



Clay Electric News

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. 618-662-2171 FLORA, ILLINOIS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting October 22, 2001

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman and Kevin Logan. Absent were Bob Pierson and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

Prior to the regular business meeting Rick Kuntz and Lee Wilmes of Wabash Valley Power presented two different plans for a power supply contract. There was no action taken by the board.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 24 2001.

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$22,567.94.

Appointed Greg Smith as Trustee to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Ruckman for District VI.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of August, 2001

presented by Mgr. Wattles.

Approved one purchase of power contract in the form presented.

Approved payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Edward Fisher, Helen Dahnke, Lucille Probst and Evelyn Flowers pursuant to cooperative policy.

Amended Policy Bulletin 800-4 in the form presented at this meeting.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning a recent AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of September, 2001.

Approved payment of Farm Bureau dues.

Approved power requirements study in the form presented to this meeting

Heard a report by Mgr. Wattles concerning recent meetings of the various cooperatives seeking a recovery from Soyland.

Instructed Cooperative Attorney Todd to prepare a contract for tower use by the Web Cafe'.
Adjournment.

Building a new home?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.



Clay County
Water is
accepting sign
up contracts for
their phase II
rural water
project in
Stanford
Township.
Please call
Doug Hockman
662-6666 for
information.





Add a little light to your night

There's no place like home...and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a security light from your electric cooperative.

Nothing foils a would-be burglar or trespasser like the brilliant beams of an electric cooperative security light. Today's security lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the security light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it's there when you need it, automatically.

A security light is an affordable way to provide safety and protection for everyone's family and possessions. Call your electric cooperative today for all the details.

Be **PREPARED**

for the unexpected

Are you prepared for an emergency? When the inevitable winter snows and ice storms arrive, will you know what to do if you have a power failure? Do you have a survival kit in your vehicle in case you are stranded in bad weather? Here are some suggestions to make sure that you and your family are prepared for whatever emergency may arise.

A survival kit for your home or vehicle should include six basics: water, food, first aid kit, clothing, tools or emergency supplies and special items.

Store a three-day supply of water in plastic containers. Allot one gallon of water per day per person: two quarts for drinking and two quarts for food preparation/sanitation.

Store a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person. Select items that are compact, lightweight and require little or no cooking, such as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, juice and high energy foods such as unsalted nuts, dried fruits or hard candy.

Include these basics in your first aid kit: sterile adhesive bandages, safety pins, soap, latex gloves, sunscreen, scissors, tweezers, a needle, antiseptic, a thermometer and petroleum jelly. Also be sure to include non-prescription drugs such as aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid and syrup of Ipecac (especially for young children when advised by poison control). Prescription medications should be kept current and available.

Tools or emergency supplies should include working flashlights and extra batteries, paper or

plastic cups, plates and utensils, a battery operated radio, a non-electric can opener, matches in a waterproof container and tools to turn off household gas and water if needed.

Your car survival kit should also include a fire extinguisher, signal flares, maps of the area, a shovel, battery jumper cables and a bag of salt or cat litter.

In addition, include necessary toiletries such as toilet paper, soap, feminine supplies, personal hygiene items, disinfectant and household chlorine bleach for sanitizing.

Store at least one complete change of clothing, including footwear, for each person. Rain gear, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, gloves, thermal underwear and sunglasses should be included both at home and in the vehicle emergency kit.

Include some games and books to help pass the time, especially if you have children with you that may become bored easily. If you have

infants, always make sure you have extra formula, bottles and diapers at home and in your vehicle.

Store your emergency survival kit in a backpack, duffel bag or even in a covered plastic container. Water and food should be replaced every six months. Replace the batteries in your emergency kits at least once a year.

For more information on emergency survival kits and winter preparedness, visit the National Safety Council Web site at www.nsc.org and the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.



Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering
Business and Residential
long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

6.9¢

All calls out of state

24 hours a day — 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
 - No term agreements • Major carrier
 - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
 - Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
 - **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

No fees or service charge

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. The local telephone company may assess a service charge when they make the carrier change.

Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

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Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
November 26, 2001

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd. The invocation was given by Trustee Logan.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2001.

Accepted 21 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$21,451.17.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report

for the month of September, 2001 presented by Mgr. Wattles.

Approved payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Shannon Orel, Ray Jenkins and Vera Miller, pursuant to cooperative policy.

Heard a presentation by Jeff Vance and Don Gulley of Ameren Energy regarding a power contract extension and following discussion.

Resolved that this Cooperative accept the power contract extension with Ameren Energy in accord with the presentation made.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning a recent AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October, 2001.

Approved the recommendation of the purchasing committee to purchase a 2000 model pickup truck to replace an existing pickup.

Reviewed and Approved a contract with Web Cafe in the form presented.

Resolved that the December meeting of the Board of Trustees be held on December 17, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. with an Employee and Board Christmas dinner to follow.

Heard a discussion regarding the possible merger or shared services with another Cooperative.

Adjournment.

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford Township.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West
P.O. Box 517
Flora, Illinois 62839
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

BUILDING a NEW HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge



What electricians want you to know about hiring an electrician

What's the best way to get quality electrical work at a good price? Electricians say you can save yourself time and aggravation by knowing how electricians work.

The Leviton Institute interviewed several electrical contractors, and here's what they want you to ask before you contract for their services.

1. ASK ME ABOUT THE KIND OF WORK I DO.

Electrical contractors tend to specialize. Some only do new construction or remodeling work. Some do only minor repairs, such as installing a new light fixture or replacing an outlet or switch. So tell the electrician about the job you have in mind first.

2. ASK ME IF A PERMIT IS REQUIRED.

In most municipalities, a permit is required when an electrician needs to run a new circuit or extend an existing one. It's not needed for simple repairs, such as replacing an outlet or light fixture, but it is for larger projects - say, if you're installing a new hot tub.

A permit provides you with protection, because a government inspector will come to your home to check and approve the electrician's work before the job is completed. The electrical contractor should always obtain the permit under his name, not yours, and post the permit on the job site.

3. ASK ME IF I AM A CERTIFIED, LICENSED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR.

Electricians are highly trained professionals. Their certification and state license are proof they have mastered their trade and that their work meets local electrical codes. For insurance reasons, it's always best to hire a licensed electrician, especially when a permit is required.

4. ASK ME IF I CARRY INSURANCE AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION.

The last thing you want when you hire an electrical contractor is to be sued if a worker is injured while working in your home. Before you hire a contractor for a large project, ask to see proof of current insurance and a state license.

For a typical remodeling job, an electrician should carry a minimum of \$500,000 in liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage.

5. FOR A SMALL JOB, ASK ME FOR AN ESTIMATE OVER THE PHONE.

Electrical contractors don't mind coming out to give you an estimate, but on a small job, they may lose money just driving to your home. Instead, the electrician may give

you his minimum charge, or a fixed price for the job you have described.

On larger jobs, ask for an hourly rate. The average rate for a licensed electrician around the country varies from \$45 to \$65 an hour. Expect to pay more if a helper is needed on the job. You should also call two or three contractors and ask them to come to your home to give you an estimate.

6. ASK THE ELECTRICIAN TO PURCHASE ALL THE MATERIALS FOR THE JOB.

You may think you'll save money by buying the materials yourself, but the Leviton Institute found it's better for the electrician to make all the purchases. If the electrician buys the materials, he's responsible for warranty issues, defective products, and broken or missing parts.

For example, if you bought a light fixture and the electrician finds a part missing during installation, it's up to you to go back to the store and get the missing part. Meanwhile, the electrician sits around and charges you by the hour. If the electrician buys the fixture and a part is missing, it's his responsibility - and his time.

7. ASK ME WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY REPAIRS CAUSED BY THE JOB.

To install a new circuit in your home, an electrician may need to drill or cut holes in the walls. The repair work is generally not done by the electrician. The same is true if you're having landscaping lights installed outside and the contractor needs to dig trenches in the lawn and uproot shrubbery.

The final question you may have is how to pay for the services. On small jobs, the contractor expects payment when the job is completed. On larger jobs, the contractor will typically ask for 10 to 30 percent of the total job before work begins, with additional payments upon completion of certain stages.

For your protection, do not make the final payment until you've received a waiver stating that all suppliers and other workers on the job have been paid by the electrical contractor. Without this waiver, you may be responsible for these charges if the electrician doesn't pay them.

When the Leviton Institute asked about the best way to find a qualified electrical contractor, word of mouth was the number one answer. Next best, pay a visit to your local wholesale electrical supply house, tell them about your project, and ask for references. The Yellow Pages is another good source. For major projects, think twice before calling someone who advertises on a local bulletin board or neighborhood newspaper because they may not be certified and licensed.

Concern for Community

One of the seven basic principles that cooperatives follow is concern for community. After all, cooperatives were formed more than 60 years ago to serve a basic need in their communities.

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities. We provide a reliable source of energy. We help your local schools and students. We provide additional services to improve the quality of your life. And we are working with local leaders to bring new jobs and opportunity to our communities.

We live and work here too, that's what makes us different. **We're Illinois' electric cooperatives.**



Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢ 6.9¢

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
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**FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER**
No fees
Same low rate

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Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

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Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

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Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
December 17, 2001

Trustees present were: Frank Czynewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 26, 2001.

Accepted 18 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$14,511.01.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of November, 2001 pre-

sented by Mgr. Wattles.

Resolved that Policy Bulletin 200-11, regarding non-emergency vegetation management control, be adopted in the form as presented.

Heard a report from Mgr. Wattles regarding GeKL Technologies Jumpstart program and following presentation,

Approved the Jumpstart program in the form presented

Were **Advised** that Ameren Energy had accepted the Cooperative's proposal for its power supply contract and that papers would be signed in early 2002.

Approved write-offs totaling \$747.94 for the month of December, 2001.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning upcoming AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November, 2001.

Reviewed and Approved the budget for 2002 in the form presented.

Reviewed and Approved the management agreement with Clay County Water in the form presented, with 1 abstention and 8 ayes.

Heard a presentation regarding the replacement of a Cooperative vehicle with no action being taken.

Tabled action until the January meeting on an employee compensation.

Appointed Trustee Rudolphi as delegate and Trustee Dunigan as alternate to the up-coming NRTC annual meeting.

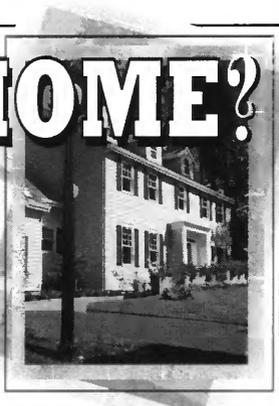
Adjournment.

Clay County Water is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford Township.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Building a new HOME?

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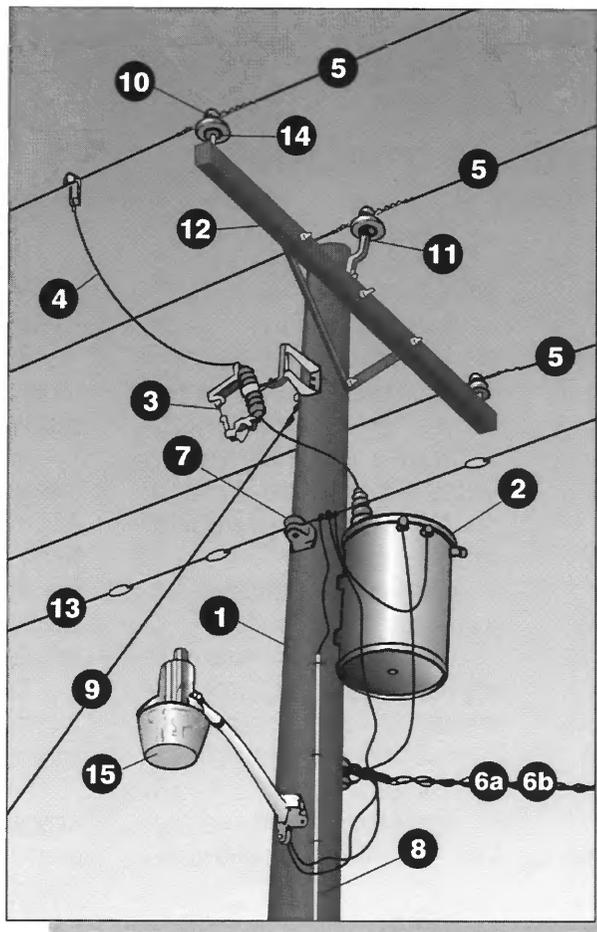
Power Line Anatomy 101

What do you see when you look at a power line? What are all those attachments, and why are they important?

The power lines that carry electricity from the substation to your home or business are called distribution lines. They are part of a system of poles, wires, transformers and other equipment used to deliver electricity.

Sometimes the power lines are buried underground. However, more frequently they are run overhead.

Below is a description of the main components of an electrical distribution system.



1. Utility pole: The half-ton wooden pole is the backbone of the electrical line. It is partially buried to support all of the equipment. It usually is about 40 feet in length, and typically is made of cedar, pine or fir trees.

2. Transformer: The cylindrical metal tank-shaped device steps down the voltage to a level safe for delivery to the customer, either 120 or 240 volts. Many transformers have a lightning arrester, which protects them from a strike.

3. Fused cutout: This provides overload protection. A link inside a fiberglass barrel operates the cutout, which isolates the tap from

the main line. When a loud blast is heard from a utility pole, it is the fused cutout operating.

4. Wire and clamp: This wire is secured by a clamp, and connects the main line to the transformer.

5. Primary conductor: This is the main series of wires that carries electricity from the supplier to the consumer through the distribution system. A three-phase line—typically used to serve large power users, such as commercial

and industrial accounts—has three separate current-carrying conductors. A single-phase line—which serves most homes—has just one current-carrying conductor.

6. Secondary tap (hot and neutral): This conductor carries electricity between the transformer and the consumer's electric meter.

7. Strain insulators: These ceramic objects hold the conductors in place and insulate them from the pole.

8. Pole ground wire: This wire is connected to a metal rod driven eight feet into the ground. Its job is to ground the system.

9. Guy wire: This stranded wire helps stabilize the pole. Hardware connects it to the pole and an anchor in the ground.

10. Insulators: These porcelain or rubber objects support the electric wires and prevent an undesired flow of electricity.

11. Pole-top pins: These support the insulators on the pole.

12. Crossarm and braces: This is the horizontal piece on the pole that makes the structure look like a cross. It holds the insulators, and keeps the lines on a three-phase line from touching one another. It usually is made of the same wood as the pole.

13. Main line neutral conductor: This wire is the neutral conductor in a distribution circuit.

14. Insulator pins: These support the insulators on the crossarm.

15. Security light: Although not on all power poles, a dusk-to-dawn light is visible on many power poles.



Cozy comfort can cost less

Cold, crisp, bone-chilling wintry days - you want to stay warm and cozy indoors as efficiently and economically as possible. What to do when the heat is on and you want to get the most for your energy dollars? Here are some helpful tips:

- Keep windows near your thermostat tightly closed. Drafts will keep your furnace working even though the rest of the room has reached a comfortable temperature.
- Check the attic access door to make sure it is well insulated and weatherstripped.
- Keep draperies and shades open in sunny windows; close them at night.
- And, don't forget that for comfort in cooler temperatures warm clothes provide some of the best insulation.

To find out more ways to keep the heat where it belongs, just contact your electric cooperative. We have lots of ideas that will help your family stay comfortable year-round for less.

Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering Business and Residential long distance phone service

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4.9¢ 6.9¢

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

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Name _____ Social Security Number _____

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Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
January 25, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were General Manager Wattles and Cooperative Attorney Todd.

The invocation was given by President Czyzewski.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 17, 2001.

Accepted 14 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$31,169.47.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of December 2001 presented by Mgr. Wattles.

Opened bids for the sale of a Cooperative vehicle and awarded the bid to the highest bidder.

Resolved and Adopted amend-

ments to the Deferred Compensation Plan in the form presented to this meeting.

Resolved and Adopted resolution for paying agent with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation in the form presented to this meeting.

Discussed the EPA-PCB Treatment, Inc. lawsuit and Directed Manager Wattles to request an extension of time through the AIEC legal department.

Resolved that the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. be held Thursday September 12, 2002.

Were **Advised** that the power contract had been received and was being reviewed.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of December 2001.

Were **Advised** of recent safety meeting covering the topics of Fire Ex-

tinguisher Use and Hearing Conservation presented by AIEC Safety Manager Roger Stegeman.

Were **Advised** of upcoming NRECA course for Directors.

Discussed plans for the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

Approved payment of Capital Credits to the estate of deceased member Ruth Smith pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Approved one purchase of power contract in the form presented.

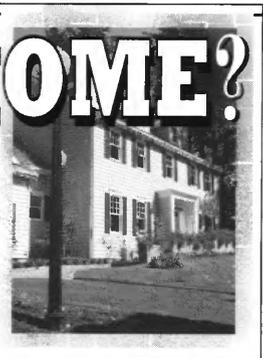
Were **Advised** that Manager Wattles had accepted a position with Monroe County Electric Cooperative effective March 15, 2002. Following discussion with Manager Wattles and Member Services Director Doug Hockman, the board determined they would commence advertising for a replacement and directed Hockman to work with the Manager until March 15 to enable him to act as Interim Manager pending the hiring of a new Manager. Adjournment.

Clay County Water is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford Township.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Building a new HOME?

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Trees help lower cooling cost

Many energy saving devices have been invented in the past few years, but few are as good as mother nature's little invention, the shade tree. Properly selected and located, trees can help reduce your cooling and heating bills all year.

Studies have shown that the average home can save 30 percent per year in utility costs by using trees to shade in the summer and block the wind in winter.

For shade, plant deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the winter) on the west and south sides of your house. In the summer they will fill out and shade your house and the leaves will fall off early enough that they will not keep the sun off during the winter cold.

Vines can help too. Deciduous vines, such as Boston Ivy, or Virginia creeper, can help you save energy if you plant them along your south and west wall, where they will deflect sunlight. This cooling effect is even more noticeable when the vine is grown on a trellis, attached to the wall, so air can circulate between the vine and the building.

For winter warmth, an evergreen vine, such as English Ivy is effective when grown on a sun-starved north wall, where leaves deflect cold and stems help create a dead air space and an insulating effect.

Generally speaking, the south and west sides of a home will be the hottest during the summer months. This is where the larger shade trees should be located. In the summer, the leaves will fill out and shade your house. According to a Department of Energy booklet, if a home is completely shaded by trees in the summer, its air conditioning bill may be reduced by half. The leaves will fall off early enough so they will not block the sun during the winter cold.



Even shading your air conditioner compressor can make a difference. Although you want to keep plants from lying directly on or interfering with the compressor, a unit that's shaded by a tree doesn't have to work as hard as one that's in the direct summer sun.

Heavy winter winds in Illinois usually come from the north and west. Evergreen trees, such as Pines and Cedars, can be utilized to divert cold north and northwest winds. It's not necessary to plant the evergreen windbreak close to your house. As the windbreak becomes taller, it can provide protection for more than 100 feet.

Trees that reach a height of one and one-half times the height of the house should be planted at a distance of four to six times their mature height from the house, if space permits. Remember, you aren't trying to build a solid barrier against the wind. You just want to break it up.

When planning your landscape, it is extremely important to be careful where you plant your trees. Do not plant them where their roots can get tangled up in water pipes or underground utility lines. You should also avoid planting trees where their limbs may hang over a driveway, or where limbs may fall onto the house or power lines during high winds. You may also choose to avoid trees that drop sticky fruits or sap. Whatever the case, the choice of trees is a matter of taste. You would be wise, however, to consult your friendly nursery or landscape architect about your tree planting plans.

While shading your home and building windbreaks will not work miracles for you, they can help. Besides, they really add to the beauty of your home.

POWER *is in your* HANDS



It's an essential and fundamental power that flows from your electric cooperative.

That basic democratic power, which includes one vote by every single co-op member-owner, is one of the most important characteristics that makes your electric co-op different from any other kind of utility.

Also, you have the power to discuss issues with friends and neighbors at co-op annual meetings, vote for the governing board, or run for office yourself.

A co-op is as good as its members. And that's pretty powerful by anyone's standards.

So, make sure you exercise your share of power. It won't cost you a cent, and it's one of the best investments you can make.

Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering

Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

6.9¢

All calls out of state



**24 hours a day — 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
 - No term agreements • Major carrier
 - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
 - Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
 - **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

**FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER**
No fees
Same low rate

No fees or service charge

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. The local telephone company may assess a service charge when they make the carrier change.
Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
February 25, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were General Manager Wattles and Member Services Director Doug Hockman.

The invocation was given by Trustee Pierson.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held January 28, 2002.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 15 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$25,318.26.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of January 2002, presented

by Mgr. Wattles.

Appointed President Czyzewski as voting delegate and Trustee Dunigan as alternate to the NRECA annual meeting.

Appointed Trustee Dunigan as voting delegate and President Czyzewski as alternate to the CFC annual meeting.

Appointed Trustee Rudolphi as voting delegate and Trustee Logan as alternate to the Federated Insurance annual meeting.

Appointed Doug Hockman as voting delegate and President Czyzewski as alternate to the Illinois Cooperatives Workers Compensation Group annual meeting.

Approved the settlement agreement with Soyland Power Cooperative in the form presented at the meeting.

Appointed Doug Hockman as Interim Manager.

Discussed amending Policy number 800.5 with no affirmative action being taken.

Advised of the ongoing negotiations with Ameren Energy concerning the new electric supply agreement.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of January 2002.

Approved 1 purchase of power contract in the form presented.

Discussed the replacement of 1 cooperative vehicle and directed the manager to obtain prices and report back to the purchasing committee.

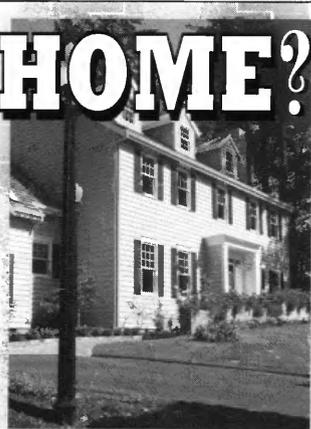
Adjournment.

Clay County Water is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford Township.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Building a new HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West
P.O. Box 517
Flora, Illinois 62839
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

Lightning

Nature's terrible swift sword

There are some 2,000 thunder storms in progress over the earth's surface at any given moment. And although we hardly ever complain about the rain that thunder storms bring, the lightning that often comes with these storms is another story.

Lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second. And during this time of year we get our fair share. Lightning is very fast. It's half the speed of light, very hot, and five times the temperature of the surface of the sun. At least 100 Americans are killed each year by lightning. That's more than the death toll caused by tornadoes, hurricanes or floods.

Lightning is spectacular and beautiful, but can be devastating at the same time, especially to electric utilities, homes and forests.

With energy measuring 25,000 amperes and 30 million volts, lightning is capable of blowing a tree apart by boiling the sap so quickly that it literally explodes. Lightning damages or destroys 30,000 houses per year and starts half of all fires in our national forests.

Surprisingly, we really don't know as much about lightning as we really should. But because lightning is such a major cause of outages, and a threat to the lives of linemen, electric utilities across the country are doing more to learn about lightning and control its damage.

Homeowners and utilities obviously can't prevent lightning, but they can install protective devices that will conduct the energy to the earth rather than allow it to pass through insulators, circuit breakers and other equipment.

To protect substations, we erect lightning masts, similar to lightning rods installed on barns and houses. Surge arrestors, also called lightning arrestors are also installed on transformers.

A lightning arrestor acts as an insulator at normal voltage. When high voltage caused by a lightning strike occurs, the arrestor acts as a conductor and allows the lightning to ground.

The chance that a frame house in a fairly built up neighborhood will be hit by lightning during the year is about one in a 100. But inside is still the safest place to be. During a storm use common sense and come in out of the rain. When a storm does occur:

- Don't use electrical appliances.
- Don't use the telephone unless absolutely necessary.
- Get out of water and off the golf course. Golf shoes can provide a

perfect ground.

- Stop working on tractors, especially when pulling metal equipment.
- Look for the nearest shelter and avoid high objects, especially isolated trees.
- Unplug expensive electrical equipment such as computers.

Homeowners can also protect expensive electric equipment and appliances by using surge protectors. Many homeowners don't install lightning protection because they mistakenly believe that any damage will be covered by insurance. Check with your agent, some policies don't include damage from lightning.

Call your electric cooperative with any questions you have on lightning protection.

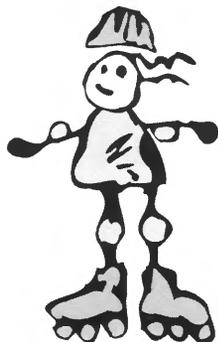


Stay safe and sound this Spring

As you begin to spend more time outdoors for work and play remember to watch for overhead power lines.

- Also, make sure outdoor electrical outlets are grounded and have weatherproof covers.
- Never fly kites or model planes near power lines. Use only dry string on kites.
- Never place a ladder where it can fall into a power line.
- Teach your children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

For more helpful tips to keep in mind when you're working or playing outdoors contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.safeelectricity.org.



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All calls in Illinois

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 - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
 - Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
 - **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.**

No fees or service charge

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**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. The local telephone company may assess a service charge when they make the carrier change.

Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
March 25, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were Interim Manager Doug Hockman and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 25, 2002.

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$27,602.79.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of February 2002, presented by Interim Mgr. Hockman.

Approved the amendments to Policy Bulletin #800-5 in the form presented to this meeting.

Approved the settlement agreement with Soyland Power Cooperative in the form presented at this meeting, the same having been amended since the action by the board at its February meeting.

Directed Interim Mgr. Hockman and Cooperative Attorney Todd to investigate the proposed amendment to the service territory agreement between the Cooperative and Ameren-CIPS, and report back to the board.

Approved the electric supply agreement with Ameren-Energy in the form presented.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February 2002.

Approved the request for secretary day luncheon.

Approved the bank resolutions and signature cards in the form presented.

Discussed the recent NRECA annual meeting.

Approved entering into a contract with the Flora Volunteer Fire Department for their repeater on the Cooperative radio tower.

Accepted the annual audit in the form presented by the auditing firm of Quint-Dryer & Co., P.C., PA.

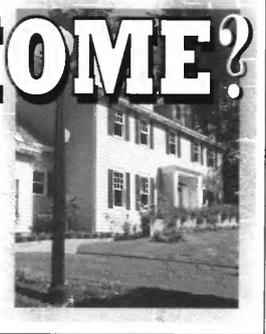
Authorized the purchase of a new night depository.

Set the next regular meeting for April 29, 2002.

Advised of up-coming NRECA legislative conference.
Adjournment.

Building a new HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West
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(618) 662-2171

Office hours:
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

Clay County Water is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.



Pictured with Representative Charles Hartke of Teutopolis are, from left: CEC Interim Manager Doug Hockman, Cooper and Rep. Hartke.

Pictured with Senator William O'Daniel of Mt. Vernon are, from left: Cooper, Sen. O'Daniel and CEC Interim Manager Doug Hockman.



YOUTH DAY

Laura Cooper tours state capital during Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day
 Laura Cooper of Flora, representing Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CEC) met with area legislators Representative Charles Hartke and

Senator William O'Daniel during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on

Wednesday, April 17, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, she had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court and tour Lincoln's tomb. The day was sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone co-ops in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

Laundry dayfor less

Use your automatic washer and dryer less often and more efficiently if you want to save energy and some of your hard-earned dollars. For starters:

- Wash clothes in warm or cold water. Rinse in cold.
- Fill your washer and dryer, but don't overload them.
- Don't use too much detergent. Over-sudsing makes your machine work harder and use more energy.
- Keep the lint screen in your dryer clean. Lint impedes the flow of air and requires the machine to use more energy.
- If your dryer has an automatic dry cycle, use it. Over drying merely wastes energy.

There's even more you can do to save money and energy. Simply contact us for more energy and money-saving tips.



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 Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () - ()

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 Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____

Date _____

SMOKE ALARMS

can SAVE YOUR LIFE

Has the fire alarm ever gone off in your home and you either ignored it or took out the battery? Did you remember to put the battery back in? Do you have an alarm on each floor of your home? Do you think your fire alarm can save your life?

In February of 2001, Andrea and her family were asleep in their home when the fire alarm went off. It was the middle of the night and they couldn't hear the alarm because their bedroom doors were closed. The alarm was in the hallway. Luckily, Andrea got out of bed, realized there was a problem and was able to notify her family.

A fire had started within the walls of their rural home. She screamed at her husband Mark and their daughters to get out of the house as she attempted to gather her purse and pets. "I could tell by the tone of my mom's voice that she meant business," says 9-year-old Alex. "We ran out of the house. We didn't even have shoes on and it was really cold outside."

Andrea had managed to call 911 and emergency vehicles responded within minutes, but their house could not be saved. The fire tore through the roof and broke out all of the windows. The house was considered a complete loss.

The family lost all of their worldly possessions. They lost pictures, clothes, recent Christmas presents and two of their pets. But, they all made it safely out of their burning home. Even so, one can't help but wonder how it would have turned out if they had heard the alarm sooner.

According to safeelectricity.org, researchers estimate that nearly half of annual fire fatalities can be prevented by smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can detect problems that your senses cannot. They can wake you in the middle of the night. They can save your life.

One smoke alarm is not enough. All homes should have one on each level and outside of sleeping areas. A smoke alarm in each bedroom is an even better idea. Smoke detectors should be checked regularly and chil-



dren should be familiarized with the sound and meaning of the alarm.

Proper fire safety begins with smoke alarms but continues with several important actions. Be aware of proper use and maintenance of heating and electrical appliances. Inspect all cords and plugs at least once a year. Never overload electrical outlets and circuits. Always exercise extreme caution when smoking inside your home. Smoking is one of the leading causes of fire deaths. Never smoke in bed and make sure that cigarettes are properly extinguished before dumping the ashes in the trash.

What do you do if there is a fire in your home? First, call the fire department or 911 and give them your address. Have an escape route for each area of the house and discuss a designated family meeting place outside. Familiarize your children with the ideas of remaining low to the ground while exiting and using "stop, drop and roll" if they should come in contact with fire. Use of a good family exit plan may be all that's needed to protect you and your family from the dangers of fire.

Andrea and her family recently rebuilt their home. They are beginning a long road of recovery from this tragedy. Andrea says, "One of the first things we installed in our new home was smoke alarms in each of our bedrooms, in the hallways and in the laundry room. The new alarms are all hard-wired with battery back-ups. So, if one alarm goes off in the house, they all go off. If a fire occurs in our house again, we will know immediately."

Don't let a loss be your lesson. Please safeguard your family and home from fires. For more information on fire safety, visit the United States Fire Administration Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov.

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
April 29, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were Interim Manager Doug Hockman, and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Herman.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 28, 2002.

Accepted 5 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$10,211.30.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of March 2002, presented by Interim Mgr. Hockman.

Discussed the territorial agreement between this Cooperative and Ameren/ CIPS, and directed Interim Manager Hockman and Cooperative Attorney Todd to retain the services of Jerry Tice to negotiate the amendments to the agreement.

Heard the results of the settlement agreement with Soyland Power Cooperative.

Discussed the Uplink Jumpstart program.

Heard a report from Trustee Lo-

gan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a presentation by RUS Field Representative Aaron Johnson regarding the pending RUS loan.

Approved a resolution concerning the Soyland buyout in the form presented to this meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of March 2002.

Authorized expenditures for computer upgrades for the Cooperative billing system in the amount of \$4,047.00.

Reviewed and Approved the Federated Insurance quote for the Cooperative property and liability coverage in the form presented to this meeting.

Approved donations to Post Prom activities, and American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

Accepted the offer of Cleotis Scott to farm the adjoining field owned by the Cooperative.

Approved participation in the CFC Cooperative System Integrity Fund in the form presented to this meeting.

Advised of upcoming negotiations meeting with the IBEW.

Approved an amendment to Policy Bulletin 200-1 in the form presented.

Set the next regular meeting for May 28, 2002.
Adjournment.



Building a new HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships. Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

QUESTION:

What makes an electric cooperative different?

You!

The major difference between your Electric Cooperative and an Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) is who has the power.

Because YOU belong to a democratically controlled, member-owned cooperative, YOU have the power.

Shareholders retain the power in IOUs, and those same shareholders receive all the company's profits.

Your electric cooperative gives back its profits to the members in the form of capital credits. So in addition to receiving electricity and other services from your cooperative, YOU also receive any profits made and have a say in how the cooperative operates. That's what makes your electric cooperative different – we give YOU the power.

You!

YOU!

ANSWER:

HOW TO

USE ELECTRICAL EXTENSION CORDS

Safely

Extension cords, with their ability to bring any appliance or lamp within reach of an electrical outlet, are one of the most convenient products in the home. But when they are misused, they can also be a source of potential danger.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that some 3,000 people are treated each year for injuries associated with extension cords. In addition, the CPSC reports that improperly functioning extension cords cause 5,000 residential fires annually.

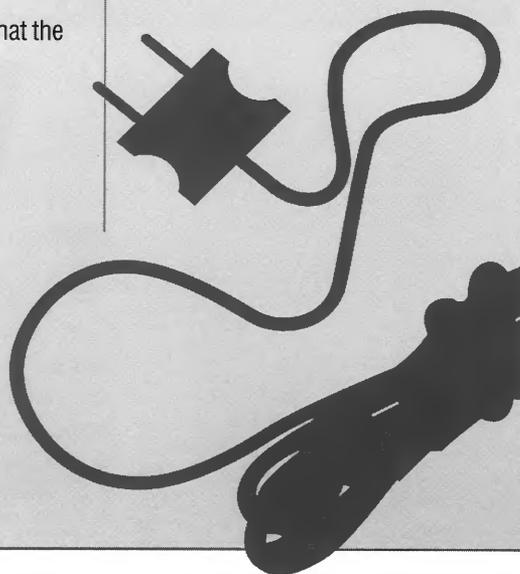
While extension cords are an invaluable convenience, it's important to use them properly. But what does that entail? Here are some tips from the Leviton Institute:

- Never run extension cords through walls, under rugs or furniture, or across doorways.
- Never try to repair a damaged extension cord with electrical tape; replace it instead.
- Never overload an extension cord. If any part of the cord feels warm to the touch, the cord is drawing too much power and could present a fire or shock hazard.
- Never cut off the ground pin to connect a three-prong appliance cord to a two-wire extension cord or receptacle. Always use a UL-listed adapter for this purpose.

- Replace older extension cords if one of the prongs is not "polarized." In a polarized plug, one prong will be wider than the other.
- Do not allow extension cords to dangle from counters or tabletops. Someone could accidentally pull them down or trip over them.
- Always plug an appliance into the extension cord before plugging the extension cord into a wall receptacle. Also, make sure the appliance is "off" before plugging it in.
- When disconnecting an extension cord, always pull from the plug, never the cord itself.
- Cover unused outlets on the extension cord to prevent children from making contact with a live circuit.
- Before buying an extension cord, check the product and its packaging to ensure that the product has been listed by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).
- Use special, heavy-duty extension cords for high-wattage appliances such as air conditioners, portable electric heaters and freezers.
- When placing furniture or an appliance directly against a wall where a cord is plugged into a receptacle, use a low-profile type of plug. These plugs will let the appliance or furniture get closer to the wall, and there is less chance of the plug coming loose.
- Outside the home, use extension cords designed specifically for outdoor use.

Following this advice will help ensure that your extension cords will always be used in a safe, efficient manner.

Source: Leviton Institute



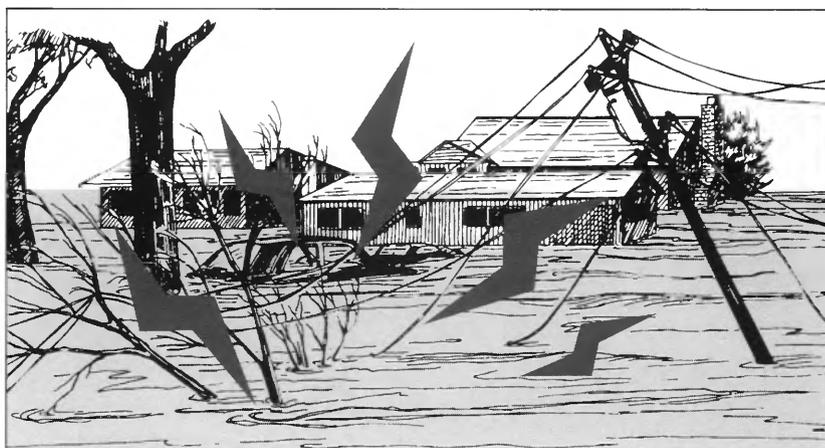
Safe Electricity urges awareness of flood-related electrical hazards

With renewed heavy rain and continued flooding in parts of the state, Safe Electricity reminds everyone to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious danger of electrocution. Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks.

"The prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind when you're dealing with a flooded basement, room or even outdoors," said Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. "But it's the first thing you should think of before you step foot in the water."

Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances or cords.
- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you're wet or when you're standing in water.



- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it's raining or the ground is wet.
- If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

"A good safety measure is to have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed on outlets," Hall said. "These safety devices can cut off power quickly if there's a problem."

GFCIs are recommended for outdoor outlets, and outlets near wet areas of the home such as kitchen, bath

and laundry room.

Accidents involving electricity result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and tens of thousands of fires each year. Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity.

The statewide program was launched in May 2001 as a joint safety effort of nearly three dozen organizations including electric utilities, electric cooperatives, the Illinois Energy Association, and University of Illinois. The project was led by the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), a non-profit electric industry forum dedicated to promoting electric safety and efficiency.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

OLDER WIRING



Warning signs

Today's modern lifestyle depends on electricity.

But if your home's electrical system is outdated, you may be headed for trouble. Watch for these

signs of electrical problems: frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers, switch blades, outlet covers, cords or plugs that are warm to the touch, and cut, broken or cracked insulation on electric wiring. If these signs are present, you need a safety inspection by a licensed inspector. To learn more, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

www.safeelectricity.org

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
May 28, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were Interim Manager Doug Hockman and cooperative Attorney Robin Todd. The invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held April 29, 2002.

Accepted 22 new members for service.

Canceled 14 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$32,548.32.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of April 2002, presented by Interim Manager Hockman.

Approved the territorial agreement between this cooperative and Ameren/ CIPS in the form presented at this meeting as prepared by Jerry Tice, and directed Interim Manager Hockman to forward the same to Ameren/CIPS for review.

Heard a presentation by AIEC legal council Michael Hastings by telephone conference concerning

the proposed EPA settlement offer and following discussion of the same.

Authorized the officers and Attorney Todd to contact the EPA and accept the 100 percent premium with no-cost overrun settlement in the form presented at this meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of April 2002.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Appointed Trustee Logan as voting delegate and President Czyzewski as alternate to the AIEC annual meeting.

Authorized payment to Spiegel and McDiarmid law firm.

Heard a report from the Negotiating Committee concerning talks with the labor contract.

Accepted a bid from Mink Construction to remove and replace a portion of the cooperative driveway.

Approved the payment of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) dues.

Resolved that policy bulletin 100-1 concerning seasonal accounts be amended in the form presented.

Appointed the following nominating committee members;

DISTRICT IV

Austin Dasch, Michael Phillips, Don Iffert, Carrol L. Frutiger, Kenneth Richardson, Richard Kessler, Gregory Phillips, Kyle Hance, Robert Kuenstler and Bill Mitchel.

DISTRICT V

Gary Schnepfer, David Atchason, Tom Harris, Dennis Holkenbrink, Jack Hastings, John Dehart, Danny Quinn and John Colman.

DISTRICT VII

Clifford Pierce, Gilbert Hale, Tom Mix, Danny McCallister, Shane Carder, Kent Warren, Bill Croy, Robert Briscoe, Phillip Brown, Gary Cox and Mike Kitley.

Set July 8, 2002, for nominating committee meetings.

Heard a report from the Executive Committee concerning applications for the position of Executive Vice President/General Manager and following discussion.

Approved the hiring of John E. Meng as Executive Vice President/General Manager.

Adjournment.

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

John Meng named Executive Vice President/General Manager

John Meng is no stranger to the cooperative way of doing business, and he recognizes the importance of the role that you, the member, play in the cooperative. "We are probably one of the best kept secrets in the nation. In the cooperative way of doing business, the focus is on the member. Whenever decisions are made, it is with the member in mind."

Meng has worked all but the first four years of his working career for electric co-ops. His last job was with IQuest Communications. He worked with electric co-ops in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, coordinating long distance and Internet services offered by the co-ops. Prior to that, he was Manager for an electric cooperative in Indiana. "I've been involved directly in every aspect of cooperatives except for accounting. I'm doing some of that here now, and it is giving me a

tremendous opportunity to see this area of cooperative operations."

"I applied for the position here at Clay after seeing an ad on the NRECA Web site. There's nothing like working in the co-op business. After working a short time with the board and employees here at Clay, I can already see the dedication they have to the membership."

Meng believes he will fit right in at Clay Electric and in Flora, where he and his wife, Linda, recently purchased a home. "I've discovered that in Flora you just don't meet a stranger. It's a little bit different than most of the towns I've been in, more open somehow. Everyone is very friendly. It already feels like home."

The only downside the Mengs have experienced is being farther away from their family. "We have four grown children and a whole raft of



grandchildren. We have seven now and two on the way." Meng said he and his wife are only 1 1/2 hours away from all their grandchildren. "We were right amongst all of them before we moved, but we can tolerate 1 1/2 hours."

Be sure to come out and meet John and Linda Meng at this year's annual meeting of members September 12.



Join us for the ANNUAL MEETING

September 12 • 6:00 p.m.
Charley Brown Park

Building a new HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge



Safe kids are no accident

We call them accidents, but most childhood injuries can be predicted and prevented. Every year, more children are killed or disabled by accidents than by kidnapping, drugs and disease combined. But the fact is, some basic safety steps can safeguard your child. Please read the suggestions below; our kids don't need to learn everything from experience.

1. If you haven't already done so, be sure to install childproof electric outlet plugs in all outlets within a child's reach. Come by the

co-op for a free sample packet of these simple child savers.

2. Get your child into the habit of wearing a bike helmet when cycling. They may not think helmets are cool and you may think they cost too much, but a helmet can save a child from a serious head injury in a fall or collision.

3. Cross the street hundreds of times with your children before letting them cross one alone.

4. Always use safety belts and child safety seats. Be sure the seat is used properly. Since most accidents happen close to home, be sure everyone is buckled up, no matter how short the trip.

5. Supervise children in and near water. Never leave a young child alone near water for any reason. It takes only an inch of water and a few moments for a child to drown. It could happen in a bathtub, kiddie pool, toilet or pail of water.

6. Install smoke detectors and test them monthly. They should be placed outside all

sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Teach your children about the detectors and let them help you with the tests so they will recognize the alarm.

7. Plan a fire escape route and practice it. Organize two ways to get out of every room and agree on an outside meeting place.

8. Store matches and lighters out of reach of young children. Teach them that matches and lighters are not toys and

that children who play with them can be badly burned or can hurt others.

9. Lower the hot water temperature to 120 degrees F. Your clothes and dishes will get clean at this setting. Hot liquids, not fire, are the most common cause of burns to young children.

10. Keep common household poisons

and medicines out of sight and reach. Common household items like medicines, plants, make-up and cleaning products account for most home poisonings.

11. Keep small objects out of reach. Infants and toddlers will put anything in their mouths.

12. Install window guards and stairway safety gates to prevent falls. Screens were meant to keep bugs out, but they're not strong enough to keep children in.

13. Post emergency numbers next to your phone. Be sure they're in sight and up to date. Teach your children how to get help by using the phone.

14. Take a First Aid and CPR course. Check with your local hospital, fire department, Red Cross chapter, or YMCA for classes.



Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢ 6.9¢

All calls in Illinois All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
 - No term agreements • Major carrier
 - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
 - Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
 - **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

No fees or service charge

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. The local telephone company may assess a service charge when they make the carrier change.

Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
June 24, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were Manager John Meng, and cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Schnepfer.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 28, 2002.

Discussion of pending RUS loan with no affirmative action being taken.

Accepted 21 new members for service.

Canceled 14 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$34,272.96.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of May 2002, presented by Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) meeting.

Discussed the territorial agreement between this cooperative and Ameren/ CIPS and directed Mgr. Meng to continue negotiations.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of May 2002.

Heard a report from the Negotiating Committee and Mgr Meng concerning the labor contract.

Approved the labor contract in the form presented to this meeting.

Discussed plans for the upcoming annual meeting of the AIEC.

Approved payment of AIEC dues.

Approved payment to AIEC for director fees.

Reviewed a proposal from the cooperative's audit firm with no affirmative action being taken.

Discussed upcoming Region V meeting.

Discussed recent tax code changes to the cooperative's benefit plan.

Approved amendments to the cooperative's benefit plan in the

form presented to this meeting.

Authorized payment to Mullins Farms for right of way clearing.

Approved a donation to the Clay County 4-H for trophies to be given during the Clay County Fair.

Approved the purchase of an ad in the Clay County Fair booklet.

Accepted a list of write-offs for the year to date in the amount of \$926.55.

Approved 2 power contracts in the form presented.

Approved new signature authorization cards for the cooperative's banking institution in the form presented.

Heard a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the status of the automatic meter reading project.

Advised of the cooperative's real estate tax statement.

Discussed upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative annual meeting plans.

Adjournment.



58th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Thursday, September 12, 2002
Charley Brown Park, Flora
6:00 P.M. Registration and Meal
7:00 P.M. Business Meeting



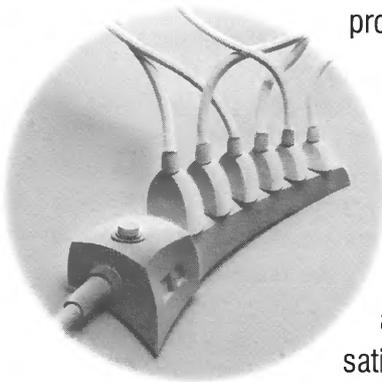
DON'T TAKE CHANCES!

Look for the UL Label



With so many electrical wiring devices to choose from, how can you be assured that the items you buy will provide years of safe, problem-free performance?

When shopping for items such as light switches, dimmers or surge protectors, the Leviton Institute advises consumers to always look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) mark. The UL mark indicates that an electrical product satisfies the safety requirements of one of the nation's oldest and most trusted product testing organizations.



The UL label is also your assurance that the manufacturer's products are tested and re-tested often to ensure that safety standards don't slip. UL inspectors are frequent visitors at most facilities that manufacture electrical components.

As long as a product carries the UL listing, consumers can be assured that it has undergone a rigorous regimen of testing.



Source: *The Leviton Institute*

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.



Insulation

Where should insulation be used in a building structure?

In addition to insulating walls, ceilings and floors, you may find that insulation is required around the home's slab and/or around unprotected air ducts. Neglecting these areas will increase energy usage.

In a home that is built on a concrete slab at ground level without a crawl space or a basement, the slab will conduct heat away from the building. To reduce the amount of heat loss, a homeowner can install what is called perimeter insulation.

The insulation should be installed either vertically around the perimeter of the slab or both vertically and horizontally from the top edge of the slab to its bottom and then also underneath it. Thermal resistance values recommended for a perimeter insulation range up to R-8.

Homeowners also should install insulation around any heating and cooling air ducts that are located outside insu-

lated, space-conditioned areas. As much ductwork as possible should be located within living areas.

Passageways for ductwork are created by dropping the ceiling in central hallways and along the upper perimeter of interior walls under the insulated ceiling. These ducts do not need insulating because heating or cooling losses contribute to the comfort level in the living spaces.

Ducts outside space-conditioned areas, however, should be insulated to at least a value of R-7. Otherwise, as much as 20 percent of the energy used for heating could be wasted and the warm air supply temperature could drop. In summer, when cool air is running through the ductwork, lost cooling could cause condensation and possible water damage in humid attics.

How can energy loss from air infiltration be reduced?

In the winter, cold air enters a house and warm air escapes through cracks around windows and doors. In the summer, the process is reversed. Air travels through cracks, an occurrence known as air infiltration, because of differences in temperatures and wind forces outside of the house.

Air infiltration can increase significantly a home's energy consumption for heating and cooling. Although it is difficult to estimate accurately how much energy is wasted because of air infiltration, some people estimate that losses account for up to 30 to 40 percent of annual energy costs for heating and cooling. Air infiltration can be reduced, however, by using weatherstripping and caulking and by making sure doors fit properly.

Weatherstripping is used to close cracks between moving surfaces such as a window sash and its casing. To find leaks around windows and doors you can feel around the edges on a windy day or shine a flashlight at night along door and window edges while someone on the other side sees if light penetrates the opening. To determine whether a storm window fits properly, look for ice or condensation buildup. Condensation on the inside window means there is a leak in the outside window; condensation on the outside window indicates a leak in the inside window.

Weatherstripping should be installed on all doors between heated and unheated spaces including entrance doors, basement doors and attic access doors. To restore the effectiveness of spring metal or V-strip weatherstripping

that may have flattened out over time, you can spring it out slightly with a screwdriver.

Wires also should be checked to see if they fit properly. They should open and close with a slight resistance, without binding or gapping. It may be necessary to adjust the hinges, add small pieces of wood, or plane or sand the edges to get the proper fit.

Caulking is used to seal two stationary surfaces such as the seams around door and window frames. It should be applied wherever two different materials or parts of the house meet. Since caulking shrinks, cracks, and loosens over time, you should make an annual inspection to ensure that caulking is adequate in these areas:

- in exterior joints, where window and door frames meet the siding,
- where storm windows meet windows and window frames,
- in corners formed by siding,
- between porches and the main body of a house,
- around exterior openings such as outside water faucets and electrical openings,
- where windows are set into basement walls,
- and where the fireplace chimney meets the siding.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

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4.9¢ **6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois All calls out of state

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 Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839**

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

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Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
July 29, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Howard Poehler, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Greg Smith, Richard Rudolphi and Danny Schnepfer. Also present were Manager John Meng and cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Logan.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 24, and the special meeting held July 22, 2002.

Accepted 26 new members for service.

Canceled 28 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$33,369.06.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of June 2002, presented by Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) meeting.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June 2002.

Reviewed and Approved the territorial agreement between this cooperative and Ameren/CIPS and directed Mgr. Meng to forward to Ameren/CIPS for their signature.

Discussed RUS (Rural Utility Service) refinancing with CFC (Cooperative Finance Corporation).

Approved a cost of service study to be conducted by AIEC.

Accepted the proposal from the cooperative's Audit Firm, Dryer & Kelso, for a two-year term.

Approved four power contracts in the form presented.

Heard a report concerning the status of the automatic meter reading program from Mgr. Meng.

Discussed upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative annual meeting plans.

Approved RUS form 675 and **Authorized** the execution of the same by the President of the cooperative.

Advised of further attorney's fees concerning the Soyland buyout, and **Authorized** payment of the same.

Heard a report from Mgr. Meng concerning a recent insurance company audit and recommendations that were made for safety improvements.

Authorized expenses incurred by Mgr. Meng relating to his moving expenses.

Adjournment.



Building a new HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Celebrating the co-op advantage

October is national cooperative month. It's a time to celebrate the accomplishments of cooperatives and to educate the public about the advantages cooperatives offer.

More than 34 million people in the United States receive their electricity from a cooperative. That's more than one in 10 Americans. And chances are, all Americans receive some product or service through the 47,000 plus cooperatives that exist in America. Products such as Land O'Lakes, Ocean Spray and Sunkist are all made by cooperatives. Businesses such as Ace Hardware and True Value are cooperatively owned and operated.

But what is a cooperative? It's a member-owned, democratically controlled enterprise, created and used by its member-owners to provide goods and services. That means member-owners have a say in how the cooperative is run and receive the benefits of it. With other businesses, shareholders receive all the capital gain at the expense of the people who use the products or services. But electric cooperatives give back this gain in the form of capital credits to the members themselves. More than 120 million people across America are forming cooperative businesses to find solutions to their community's needs. They have realized that cooperatives give consumers more choices, cost savings and less risks. Cooperatives are guided by a set of seven principles.



1ST PRINCIPLE: VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2ND PRINCIPLE: DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3RD PRINCIPLE: MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

4TH PRINCIPLE: AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations,

including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5TH PRINCIPLE: EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

6TH PRINCIPLE: COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

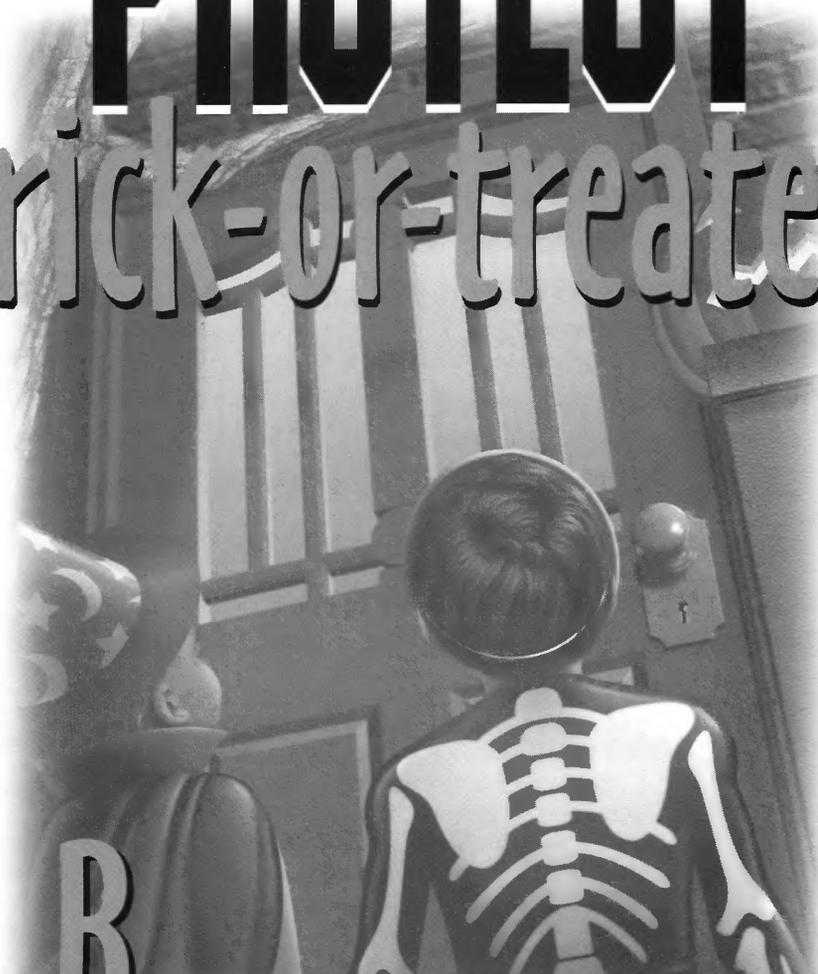
7TH PRINCIPLE: CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for community development through policies accepted by their members.

Keep these principles in mind as you think about the cooperatives that help make your life a little better. To find out more about electric co-ops visit www.aiec.org or www.nreca.org.

PROTECT

trick-or-treaters



By following some simple suggestions, you can help ensure trick-or-treating is a safe and fun event for children.

- 🕯️ Clear your yard of objects difficult to see in the dark.
- 🕯️ Secure your pets. They may be frightened by the “monsters” that invade your yard.
- 🕯️ Light jack-o-lanterns with battery powered candles so costumes won’t catch fire.
- 🕯️ Drive slowly. Children often dart between parked cars and may be wearing dark colored costumes.
- 🕯️ Make sure your children’s costumes are flame resistant and decorate them with reflective tape.
- 🕯️ Make sure costumes fit properly and children can see well through masks.
- 🕯️ Remind children to only go up to houses with porch lights on.
- 🕯️ Never allow your children to eat unwrapped candy.

These suggestions should help you and your little wizards and skeletons have a safe Halloween.

Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering
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long distance phone service

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utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢ **6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

24 hours a day — 7 days a week
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

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Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
August 26, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Cooperative Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 29, and the special meeting held July 22, 2002.

Accepted 27 new members for service.

Canceled 17 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$46,045.00.

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of July 2002, presented by Mgr. Meng.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July 2002.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a report concerning the status of the automatic meter reading program from Mgr. Meng.

Approved a resolution, in the form presented to this meeting, to refinance RUS (Rural Utility Service) loans.

Reviewed the cost of service study conducted by (AIEC) Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Discussed the cooperative's Internet provider and following discussion,

Authorized Manager Meng to secure the Internet provider that was in the cooperative's best interest.

Discussed one purchase power agreement with no affirmative action being taken.

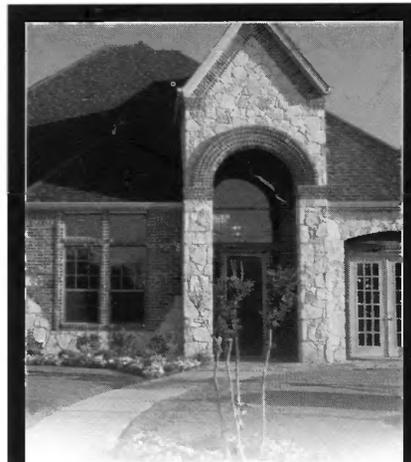
Approved payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Charles Snyder, John Miller and Floyd Payne pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Reviewed and Reaffirmed without change, Policy Bulletin 800-7 concerning the Cooperative Safety Policy.

Advised of NRECA Annual Meeting March 2-5, 2003

Resolved that the next regular monthly meeting of the Cooperative be held September 30, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters.

Adjournment.



BUILDING A NEW HOME?

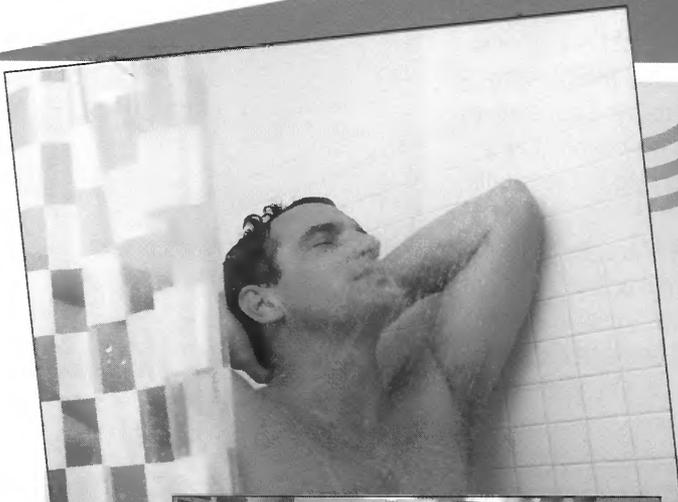
Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

Clay County Water

is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

VENTILATE WISELY



Kitchen and bathroom ventilating fans are great to have - but during cold weather, they can suck a lot of heated air out of your house. In fact, in just one hour, a good vent fan can empty an entire house of its heated air, forcing the furnace to work a lot harder.

So when you're cooking or showering, use the fan only for as long as it's needed. A bit of extra moisture in the air during the cold months can be beneficial and you won't lose your heat out the vent.

Source: Brainerd Public Utilities (www.bpu.org)

Honor the American

FLAG

The stars and stripes of the American flag hold a place of pride in the hearts of Americans. We hold dear our flag as the symbol of our nation's continuing struggle for freedom. Our flag has seen its share of bloodshed, victories and defeats as it has stood proudly beside our soldiers during wars. Those soldiers have helped to preserve our flag and what it represents. Honor our nation's veterans on November 11th by celebrating Veteran's Day. And honor our flag by learning how to properly display and care for this symbol of America.

★ Flying the flag

- Display from sunrise to sunset, never allowing darkness to fall while the flag is raised. The flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if it is illuminated at night.
- Do not display during rain, sleet, snow or other inclement weather unless using an all-weather flag.
- Never allow the flag to touch anything below it.
- Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.

- Do not mark on or personalize the flag in any way.
- Allow the flag to fall freely.
- Hoist the flag quickly and lower it ceremoniously, never allowing it to touch the ground.

★ Flying at half mast:

When flying the flag at half-mast, raise it first to the top and then lower to half-mast (half way between the top and bottom of the mast). When lowering the flag, first raise it momentarily to the top and then lower. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon. The President of the United States may designate other days the flag should be displayed at half-mast.

★ Folding the flag:

First fold the flag in half width-wise twice. Starting at the striped end, fold one corner over to make a triangle. Fold this triangle over and repeat until only the stars are showing. Then tuck the last piece inside the folds. A properly folded flag is a triangle showing the blue

stars. For a demonstration of folding the flag properly, visit the Web site www.americanflags.com

★ How to dispose of the flag:

Never throw a flag away! When the flag is so worn it is no longer a fitting symbol to be displayed, destroy it in a dignified manner, preferably by burning the flag and burying the ashes. Many American Legion and VFW Chapters conduct flag burning ceremonies, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Contact your local chapter about this ceremony.

For more information on proper flag etiquette, visit www.vfw.org. You can also request a free copy of the VFW's "Our Flag" brochure by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Flag Brochure, VFW Citizenship Education Dept., VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas, MO. 64111.

Clay Electric Cooperative is now offering
Business and Residential
long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier)

4.9¢ **6.9¢**

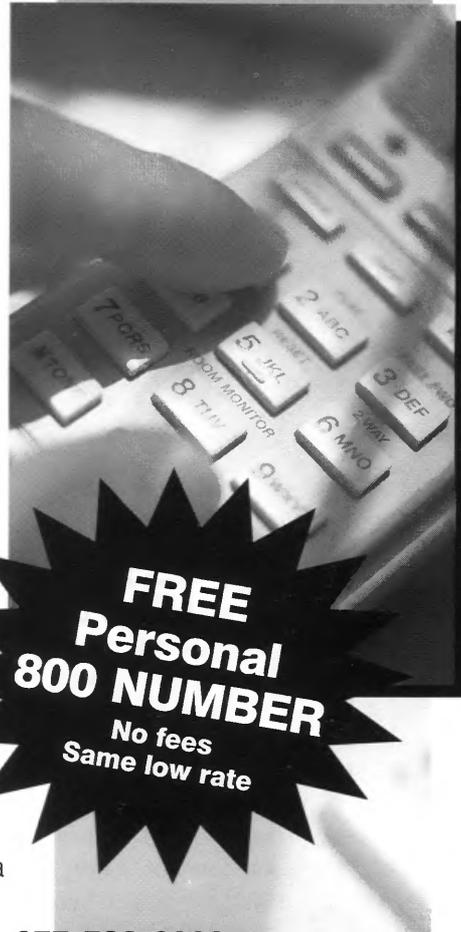
All calls in Illinois All calls out of state
24 hours a day — 7 days a week
plus 6 Seconds increment billing

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**

Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

No fees or service charge

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER
 No fees
 Same low rate

For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Street _____ Estimated Monthly Usage _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Current Carrier _____

Your Telephone Numbers: () _____ - _____ () _____ - _____

Services Desired: Outbound Toll (initials) _____ Travel Cards (initials) _____

Intralata (local toll) _____ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service

800 Service (initials) _____ Ring to number () _____ - _____ Is 800 number new or existing? _____

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. The local telephone company may assess a service charge when they make the carrier change.

Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
September 30, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were cooperative Manager John Meng and cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by President Czyzewski.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held August 26, and the re-organizational meeting held September 12, 2002

Accepted 33 new members for service.

Canceled 22 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$37,287.76

Approved the financial, maintenance and outage report for the month of August 2002, presented by Mgr. Meng.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of August 2002.

Heard a presentation by Mgr. Meng and Terri Wilson of Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

Resolved that the cooperative mortgage loan be approved in the form presented to this meeting.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting. Reviewed the past annual meeting and discussed possible changes for next year.

Heard a report by Mgr. Meng regarding the service area agreement with Ameren/CIPS

Heard a report concerning the status of the automatic meter reading program from Mgr. Meng.

Reviewed the cost of service study conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

Authorized membership in the National Food and Energy Council.

Discussed the Cooperative's hardware and software needed to upgrade in order to receive data from Southeastern Data Corporation and following discussion,

Authorized the purchase of necessary upgrades.

Set a special meeting for the board October 16, 2002.

Approved two purchase power agreements in the form as presented at this meeting.

Approved payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Fern Harris, Frank Craig and John Mason.

Approved participation in the AIEC training program for 2003. Approved an agreement with Ekco Wireless, Inc. for space on the cooperative radio tower in the form presented at this meeting.

Adjournment.



Building a NEW HOME?

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our Geo-Thermal REBATES, and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge

Clay County Water is accepting sign up

contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer and Xenia Townships.

Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.

Hypothermia

The cold can kill you

What is hypothermia? It's the dangerous loss of heat from a person's body!

Hypothermia occurs when exposure to cold causes a person's body to lose heat faster than it can be replaced. The result is a dangerous drop in a person's internal body temperature... and a serious medical condition that everyone should know how to recognize, and prevent.

The causes of hypothermia are:

- Extreme cold
- Prolonged exposure to MILD COLD (30 - 65 degrees F.)
- Immersion in cold water
- Wind chill
- Wetness

Factors that increase the risk of hypothermia are illness (especially those affecting the circulatory system), old age or infancy, fatigue, alcohol, inadequate clothing, wetness and medications.

Hypothermia can even happen indoors at low temperatures. Hypothermia can be fatal if not detected and treated early. The signs of hypothermia aren't obvious ... unless you know how to recognize them.

The first signs of hypothermia may include shivering, it's the body's natural attempt to keep warm. **BUT SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT SHIVER.** Another sign is difficulty performing certain tasks, such as zipping up clothing, lighting a match or tying a knot.

Acute hypothermia is a medical emergency. Symptoms may include slurred speech, stumbling, confused thinking, shivering that may lessen and stop, weakness and fatigue, drowsiness, weak pulse and shallow breathing. If you see any of these symptoms, get medical help immediately. Do so even if the person insists he or she is comfortable ... many hypothermia victims are not aware they're cold.

First aid measures should be followed until medical care arrives. Get the victim to a warm shelter and keep them warm, covering the person with warm blankets. If you must stay outdoors, wrap the victim's head and protect the person from the elements.

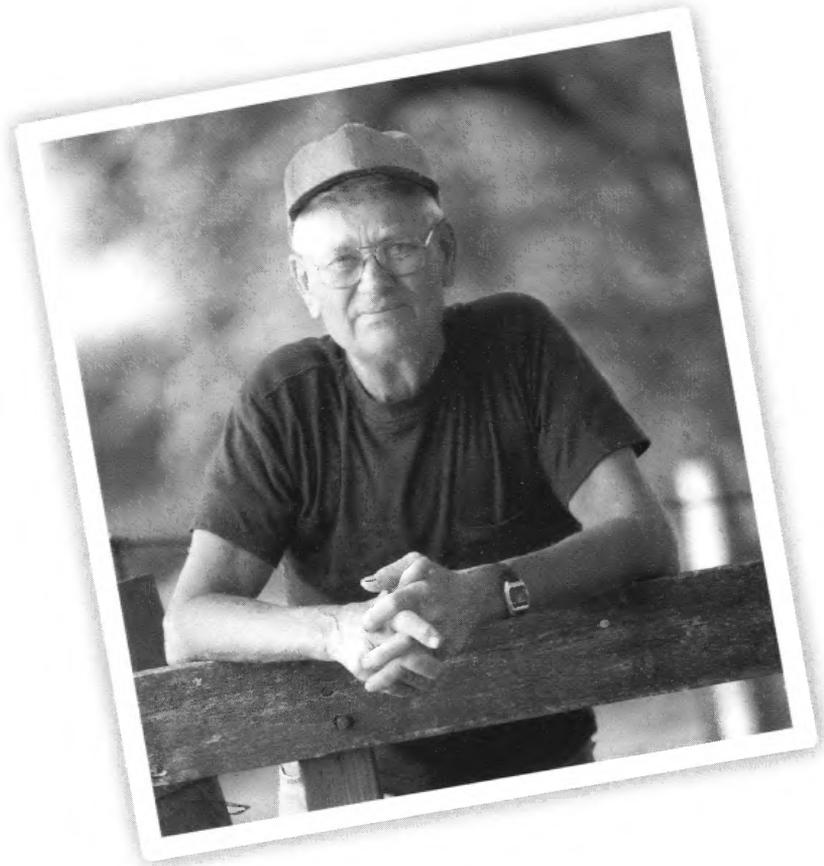
If clothing is wet, get the wet clothes off and provide warm, dry clothing. **Do not** try to re-warm the victim by a warm water bath, leave this up to medical personnel. Do not rub or massage the victim's skin. If the victim becomes unconscious, place the victim on his or her side and be prepared to give artificial respiration if he or she stops breathing regularly.

What can you do to prevent yourself from becoming a hypothermia victim?

1. Keep your home warm. If you can't afford sufficient heat, check with state or local community service agencies for fuel and weatherization assistance. Have your home heating system checked yearly. Stay in the warmest part of the house, in a sunny location if possible. Close off heat to unused rooms in winter, except if you have a central heating system. In that case, you defeat the circulation design of the system. Keep a thermometer in your bedroom, so you can check the temperature of the room.
2. Keep in touch with others. Have friends, neighbors or relatives check on you daily to be sure you're all right.
3. Take care of your health. Eat nutritious, high-energy foods. Have at least one hot meal per day. Exercise regularly to stimulate heat production in the muscles. Walking is a great exercise. Check on your medication to see if anything you're taking can make you more vulnerable to cold. If they do, take extra precautions.
4. And finally, dress warmly. Wear a cap or hat. Your head is a major source of heat loss. Dress in several layers of warm but not tight-fitting clothing. Use a lap blanket when sitting for a long time. Wear warm shoes and socks. Put plenty of blankets on your bed and wear socks and a nightcap to bed.

Protect yourself and others from hypothermia. **BE AWARE** of the dangers of hypothermia. **TAKE PRECAUTIONS** to avoid overexposure to cold.

Your
COOPERATIVE
is here for you.



Electric cooperatives were created to serve rural residents when no one else would. And we will continue to provide you with electricity and other services that improve your quality of life. When you look around and see things changing, remember one thing that will never change is the quality of service you receive from your electric cooperative.

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 Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

Customer Signature _____ Date _____