

Meng showing various scenarios to determine an adequate increase in rates as recommended from the 2011 Rate Design Study. Informed Mgr. Meng to inform members at the CECI Annual Meeting of his recommendation.

**Discussed** an update in the fee schedule to be determined at a future meeting.

**Heard** a report on the CECI / Hoosier Energy Contract on the Noble Substation.

**Heard and Approved** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the retirement of capital credits to the estates of four deceased members pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the status of the Home program.

**Discussed** the replacement of the chipper/spray truck.

**Disbursed** a Global Warming article.

**Adjournment.**

**Check out our  
Web site!**

**[www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop)**

**Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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618-662-2171 • 800-582-9012

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



## Handle power safely

*Power tools in the workplace: Make sure they're used safely*

A tool as simple as a screwdriver can cause injury if it's used incorrectly. When you're talking about power tools such as drills or chainsaws, the potential hazards multiply. Keep your workforce safe by making sure employees follow these basic precautions:

- **Train thoroughly.** Anyone working with a power tool should be properly trained in its use before picking it up on the job. Take the time to familiarize employees, and yourself, on safe handling.
- **Dress appropriately.** Gloves, protective goggles, and other equipment may be needed to ensure safety. Keep them accessible and require their use. Replace them as necessary.
- **Check tools before use.** Examine the equipment before turning it on. Are cords frayed? Are safety shields secure? Be on the lookout for any defects that might cause an injury.
- **Clear the area.** Your workspace should be uncluttered and free of distractions. Watch for cords that might trip you or another employee. Be aware of people nearby who might interrupt you or accidentally walk into danger.
- **Pay attention.** While using the tool, keep your eyes and your mind on the work. A second's inattention can lead to an injury.
- **Store tools properly.** Don't leave a drill or power saw lying around when no one is using it. Keep tools safe and secure, locked up if necessary, and maintain them so they continue to operate within safety parameters.
- **Keep first aid handy.** Even if you never need them, stock bandages, disinfectant, and other basic first-aid supplies where they'll be easy to find in case of an accident.



## It's Their Day

**Veterans Day.** Is it a day off from work or a day to remember those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom? Our soldiers are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. This Veterans Day, honor them with the respect they deserve.

**Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

From Clay Electric Cooperative, Your Touchstone Energy Partner  
**Clay Electric will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.**



## 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.

We are now finalizing the map of where exactly the line will go. 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.

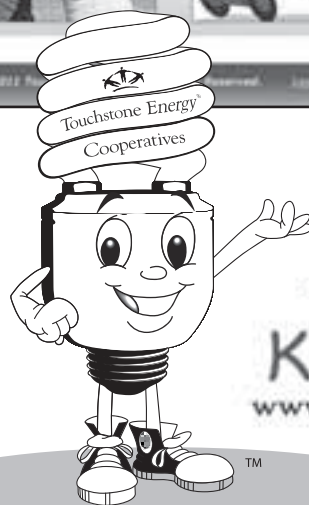
Doug Hockman 662-6666,  
Sue Pettit 662-4305,  
Bob Pierson 662-7471,  
Kye Hemphill 662-4590,  
Bill Seelman 662-8479,  
Dwight Edgington 678-2782,  
Kevin Henry 618-838-6123, or  
Hank Hilmes 662-2388.



**Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.**  
will also be closed on  
**Thursday & Friday**  
**Nov. 24 & 25**  
for Thanksgiving

## Energy Saving Isn't Just For Adults

Want to save money on your monthly electric bill? Engage the youngsters in the house to become part of the solution. By visiting the Touchstone Energy Kids Zone on Clay Electric Cooperative's website, kids can have fun learning about electricity, energy savings and electrical safety with help from CFL Charlie. There are even online games and puzzles and fun activity pages that can be printed out. Log on at [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) and double click on the Kids Zone icon. Soon, the kids will be lecturing YOU about leaving lights on.



Touchstone Energy®  
**Kids Zone**  
[www.kidsenergyzone.com](http://www.kidsenergyzone.com)

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