

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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From the Manager

Hasn't the fall weather been great? It's been great to be able to work outside without all the heat. The same can be said for our linemen. I know they appreciate both fall and spring! Right now, we are continuing with efforts to rebuild portions of the lines used to serve electricity to your home. There are quite a few small projects located throughout the system, and many of you have even called in requesting additions and/or changes on your personal properties.

Your cooperative makes every effort to accommodate those requests, but we do occasionally have to ask for patience while we work through the list of requested items. Of course, emergency repairs come first so if you see a line down, please call it in and we will attend to it immediately.

Speaking of downed lines, one of our linemen, Luke Johnson, recently spent the day giving a live line demo to the children who attended Farm Safety Day in Charley Brown Park. Although the kids were all very taken with the arcs and sparks of electricity Luke demonstrated, I think his message of electrical safety reached them. In fact, many of them had good follow-up questions for Luke. So, if your kids came home warning you about digging without calling, or telling you how to hop from a vehicle, you know where that came from.

In addition to the work going on outside, we continue to make improvements to the way the inside staff works. Right now, we are moving to more of a paperless office environment. I'm not sure we will ever get to a 100% paperless environ-

ment, but we will certainly reduce the amount we use.

Last month, I asked you to visit www.action.coop and let the EPA know we wanted a common sense approach to energy regulation. The EPA has since extended their comment period. So, keep up the good work! If you haven't already responded, please take a moment and do so. If you have, then encourage your neighbor to respond as well. We could use all the support available to help keep electric bills down.



Ed VanHoose
General Manager

Ten 2015 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Clay Electric Cooperative Executive V.P./General Manager Edward VanHoose has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2015 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2015



through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five 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 sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative director or/ employee. Three additional 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 tenth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$1,500 scholarship will 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, Springfield. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the

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Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting August 25, 2014

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 Ed VanHoose, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce.

The invocation was given by Neil Gould.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 14, 2014.

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 16 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$28,820.14.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July, 2014, with clarification by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to a duplication of reimbursement.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose concerning a former member Bankruptcy Notice.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC Board Meeting including conclusion of on-site printing, the scholarship program, continuing education

course schedule, Lincoln Land Community College Lineman's school training, the upcoming Region 5 & 6 meeting, and due to a delegate voting conflict, Appointed Frank Herman as CFC Voting Delegate and Ed VanHoose as Alternate.

Informed of a Thank You card from AIEC regarding donation towards auction.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting, including RUS Loan fund audit, status of Prairie State/Batavia Purchase Power Agreement, and unit operation of Prairie State. Informed by Trustee Rudolphi as to Right of Way progress, Ameren overcharge, and FERC.

Informed by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose that Trustee's Logan, and Rudolphi successfully completed all requirements for the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate and will be recognized at the upcoming Region 5 & 6 meeting. Gen. Mgr. VanHoose also reported on CFC invitation, and CFC Candidate Profiles.

Reviewed Policies 100-2, 100-3, 100-4, & 100-5.

Discussed and **Approved** removal of Policy 100-2 making it a Procedure rather than Board Policy, and renumbering of successive Policies to be consistent numerically.

Reviewed and **Approved** Policy 100-1.

Reviewed and **Approved** renumbered Policy 100-2, and 100-2a indicating authorization vested in General Manager by the Board.

Reviewed and **Approved** renumbered Policy 100-3 with

modification to include option of an electronic format.

Reviewed and **Approved** renumbered 100-4.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding Financial Reports, request by Ameren for Joint Use Agreement, payment of CFC loan, and CFC Annual Owner's Benefit Statement, RS Plan Comparison, Health Insurance network issues, 2015 Renewal Rates thereafter Approved the same, Communications with membership and various reasons therefore, with specific reference to Facebook, Website expense, SIPC Power Bill, Line rebuild project, Necessity and Benefit of Capital Expenditure Fund, thereafter Approved establishment of the same, Informed of theft of equipment from a Cooperative truck, leak of water dispenser in lobby, Employee issue, Thereafter Approved the Managers Report.

Discussed concepts regarding sick leave calculation.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding upcoming CECI Annual Meeting of Members

Approved retirement of Capital Credits to the estate's of 3 deceased members pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose concerning an Illinois Cooperative truck rollover.

Reviewed Certificate of Liability Insurance issued by Oilfield Tree Service.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to invitations to SIPC events.

Adjournment.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Closings • Office Closings • Office Closings

Clay Electric Cooperative Office will be closed on **Tuesday, Nov. 11th** to honor our Veterans and also **Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 & 28,** for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

10th Annual Farm Safety Day

Clay County Farm Bureau recently sponsored its 10th Annual Farm Safety Day at Charley Brown Park. Third grade classes from Clay City, Flora and North Clay were bussed to the fairgrounds to spend the biggest part of their school day learning about safety. Presenters included U of I Extension-Food Safety, Sheriff Andy Myers-Gun Safety, South Central FS-Chemical Safety, FSA-Life's Misfortunes, North Clay FFA-Livestock, CC Health Dept.-Tobacco, McLean Implement-Tractor Safety, ESDA-Vehicle Extraction - Seat Belts & Airbags, and Clay Electric Cooperative-Power Line Safety.

Clay Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Luke Johnson presented the **POWERTOWN** Exhibit that was on loan from the Energy Education Council/ Safeelectricity.org. He explained to the kids the hazards of downed power lines, to stay inside the vehicle if there are downed power lines unless it is unsafe to do so, how to exit a vehicle properly if need be, where to not plant trees, to always look up to spot power line dangers, and to go get an adult if they find an unsafe hazard relating to power lines. There were approximately 166 3rd graders, 25 adult teachers, bus drivers and chaperones in attendance.



Memorial Scholarships available *(Continued from page 16a)*

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; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard 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.

VanHoose. "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, contact your H.S. Guidance Office or Doug Hockman at Clay Electric 618-662-2171. All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website at www.ceci.coop or the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives website www.aiec.coop.



Holiday cooking safety tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year – the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen. As we embark on the holiday season, Clay Electric Cooperative and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit www.esfi.org.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is a 501(c) (3) organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace. ESFI proudly engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.