

Clay Electric holds annual meeting

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. members gathered on Thursday, Sept. 5 at Charley Brown Park Fairgrounds for a porkchop dinner preceding the cooperative's 69th annual meeting. During the meeting they were updated on important information regarding the cooperative.

John Meng, executive vice president and general manager for the rural electric cooperative brought members up-to-date on wholesale power prices and 2014 rate adjustments. Meng said, "The cost of wholesale power is the largest expense for your cooperative. Clay Electric is one of seven members of Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and due to expected increases in fuel expense and generating unit maintenance expense at SIPC, it is projected that Clay Electric will see an increase of approximately \$160,000.

"It appears the general rate increase should be no more than 3 percent and will be effective Jan. 1, 2014. It is hoped this increase will be sufficient to take care of the increased cost in wholesale power rates for 2014 and 2015. The impact for each member based on an average usage of 800 kWhs on Rate 1 would result in an increase of approximately \$4.00 per month," he explained.

Meng also addressed the effect proposed federal regulations could have on coal-burning power plants. He explained how electric cooperatives are working vigilantly to maintain competitive rates and that includes arguing for a balanced, technically realistic and economi-



During the meeting members re-elected three to the board of directors. Shown left to right are General Manager John Meng and Directors Frank Herman, Neil Gould and Kevin Logan.

cally feasible approach to environmental and climate change policy. Co-ops are leading the electric utility industry in the deployment of technologies that enable more efficient energy management. Meng urged members "to voice your concerns to your elected officials about reliable, affordable power and to take a stand on issues that affect your electric cooperative."

In closing, Meng announced his retirement in June of 2014 and thanked the board of trustees and members for allowing him to serve.

Other business included:

- A report of kilowatt hours sold in 2012. Sales were down by .7 percent compared to 2011.

- Thirty-two new services were connected in 2012 and 285 defective poles were changed out. \$697,190 was invested in the electric system to extend and upgrade services.

- Online bill payment is now available by going to the cooperative website at www.ceci.coop. Members can access account information such as billing history, make payments and set up auto-pay options.

- Re-elected three board members: Neil Gould of Louisville, Frank Herman of Xenia and Kevin Logan of Edgewood.

(More photos on page 16b)

69th Annual Meeting of Members *(Continued from page 16a)*



Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting August 26, 2013

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 Neil Gould.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 22, 2013.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$39,237.05.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July, 2013. Informed of recent truck repairs.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC Board Meeting including Strategic Planning Meeting and Executive Summary.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including the financials, restructuring of committees, Prairie State Consultants added, Delta and Fidelity properties, status of CEO replacement and SIPC Administrative and Finance Dept. Summary.

Approved the Managers report as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng including Financial and Maintenance reports.

Reminded of upcoming Clay Electric Annual Meeting of Members, and Approved that Gen. Mgr. Meng advise the membership that CECI will not seek a rate increase of more than 3% in the next 12 months.

Reminded of upcoming Region V Meeting and possible attendees.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to NRECA rates for Benefits.

Discussed Capital Credit allocations and Reviewed the AIEC

Member Survey results as to the question of Capital Credit allocations and rates.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to elimination of delinquent notices.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng as to Online Bill presentation and payment program, texting outage service, window replacement, additional right of way clearing.

Heard a report on a connection for Marathon Petroleum, Approved authorization for Gen. Mgr. Meng to engage in a final agreement of commission of Marathon Petroleum's study.

Disbursed Policy 800-20 as previously revised approved. Disbursed NRECA course record for individual Directors.

Informed by Gen. Mgr. Meng that the July safety meeting topic was OSHA required Flaggers Training.

Adjournment.

Member services portal and on line bill payment option

Clay Electric Co-operative is pleased to present our Member Services Portal. This site will give you the opportunity to make a payment online and to manage your account online. The features include Sign up for Credit or Debit Card Draft, View your Billing, Make Payments, and Usage History. You can also sign up to receive Alerts and Reminder Notifications such as Payment Confirmation and Due Date Reminders via text message and/or email.

In order to gain access to these features you must first go to www.

ceci.coop, and click on the box you desire. To make payment you must click on the box "Click here to make bill payment", and set up your username and password. The username is normally your email address and for the first time only the password is your account number. Your account number for your electric bill can be found in the upper left hand corner of your bill card and will be a number that ranges in size from four (4) to eight (8) digits.

For those of you that are served by Clay County Water the online bill presentation and payment is

also available. You will need to login a separate time and use the account number information for your water account. Your account number for your water bill can also be found in the upper left hand corner of your bill card and will be a number that ranges in size from seven (7) to eleven (11) digits.

For those of you who do not receive electrical service from Clay Electric Co-operative but do receive water from Clay County Water you can also access your water bill by following the instructions in the previous paragraph.

Eight 2014 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

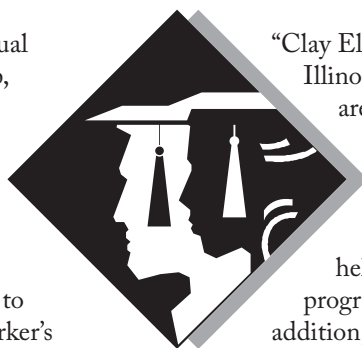
Executive V.P. / General Manager John Meng has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2014 award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2014 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The eighth annual \$1500 scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), Springfield, IL. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals participating in the LLCC lineworker’s program are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Gen. Mgr. Meng.



“Clay Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, check out the Clay Electric website at www.ceci.coop. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website www.ceci.coop or at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative’s website www.aiec.coop. Any questions please call Member Services Director Doug Hockman at Clay Electric Cooperative at 662-2171, or toll free 1-800-582-9012.

OFFICE CLOSINGS

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

will be closed on

November 11, 2013

in observance of **Veterans Day**,

November 28th, and 29th, 2013 for **Thanksgiving**,

and **December 24th, & 25th**

to celebrate **Christmas**.

The Board, and Employees of Clay Electric Cooperative would like to wish the Membership a very happy Holiday season.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7784 Old Hwy. 50,

P.O. Box 517,

Flora, Illinois 62839

618-662-2171

800-582-9012

Office hours:

7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

www.ceci.coop