

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 28, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poesler, 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 Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held September 30, 2002.

**Accepted** 18 new members for service.

**Canceled** 22 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$13,625.16.

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

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of September 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.

**Reported** by Mgr. Meng about the cost of service study conducted by (AIEC) Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

**Reviewed** a letter from CEFS, following discussion of the same,

**Directed** Mgr. Meng and Cooperative Attorney Todd to review the matter further and report back to the board at the next regular meeting.

**Set** the time for the December regular meeting of the board for 5:00 p.m.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning NRECA health insurance

increases with no affirmative action being taken.

**Heard** a presentation by Mgr Meng concerning the replacement of a Cooperative pickup and following discussion,

**Directed** Mgr. Meng to work with the purchasing committee to present a proposal to the board.

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

**Approved** payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Dean McGee and Ruby McGee, pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Advised** of upcoming NRECA continuing education training course.

**Advised** that the November regular meeting would be at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment.**

## William Todd passes away

William R. Todd passed away November 9, 2002 after a long life of serving the residents of Flora. At a young age, Todd graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Juris doctorate of Law. He was then a veteran of World War II.

In 1955, he entered law practice in Flora. In 1978 he quit his practice to serve as Circuit Judge for the Fourth Judicial circuit of the State of Illinois. He retired from that position in 1996.

He also participated in and served the First Christian Church of Flora, Flora Bank and Trust, Christopher Rural Health Planning Commission, Gulf Coast Bible College, the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the High School Board of Education.

Todd was also a past attorney for Clay Electric Cooperative and Wabash Telephone Cooperative. His son, Robin Todd has carried on that tradition and serves as attorney for the two co-ops.

### 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.**

Mike Winka, avid hunter and Purchasing Agent at Clay Electric Cooperative, recently had an article he had written published in the North American Hunter magazine. The article is as follows:

## Take Your Father Hunting



My brothers and I built a blind for our father to hunt from. It has enough room for two people, which helps pass the time when things are slow. He is able to stay out longer, and his time in the outdoors is a little more comfortable. There are many portable blinds that set up with ease, and they work well for deer and turkey hunting.

The next time you head into the outdoors, remember one of the reasons you're out there to begin with. I realize this doesn't apply to everybody, but if you still have the opportunity "Take a Dad Hunting." He will not invite himself along, so you have to. He won't care if he brings home game, or even fires a shot. What matters is time spent together, rekindling old memories and maybe sharing one more story to retell around a fall campfire.

Mike Winka  
Flora, Illinois

So much is said today about the future of hunting. Taking children and introducing them to the outdoors is endorsed by almost every hunter. I have two sons and I couldn't agree more with those thoughts.

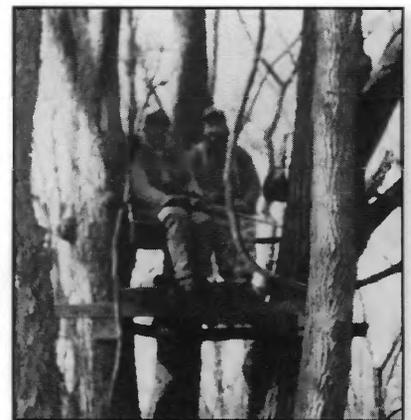
However, I believe we are overlooking one aspect of our hunting heritage. I'm talking about those who used to let us clean their guns or carry their limit of ducks. They're the ones who taught us the difference between rubs and scrapes, and demonstrated how to tell a good story. If you haven't guessed by now, I'm talking about dear ol' Dad.

He had his hunting buddies, as we now have ours. The only difference is that in many cases, some or all of his are gone. We head into the fields and woods each fall with our hectic lifestyles and the latest technology, while he sits watching the first flock of geese head south and dreams of days gone by. Don't we at least owe him an invitation?

Most fathers won't ask to come along on one of our outings or hunting trips. They don't want to be a burden and get in the way while you're taking all the necessary precautions to get your trophy buck. It might take a little effort on your part, and you might even have to insist that he come along.

Here are a few suggestions for getting your older hunting buddy to spend some time with you. Invite him along on scouting trips, whether it's driving the back roads of late summer to glass fields, or putting up stands in the early fall. Also, dove hunting opening day. That's an easy way to spend some time afield with the kids and their grandfather.

Another suggestion is to try a game preserve. They are now located almost everywhere, and are open from early fall until late winter. Most offer a variety of upland birds, as well as dog rental, and most of these outfits will really try to cater to your needs.



# Being a cooperative member. . .

## What it all means



**W**e don't like to admit it, but sometimes we have a tendency to forget that all our members have not always received their electricity from an electric cooperative. You may not know about the advantages of receiving electricity from a cooperative — your rights, your privileges and your responsibilities.

When receiving your electric service from an electric cooperative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative and as a member, you are part owner of the cooperative.
- You have the right to attend the cooperative's annual meeting of members held each year and to vote for the board of directors who governs the cooperative.
- You have the responsibility to keep up with the developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.

Your local cooperative chooses to provide you with a monthly subscription to *Illinois Country Living*. Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals such as this in the 1940s to communicate with their members.

Today, your cooperative relies on this magazine not only to relay information about this business, but also to encourage you to use electricity wisely and safely. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of our cooperative members. Promoting wise electrical use can help the cooperative and its members save money. Cooperative personnel can help members make informed decisions when purchasing new, efficient appliances and technologies for the home.

### **BUILDING A NEW HOME?**

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our GeoThermal 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.

*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 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
October 28, 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 Smith.

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

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$31599.46.

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

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of October 2002. Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Heard a presentation by Carl Dufner, Vice President of Engineering at Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), about the cost of service study conducted by the AIEC.

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

Updated on the status of replacement vehicle.

Resolved that the December meeting time is 5:00 p.m.

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.**

## 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.

# 2003 Youth to Washington Tour

Your cooperative has always been committed to improving the quality of life of its members. One way we do this is by enhancing the lives of young leaders in our community. Today's youths are our country's future and we are committed to encouraging them to be leaders in our society. We do this by providing college scholarships and sending students to Washington, D.C. to experience and witness their government in action.

Some 60 students from Illinois participate in this trip each year. These students will learn about the foundation on which this country was formed. They will be able to "see" our nation's history through visits to Arlington Cemetery, Gettysburg, the Holocaust Museums and many historic monuments and memorials. Students will learn how our country operates today by meeting with members of Congress and seeing the Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol. And students will leave with a better understanding of what role they can play in their country's future.

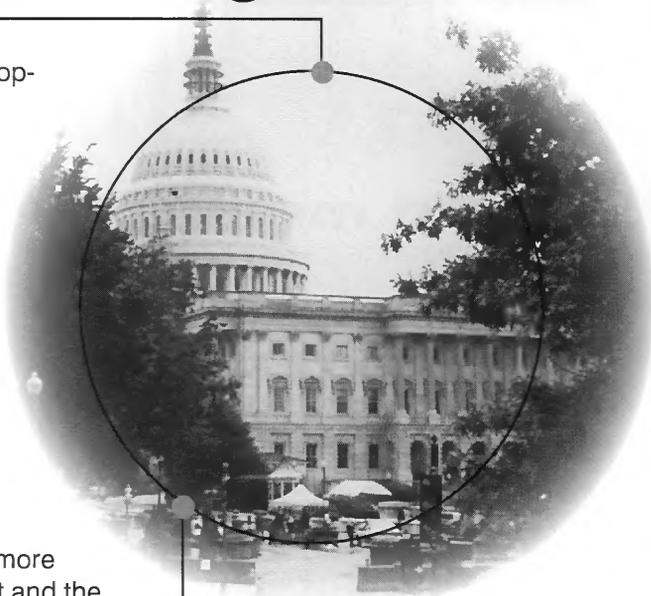
During the week, students

will also have the opportunity to meet with students from 42 other participating states. The overall group of students usually totals more than 1,300 each year. The "Youth to Washington" program has helped thousands of youths across the country learn more about government and the legislative process. Past alumni of the tour include State Representative Art Tenhouse and former State Representative Tom Ryder.

The tour, which is in its 44<sup>th</sup> year, is well supervised and available to high school sophomores and juniors. In addition to students sponsored by an Illinois cooperative, children and grandchildren of co-op employees, members and directors are eligible and encouraged to participate as "Willie Wirehand" stu-

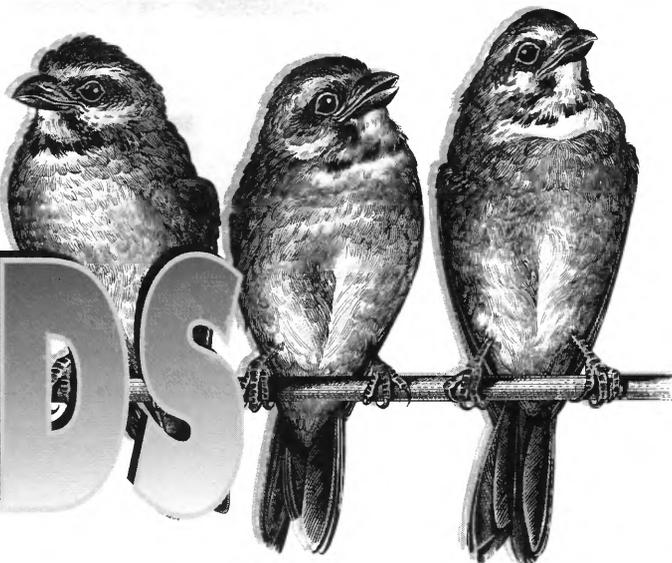
dents. The cost of sending these students is \$850, which includes all travel, lodging, meals, insurance and tickets.

This year's "Youth to Washington" tour will take place June 13-20, 2003. For more information, please call Doug Hockman at the cooperative at (618) 662-2171 or contact your high school's guidance counselor. Also, visit the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Web site at [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop).



# For the

# BIRDS



A flash of red marks a cardinal's descent. A splash of orange heralds an oriole's arrival. A beacon of blue reveals the presence of a blue jay. To the thousands of bird watchers in Illinois, these are the welcoming sights seen from back porch swings and through bedroom windows.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that feeding birds is the most popular wildlife related recreational activity around the home. More than 50 million Americans participated last year. This winter, prepare your backyard for birds, then sit back and watch natural beauty take its course.

Do you love witnessing the acrobats of finches, hearing the call of a cat-bird, or do you prefer watching the fluttering wings of hummingbirds? When the weather outside turns cold, birds need a safe haven to rely on for food, water and shelter. The type of shelter and food you provide depends on which species of bird you wish to attract.

The most popular feeders are tubular, hopper, hummingbird and suet style. Tubular styles attract small birds such as finches and chickadees, and hold niger and sunflower seeds.

Hopper style feeders attract a wide variety of birds such as cardinals and grosbeaks. Any type of seed can be used, but black-oil sunflower seeds seem to be a favorite of many bird species.

Hummingbird feeders are plastic cylinders filled with a nectar solution. These feeders should be cleaned and refilled every few days, especially in hot weather. Put your feeder out in early spring and wait until late fall to take it down.

Suet supplies some needed nutrients to birds such as chickadees and woodpeckers. You can buy suet cakes and feeders or make your own.

To attract attention to your new backyard feeders, put some seed on a piece of aluminum foil placed below them. Also, wash them regularly. Feeders need to be placed about 5-10 feet from nearby shrubbery and cover. Otherwise, predators can hide from the vulnerable birds. But don't put feeders out in the open where hawks can spot them either.

Also, find a place that's shaded part of the day and out of the wind. Remember, birds only use feeders to supplement their diet. They will continue to find the

nutrients they need in the wild as well. Planting flowers and trees that provide food for birds can also help attract them to your paradise. Trees that produce sap in the spring, flowers in the summer, or fruits in the fall are some favorites of birds.

Let children become involved in bird watching. Have them smear peanut butter on a pine cone and hang it near a window so they can observe their guests.

Shelters are another good way of attracting birds to your backyard habitat. But don't expect all 100 bird species it's possible to see in Illinois to flock to your newly built birdhouse. Species of birds have different housing requirements. Most important is the entrance hole size.

For example, chickadees require a 1-1/8 inch hole, whereas bluebirds need 1-1/2 inch openings. Birdhouses also need to be placed correctly; some birds prefer very high homes, while others do not. When in doubt, place houses about 10 feet from the ground. This will accommodate most species.

Clear out your birdhouses this winter and add sawdust for roosting winter species. A brush pile or discarded Christmas tree next to your feeding station also provides shelter from predators.

And don't forget to supply a constant fresh water source for your feathered friends. Birdbaths are easy to create and care for. You can even use a garbage can lid placed on the ground. Heaters are available for wintertime bathers, or add warm water regularly to frozen baths. Water makes a bird's life much easier. Bathing and preening feathers keeps birds in good health all year long. Readily available fresh water in the winter helps birds conserve energy.

Many people join in bird feeding in the winter months, but it is also important to keep feeders out all year long. You can experience some of the other seasonal joys of watching your feathered friends. For example, in the summer mothers will bring their babies to the feeders, and in spring, the birds will return to your feeders after migration. Or birds will stop off for a treat in the spring and fall on their way north or south.

To join the National Bird Feeding Society or learn more about them, visit their Web site at [www.birdfeeding.org](http://www.birdfeeding.org) or mail an inquiry to P.O. Box 23, Northbrook, IL 60065.



**F**ireplaces help warm your family's home, but can be dangerous if not properly attended. Please follow these steps to keep your home safe and warm in the dead of winter:

- Check your fireplace and chimney often and keep them clean and in good repair.
- Always use a good fire screen in front of the fireplace.
- Keep the damper set so the draft (flow of air) will remove all smoke and gases.
- Keep the area near the fireplace clear of materials like papers, books, toys, etc.
- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher close at hand. Make sure everyone knows how to use it. Keep emergency phone numbers on or next to the telephone.
- Do not stack artificial logs in the fireplace like you would real wood.
- Do not use your fireplace if it has loose bricks or needs to be cleaned.
- Do not burn charcoal, coal or plastic materials (wrap, cups, plates, etc.).
- Never burn garbage in the fireplace.
- Never use gasoline or other such liquid to start a fire.
- Do not allow small children near the fireplace.

**For other questions about fireplace safety, call your local electric cooperative.**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 • Free calling cards 13.9¢ per
  - 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees minute (No surcharge)
  - NO CODES TO DIAL • Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.
- No fees or service charge**



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

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 in-state 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  
December 23, 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 Herman.

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

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 9 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$25,725.52.

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

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November 2002.

Heard a managers report presented by Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Approved the purchase of a used pickup.

Heard a report by Mgr. Meng regarding the cost of service.

Approved write-offs totaling \$1,138.18

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.**

### 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.



## ARE YOU THINKING OF 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.**

# Have you ever attended your cooperative's annual meeting?



If you have not attended your co-op's annual meeting, you're missing a great experience. At the annual meeting you will learn about your cooperative's plans for the future, elect your board representation, get a chance at some great prizes, and have a chance to visit with old friends and the cooperative's employees.

And this experience is unique to cooperative members because cooperatives follow a set of seven principles that differentiate them from other electric utilities. These principles are:

## **1. Voluntary and Open Membership.**

Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## **2. Democratic Member Control.**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In electric cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one vote per member).

## **3. Members' Economic Participation.**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. Members allocate surpluses for such purposes as developing the cooperative and setting up capital reserves.

## **4. Autonomy and Independence.**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they

enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-op's autonomy.

## **5. Education, Training and Information.**

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-ops.

## **6. Cooperation Among Co-ops.**

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

## **7. Concern for Community.**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

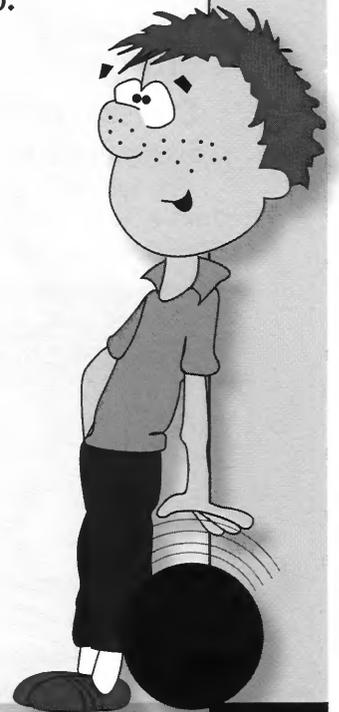


# TOP 10 LIST

## for power line safety

**Kids, here are the top ten reasons not to ever interfere with anything caught in a power line:**

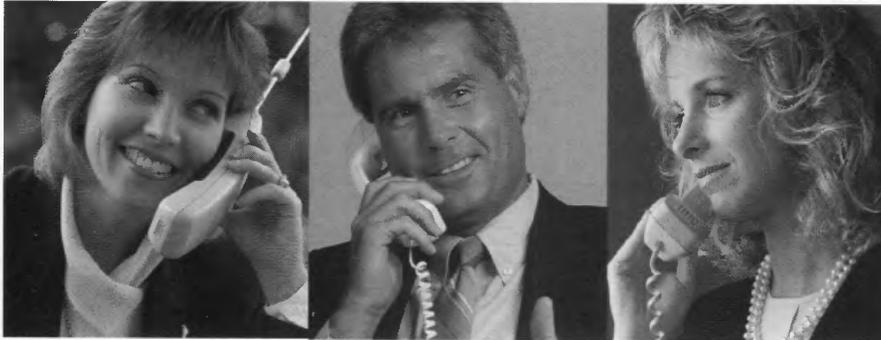
1. You don't like the nickname "Sparky."
2. You don't like hospital stays.
3. You don't want to hear your mother say "I told you so."
4. You'd like to live to see your 15th birthday.
5. You'd like use of both arms and legs.
6. The balloon, shoe or kite that's caught in the lines isn't as valuable as your life.
7. You have a promising future ahead.
8. It's not a "cool" thing to mess with.
9. Fireworks shouldn't be seen in your county again until July 4th.
10. You know better.



**For more information about power line safety, call your local electric cooperative or visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).**

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- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- 6 second increment billing

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**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 27, 2003

**T**rustees 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 Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held December 23, 2002.

**Accepted** eight new members for service.

**Canceled** 12 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$13,388.25.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of December 2002.

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

**Heard** the managers report presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning AIEC.

**Informed** by Mgr. Meng of the completion of alterations on the recently purchased used pickup.

**Appointed** the following Board Delegates and Alternates:  
NRECA Delegate President Czyzewski, Alternate Trustee Dunigan NRTC Delegate Trustee Herman, Alternate Trustee Logan, Federated Delegate Trustee Rudolphi, CFC Delegate Trustee Dunigan, Alternate President Czyzewski.

**Discussed** plans for upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Informed** of upcoming health fair for insurance compliance.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng and Attorney Todd regarding transmission issues with Illinois Power.

**Reviewed and Discussed** the cost of service study prepared by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

**Resolved** that Policy Bulletin

1000-1 regarding residential rates be amended in the form presented to this meeting.

**Reviewed** and Discussed the proposed budget presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Approved** the proposed budget in the form presented to this meeting.

Approved one purchase power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** a refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Betty Peter and Vernia Lewis pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng regarding activities with LIHEAP.

**Informed** of upcoming AIEC financial planning seminar.

**Authorized** participation in the "Youth Tour" program.

Informed of upcoming Newton Power Plant tour by Ameren CIPS.

**Conducted** a manager performance appraisal.

**Adjournment.**



## Are you thinking of building a new home?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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.**

# Adjustment of rates to residential members

Clay Electric board of directors authorized the engineering department at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) to perform a cost of service study at its July 29, 2002, meeting. After several months and much discussion, a decision based on the results of the study was made at the January 27, 2003, meeting to revise the structure of the rates for residential members. Overall, the new rates will not produce any additional revenue for the cooperative.

The COS study showed that it costs approximately \$31 per month (plant investment, accounting and maintenance) to provide electrical service to each of the residential accounts plus the cost of energy. The present facilities charge is \$10.50, which means other members are paying a portion of the cost to serve the no and low usage accounts.

Based on this information the board decided to raise the facilities charge to \$15.50 and at the same time reduce the rate for each kilowatt-

hour (kWh). This will help distribute the cost of service more fairly for all residential members. As a result of the change in the Residential Rate 1, Rates 11 and 12 (grain drying) and Rate 21 (electric heat) will also be affected in the future.

The new and old rates are shown below and a few examples are listed to give an idea as to how your bill will be affected. If you need help in determining what the effect will be on your bill, please contact the office.

OLD RATE: (RATE 1)		NEW RATE: (RATE 1)	
Facility charge	10.50	First 1,000 kwh	.1095
First 200 kwh	.1275	All kwh over 1,000	.0798
Next 800 kwh	.1095	No WPCA	
All kwhs over 1,000	.0926		

(\* Includes present wholesale power cost adjustment, WPCA, of .005 per kwh.)

TABLE OF USAGE AND COSTS (RATE 1)			
Monthly kwh usage	Old rate	New rate	Difference
0 kwh	10.50	15.50	5.00
250 kwh	41.48	42.88	1.40
500 kwh	68.85	70.25	1.40
750 kwh	96.23	97.63	1.40
1000 kwh	123.60	125.00	1.40
1250 kwh	146.75	144.95	-1.80
1500 kwh	169.90	164.90	-5.00

The new residential rates will take effect May 1, 2003, and will be reflected on your June bill. All other rates are under study and changes to them will be implemented later this summer.

## Chemical line maintenance to begin

Each year we concentrate on clearing overhead power lines of unwanted vegetation. Trees and vines that creep into overhead power lines are dangerous and cause electric service interruptions. We have several

areas that need attention and we will begin working on them in the spring. We will begin chemically treating the Xenia and Oskaloosa area, and any other areas of the system that need

immediate attention in the spring and early summer. Please call (618) 662-2171 if you have areas of concern that you know are a hazard to the power lines.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# Tornado safety



About 1,000 tornadoes occur in the United States each year, causing about 42 deaths and massive destruction. Tornadoes can happen anywhere at any time. But as they are most prevalent in the Midwest in April, May and June, now is the time to prepare.

A very important part of this preparation is to update or create your disaster supply kit. This kit should contain the following: a flashlight and radio with extra batteries, a first aid kit, emergency food and water, a can opener, essential medications, cash and credit cards, and sturdy shoes.

Also be sure to discuss with your family the difference between a tornado watch (tornadoes are possible within the area - stay close to shelter) and a tornado warning (a tornado has been sighted in the area and shelter should be sought immediately). Conduct a tornado drill each season with your family. Make sure everyone is aware of the safest place to seek shelter.

In your home, seek a windowless interior room on the lowest level, storm cellar or basement. Mobile home owners will be safer in a building with a sturdy foundation or in a low-lying ditch away from the unit. If you are driving when a tornado hits, never try to outrun it; get out of the car and try to find shelter, or lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the car.

One option for many families is to build or buy a storm shelter. Shelters are available in many different styles, both above and below ground, and can be built on-site or prefabricated. Below ground shel-

ters are safer from flying debris, but are also more susceptible to floods and winter freezes. They can also require a great deal of land preparation. Above ground shelters may be more easily installed and built, but can take up more space on your land and are more prone to flying debris and wind damage.

Shelters can also be built separate from the home, incorporated into an existing home, or added to new home plans. In-house entry is safer if a tornado is almost upon you, but cannot be easily installed into pre-existing homes.

A lot of factors both positively and negatively affect storm shelters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an 86-page booklet describing these factors. It includes suggestions for what to look for in a storm shelter, instructions on basic installation, cost estimates, reasons for storm shelters, and what to ask a manufacturer.

Storm shelters are not required by law to pass any testing. But, the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) has prepared a standard for shelters that tests the shelters' ability to withstand great winds, debris impact, ground stress and flooding, and entryway door security, among other criteria. The FEMA also provides a listing of manufacturers that have undergone and passed this testing.

To order a storm shelter booklet, call (888) 565-3896 or (800) 480-2520 and ask for booklet FEMA 320a. Or, visit the agency's Web site at [www.fema.gov/hazards/tornadoes](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/tornadoes). The NSSA can be reached at (877) 700-NSSA or [www.nssa.cc](http://www.nssa.cc).

# FIRE SAFETY



## lasts a lifetime

**P**eople over the age of 65 face the greatest risk of dying in a fire. Last year, more than 1,200 Americans over the age of 65 died in home fires, and 3,000 were injured in fire-related incidences.

So why are older Americans at risk? Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit a person's ability to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire emergency. And depending on physical limitations, any of the actions an individual can take to protect themselves from the dangers of fire may require help from a caregiver, neighbor or outside source.

Here are some fire prevention steps seniors can follow:

### Install smoke alarms

- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on each level of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- Test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Caregivers are encouraged to check the smoke alarms of those who are unable to do it themselves. The chances of surviving a home fire almost doubles with the initial warning from a smoke alarm.

### Plan your escape

- Know at least two exits from every room.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure they can go through the doorways.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Unless instructed by the fire department, never use an elevator during a fire.

### Don't isolate yourself

- Speak to your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department's non-emergency line and explain your special needs.
- The fire department will probably suggest escape plan ideas and may perform a home fire safety inspection and offer suggestions about smoke alarm placement and maintenance.
- Ask emergency providers to keep your special needs information on file.

### Live near an exit

- If you live in a multi-story home, arrange to sleep on the ground floor near an exit.

### Be fire-safe around the home

- If you must smoke, never smoke in bed or near an oxygen source, gas stove, or other flammable object.
- When cooking, never approach an open flame while wearing loose clothing, and don't leave cooking unattended. Use a timer to remind you of food in the oven.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- Never use the oven to heat your home. Properly maintain chimneys and space heaters.
- Take special precaution if you are on medication that makes you drowsy.

For more information on fire prevention, contact the United States Fire Administration Office at (301) 447-1000, or log on to their Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## EMERGENCY CALL - 911

# 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  
February 24, 2003

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 Schnepfer.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held January 27, 2003.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$10,470.45.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of January 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of Janu-

ary 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Opened** sealed bids for the sale of a used cooperative pickup truck and following review of the same the board,

**Resolved** that the cooperative accept the high bid submitted by Kenny Sessions.

**Discussed** upcoming NRECA annual meeting plans.

**Reviewed** upcoming article of new rate adjustment to be published in the Illinois Country Living center section.

**Reviewed and Authorized** the agreement to NRECA concerning the National cooperative logo.

**Approved**, for the purpose of security reasons, the purchase of an automatic gate opener.

**Appointed** Manager Meng as voting delegate and Doug Hockman as alternate delegate for the annual meeting of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group (IC-WCG) and Retirement Safety and Insurance (RSI).

**Discussed** dates for the annual meeting of members with no affirmative action being taken.

**Approved** one purchase power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Advised** that the cooperative would begin interviewing for a lineman position the first part of March. Informed of upcoming director training seminar.

**Adjournment.**

## Building your dream home?



Geo-Thermal heating is the ultimate in comfort and energy efficiency. Call our member services department for Geo-Thermal rebates, information on how to receive a free lifetime water heater, and a Comfort Home building brochure featuring the best in home efficiency.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

**Office hours:**  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

## Pool Safety



**S**pring is prime time for installing swimming pools. So if you're considering adding a pool this year, make sure that you choose your site carefully, with an eye to any power lines that may be overhead or underground. When doing so, consider these key safety points:

- Make sure overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. In fact, it's best to keep your pool at least 25 feet away from power lines in all directions.
- Allow at least 18 feet of clearance between overhead power lines and a diving board, deck, platform, slide or observation area.
- Never build an in-ground pool or set up an aboveground pool over underground electric cables. Pools and pool decking should be installed at least five feet away from all underground utility lines.
- Except for specially designed lighting fixtures, don't put electrical fixtures or receptacles within five feet of a pool. Any electrical wiring that is within 20 feet of a swimming pool should have protection from a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.

# WARN CHILDREN

## to stay away from substations

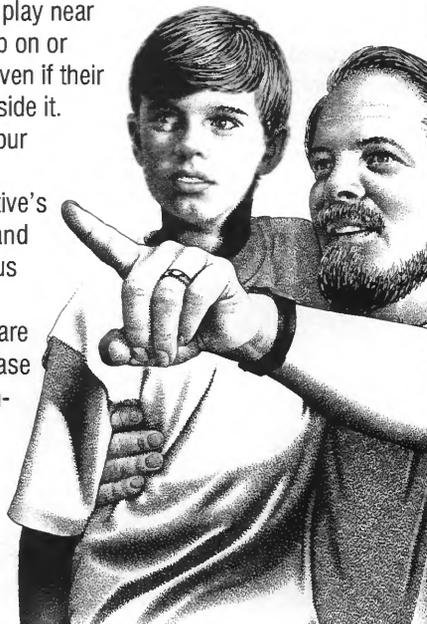
**S**ummer is a time for children to explore and play, but they need to know how and where to play safely. Teach your children to respect electric substations.

Your cooperative has posted warning signs on all substation fences for your family's safety. But do your children understand these signs and the dangers within the high-voltage area?

Warn your children not to play near substations, and never to climb on or over the surrounding fences, even if their favorite football was thrown inside it. Leave the ball alone and call your local co-op.

Remember, your cooperative's linemen have the proper gear and are trained to work in dangerous high-voltage situations.

At your cooperative, we care about your family's safety. Please warn children about all the dangers of electricity.



**For more safety tips, go to  
[www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)**

## Adjustment of rates to residential members

Clay Electric board of directors authorized the engineering department at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) to perform a cost of service study at its July 29, 2002, meeting. After several months and much discussion, a decision based on the results of the study was made at the January 27, 2003, meeting to revise the structure of the rates for residential members. Overall, the new rates will not produce any additional revenue for the cooperative.

The COS study showed that it costs approximately \$31 per month (plant investment, accounting and maintenance) to provide electrical service to each of the residential accounts plus the cost of energy. The present facilities charge is \$10.50, which means other members are paying a portion of the cost to serve the no and low usage accounts.

Based on this information the board decided to raise the facilities charge to \$15.50 and at the same time

reduce the rate for each kilowatt-hour (kWh). This will help distribute the cost of service more fairly for all residential members. As a result of the change in the Residential Rate 1, Rates 11 and 12 (grain drying) and Rate 21 (electric heat) will also be affected.

The new and old rates are shown below and a few examples are listed to give an idea as to how your bill will be affected. If you need help in determining what the effect will be on your bill, please contact the office.

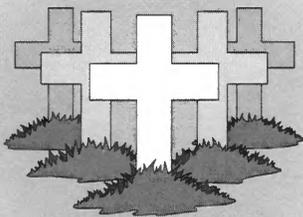
OLD RATE: (RATE 1)		NEW RATE: (RATE 1)	
Facility charge	10.50	Facility charge	15.50
First 200 kwh	.1275*	First 1,000 kwh	.1095
Next 800 kwh	.1095*	All kwh over 1,000	.0798
All kWhs over 1,000	.0926*	No WPCA	

(\* Includes present wholesale power cost adjustment, WPCA, of .005 per kwh.)

TABLE OF USAGE AND COSTS (RATE 1)			
Monthly kwh usage	Old rate	New rate	Difference
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750 kwh	96.23	97.63	1.40
1000 kwh	123.60	125.00	1.40
1250 kwh	146.75	144.95	-1.80
1500 kwh	169.90	164.90	-5.00

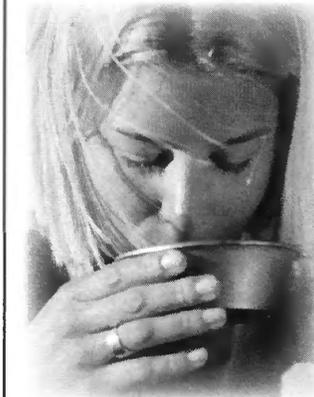
The new residential rates will take effect May 1, 2003, and will be reflected on your June bill. All other rates are under study and changes to them will be implemented later this summer.

### Memorial Day closing



Clay Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27.

### Tired of well water?



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 at 662-6666 for information.

Wish Mom a  
**Happy Mother's Day**

and save money with Power Net Global!



**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week**

- Free to join and free 800-number at same low rate
- No monthly fees, premiums or term agreements
- 6 second increment billing

*Go ahead and give Mom a call this Mother's Day (May 11), she'll be glad to know she's taught you to be so thrifty!*



**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

## 2003 Youth Day

Three area high school students were among a group of some 300 students participating in "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day" activities held in Springfield on April 2, 2003, co-sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative.

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich proclaimed Wednesday, April 2, 2003, as "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day." The proclamation honors students from throughout the state who are finalists in the "Youth to Washington" tour program sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives.

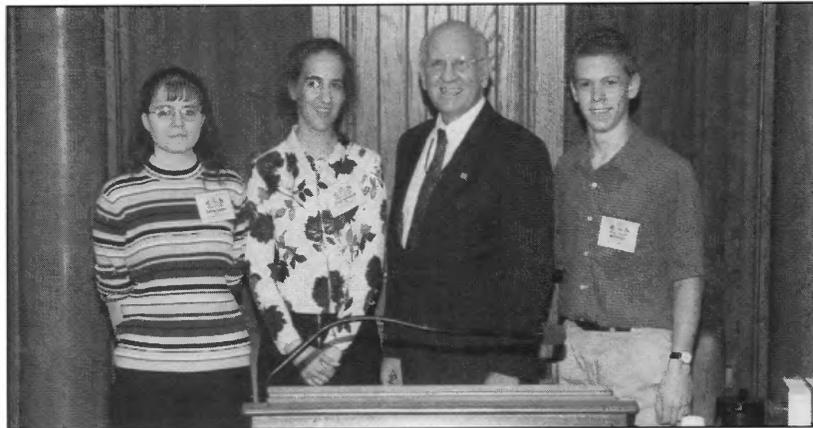
Students from this area participating in the day's activities were Sheena Barbee of Louisville, Stacy Buerster of Noble and Mitch Gill of Flora.

Their day began at the State Capitol, where the students met with Senator John O. Jones of Mt. Vernon and Secretary of State Jesse White. They later toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the Executive Mansion and Lincoln's Tomb.

The students will participate with some 70 other downstate Illinois students on the June 13-20 tour of Washington, D.C.

This is the 44th year of youth activities sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois. The cooperatives annually send outstanding high school students from downstate Illinois to Springfield and Washington, D.C.

During the week-long tour of Washington, D.C., the students will see the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg and visit the historic shrines and monuments in Washington. They'll tour the Mount



Students are pictured with Senator John O. Jones. From left are Sheena Barbee of Louisville, Stacy Buerster of Noble, Senator Jones and Mitch Gill of Flora.



Secretary of State Jesse White stood on his desk to address the more than 300 young leaders in his office.

Vernon home of George Washington, the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Washington Cathedral and the Smithsonian Museum. They'll visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Archives.

During visits to the U.S. Capitol, the students will meet with Senator

Richard Durban and Senator Peter Fitzgerald, and will meet downstate Illinois congressmen at a special Capitol Hill luncheon.

The Youth to Washington tour is sponsored by Clay Electric and the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.



# Staying COOL for less

**K**ee cool for less this summer with these energy-efficient tips from your electric cooperative.

- Install inexpensive window shades, and keep them closed during the day.
- Close windows and doors before leaving for work, and open them in the evenings.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature higher when no one is at home.
- Use circulating fans when you are in a room; turn them off when you leave.
- Use window fans to bring in cool air at night, and push out hot air during the day.
- Use whole house fans to exhaust hot air from your home.
- Keep your air conditioner's blades, evaporator coils, registers and condensers properly cleaned and maintained. This can mean a 10 to 40 percent energy savings.
- Clean air conditioner filters every 1 to 4 months.

# Think before you plug



**B**efore you get engrossed in home improvement projects or yard work this spring, think of safety first. The threat of ground faults or electrocution in or around the home can be eliminated by using ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs monitor electricity flowing into a product. If electricity flowing into the product differs than that returning, the GFCI will shut off the current, protecting you, your family and your pets from injury or even death.

There are three types of GFCIs on the market —

1. Wall receptacle GFCIs - can be used as standard receptacles in the home to protect against ground faults whenever an electrical product is plugged into the outlet.
2. Circuit breaker GFCIs - can serve a dual purpose: to shut off electric-

ity in the event of a ground fault and trip when a short circuit or an overload occurs.

3. Portable GFCIs - come in two types. One type has a self-contained enclosure with plug prongs in the back, and receptacle slots in the front. Electrical products are plugged into the GFCI. The second type is an extension cord combined with a GFCI. It adds flexibility to using receptacles not protected by GFCIs.

Be sure to select whichever GFCIs meet your needs, and make sure you have them on hand so you can be prepared when it's time to do projects in and around your home. GFCIs are inexpensive compared to the value of a human life, so think before you plug, and stay safe this spring.

For more information about GFCIs, call your local electric cooperative.

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

March 24, 2003

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 Logan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2003.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$251,684.97.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of February 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of February 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning AIEC financial statement.

**Reviewed** the NRECA Annual Meeting report.

**Discussed** 2003 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members and following discussion

**Set** the date for said meeting for Thursday, September 11, 2003.

**Approved** execution of railroad crossing permit in the form presented at this meeting.

**Informed** of upcoming director schools.

**Approved** two purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Josephine Keck and Jerry Cobb pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Informed** of upcoming legislative conference.

**Reminded** that the April board meeting would begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Informed** that the three students selected to attend the Illinois Electric & Telephone Cooperative's Youth Day to Springfield, IL were Stacy Buerster of Clay City H.S., Sheena Barbee of North Clay H.S. and Mitch Gill of Flora H.S.

**Advised** that the lineman position had been filled by Jeb Thackrey.

**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.**

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

**GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!**

**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!**

## Mark your calendar!

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members will be Thursday, September 11, 2003.



### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

Join us for  
*Clay Electric Cooperative's*  
annual meeting of members

Thursday, September 11, 2003  
at the Charley Brown Park in Flora

Entertainment provided  
by the Leib Family  
gospel group

Dinner provided  
by Old Smoky  
Kooking and  
Katering



## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 29, 2003

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

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held March 24, 2003.

**Heard** the audit report presented by Kevin Kelso, and following questions and discussion of the same **Approved** the audit as presented.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$15,926.36.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of March 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of March 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Discussed** 2003 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members, and following discussion **Approved** hiring the Leib Family gospel group as this years entertainment and **Agreed** to participate in the annual meeting survey program provided by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

**Heard** a report concerning ACH and credit card billing for the

Cooperative's consumer retail electric accounts.

**Approved** two purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Elizabeth Anderson and Helen Bergman, pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Resolved** that the May board meeting would be on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. instead of May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

**Heard** a report from Mgr Meng regarding the Good Samaritan Energy Plan Act.

**Approved** participation in the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Cooperative System Integrity Fund. Adjournment.

## Are you thinking of building a NEW HOME

**Get all of the latest recommendations  
on new home construction!**

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.



## Wishing for water?

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 more information.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# Three easy electrical projects you can tackle

**D**espite their long service life, electrical wiring devices occasionally need to be replaced. The good news is, you don't have to be a master electrician to replace these devices yourself.

Below are three simple electrical upgrades you can do yourself. But don't let your weekend electrical project become a shocking experience. Your Electric Cooperative urges you to turn off the power at the circuit breaker box before you begin any electrical work and always follow the instructions manufacturers include with their devices.

## 1. Replacing Electrical Outlets:

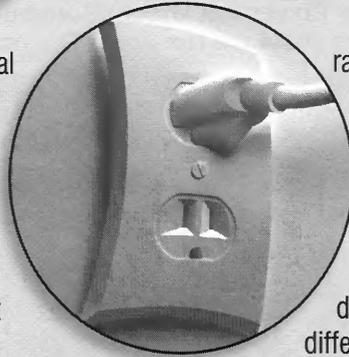
The contacts in an electrical outlet that hold a plug securely can fatigue and lose their gripping force. If an appliance plug doesn't fit into the outlet, don't bend the prongs on the plug. Replace the outlet as soon as possible.

Another reason to replace an outlet is to upgrade to a specialized outlet, like a surge protected or GFCI protected outlet. When re-decorating is the objective, consider upgrading to designer-style outlets. These outlets have a decorative rectangular shape and offer a sleek contemporary appearance that enhances your home's interior.

## 2. Replacing Switches:

The mechanism inside a switch can wear out, resulting in loose action or outright failure. When this happens, it's time to replace the switch. A standard single-pole switch with two screw terminals is the easiest to replace; three-way and four-way switches are more complicated because you have additional traveler wires to deal with.

You can replace your run-of-the mill toggle switch with a decorative switch with a rocker-style ON/OFF mechanism. A rocker switch has the added advantage of a universal design that is easier to use if you or someone in your household has limited



range of motion or minimal dexterity due to age or disability. Toggle switches and rocker style switches come in illuminated versions, which make them easy to locate in darkened areas.

You can also consider adding a dimmer. These are available in many different styles. Dimmers conserve energy and save on your electric bill.

Seeking a hands-free alternative to lighting control? Consider installing an occupancy sensor. It "senses" when a person enters and leaves a room. The sensor automatically turns the lights on and off in response. You'll never find yourself reaching for a light switch with an arm full of packages or fumbling around in a dark room to locate the switch.

Another alternative is an electronic timer switch, which lets you set up the time intervals when lights and appliances should be activated.

## 3. Upgrading Outdoor Devices:

Don't overlook outdoor devices when considering your weekend electrical projects. And don't replace outdoor switches and receptacles with indoor versions unless you also use a bubble-type cover or a cover with a flip-style lid known as a weatherproof cover. Adding this type of weather protection to your outdoor devices will help create a safer electrical environment.

Outdoor switch covers are available with a built-in horizontal, lever-type switch that comes with a foam gasket between the cover plate and the box. The lever activates a regular toggle switch underneath. Outdoor receptacles should always be GFCI types with an outdoor, weatherproof cover. Installing a rain-tight, while-in-use cover for equipment that is plugged in all the time adds an extra measure of protection. These covers can be mounted vertically or horizontally. They are easily installed with the GFCI by following the manufacturer's instructions.

**For more information go to [www.leviton.com](http://www.leviton.com).**

Available from Clay Electric  
**Business and Residential long  
 distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- 6 second increment billing

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**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intralata (local toll) \_\_\_\_\_ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service  
 Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
**ANNUAL MEETING  
OF MEMBERS**

**WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003**



**ENTERTAINMENT  
BY THE  
LEIB FAMILY**

**MEAL BY OLD SMOKY KOOKING  
AND  
KATERING**



# Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 27, 2003

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepper 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 April 29, 2003.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

**Canceled** 14 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$25,095.49.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of April 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of April 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Reviewed and Discussed** an ACH agreement with Flora Bank and Trust for the Cooperative's consumer retail accounts.

**Authorized** the president to sign the ACH agreement between Flora Bank and Trust and Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Heard** a report about a new delivery point from Ameren transmission line to this cooperative.

**Approved** two Purchase Power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Resolved** that the June board meeting be Monday June 30, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

**Approved** membership dues to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

**Advised** of upcoming Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) annual meeting.

**Appointed** President Czyzewski as voting delegate and Trustee Logan as alternate to the NRECA meeting being held in conjunction with the AIEC Annual meeting.

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

**Appointed** the following members to represent their district's nominating committees:

## District II:

Tom Brooks, Terry Birch, Jack McGee, Sherman Frazier, Lester Stortzum, Glen Hall, Don Griffith, Darrell McKnelly, Sam Heiden, Charles Dueker, Steve Porter

## District VI:

Gene Beard, Russell Beard, Jerry Britton, Xenophen Butcher, Timothy Kessler, William G. Krutsinger, Richard L. Rice, Phil Sefton, Darrell Smith, Dan Warren

## District VIII:

Clem Hilmes, Tom Hinkle, Jerry Hearing, Jim Stanford, Jeff Ruger, Doug Hockman, Louise VanDyke, Dennis Cox, Gary Lehman, Don Dillon, Gene Burgess

**Set** Nominating Committee Meetings for District II, at 6:00 p.m. District VI at 6:15 p.m. and District VIII at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the Cooperative Headquarters on July 7, 2003.

**Adjournment.**

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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

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 more information.**

# Stay safe after school

**Do you go home alone after school? Take this quiz to see if you know how to stay safe.**



**1.**

**As soon as I get inside my house after school I:**

- a. Turn on the television and fix a snack
- b. Start my homework
- c. Lock the door and call Mom or Dad

**2.**

**If I get scared while I'm home alone I:**

- a. Hide underneath my bed
- b. Call a trusted adult, like a neighbor or relative
- c. Ignore the feeling because I am "grown-up"

**3.**

**If someone calls and asks for my mom or dad, I say...**

- a. I'm the only one home.
- b. Dad can't come to the phone right now. Can I take a message?
- c. Can I have Mom call you back when she gets home?

**4.**

**If someone stops by while I am home alone I:**

- a. Tell them to come on in and wait until Mom or Dad gets home.
- b. Open the door to tell the person Mom or Dad isn't home
- c. Look through the peephole to see if I know the person and if I don't, I never open the door.

**5.**

**If I'm supposed to go home after school but Jimmy is having a cool party I:**

- a. Figure as long as I'm home before my parents it's okay.
- b. Call Mom or Dad to ask them if I can go; and if it's okay, let them know when I'll be home.
- c. Call my parents from Jimmy's house to say I am home so they won't know.

## Answers:

**1.**

- c) Always lock the door as soon as you get home and call to let your parents know you are home.

**2.**

- b) Make sure you have a list of numbers of trusted adults that you can call if you feel scared or need help. Keep emergency numbers handy.

**3.**

- b) Never tell a caller you are home alone.

**4.**

- c) Never open the door to a stranger or unexpected visitor.

**5.**

- b) Your parents need to know where you are at all times. Always check with them first before going anywhere.

Available from Clay Electric

# Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
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**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 30, 2003

**T**rustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Bob Pierson, Howard Pochler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schaeffer and Greg Smith. Also present were Cooperative Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held May 27, 2003.

**Accepted** 13 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$20,267.08.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of May 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of May 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Were reminded** that the nominating committee meetings would be held at the cooperative office on Monday, July 7, 2003.

**Approved** three purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** refunds of capital credits, pursuant to cooperative policy, to the estates of three deceased members.

**Approved** payment of Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) annual dues.

**Reviewed** Policies 300-6, 300-7, 300-8, and 300-9 pertaining to capital credits.

**Approved** an Authorization Resolution for Flora Bank & Trust in the form as presented.

**Discussed** upcoming Region V Meeting.

**Heard** a presentation by Mgr. Meng concerning rental security lights policy and directed Mgr. Meng to prepare a policy based on his presentation.

**Approved** write-offs in the amount of \$1,719.97.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng regarding the recent injury suffered by a cooperative lineman.

**Were presented** thank you cards from "Youth Tour" participants Sheena Barbee and Mitch Gill, for Clay Electric's support of the Youth Tour.

**Adjournment.**

### INDOOR HOME SAFETY



## Cords & plugs

**T**ens of thousands of fires are caused each year by electrical problems inside the home. Make sure your home is safe. Inspect cords and plugs often and replace worn ones. To prevent damage, pull by the plug not by the cord when unplugging an appliance or tool. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can overheat increasing the risk for fire. Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet. To learn more, visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).

[www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)

## Clay County Water

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. Get your applications in before the construction design is completed, so your residence can be included.



# Start preparing now for Old Man Winter

**I**t may still be warm out, but winter's icy winds and driving snow will soon be at your door. The price of natural gas is expected to soar this winter, and you need to be prepared. Call your local electric co-op today for ideas on energy efficiency. Plan ahead and keep Old Man Winter outside where he belongs.

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# SAVE MONEY and the ENVIRONMENT with energy conservation

By Shawn Wilcockson

**E**nergy efficiency creates three positive benefits at once. By lowering your utility bills, reducing pollution and increasing your comfort, you win and so does our planet.

Did you know that the average household pays more money on energy bills than necessary? That's right! You are paying for needless energy usage because available energy conservation practices are not being implemented in your home. Learn more about energy conservation and you can begin saving money and helping the environment, all while making your home more comfortable. Here are some home energy-savings techniques to get you started.

- Replace common incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. These bulbs use only about a third as much electricity and last 10 times longer than regular bulbs. Another cost savings technique in lighting is to replace fixed outdoor lighting with a motion-detector equipped bulb. Outdoor lights left on all night can add unnecessary costs to your power bill.
- Clean or replace furnace and air conditioning filters regularly, following manufacture's instructions. A dirty filter can

lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.

- Caulk or use expanding foam anywhere you find air leaks.
- Install double-pane windows with low-e coatings. Add storm windows or use plastic film kits to improve single-pane windows.
- Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes. The insulating jacket will reduce standby heat loss by 25-45 percent, saving 4-9 percent on your water heating bills.
- Plant trees to shelter your home from the elements. Provide effective shade for east and west windows.
- Install ceiling or other fans to cut down on air conditioning costs. Air circulation keeps costs down.
- Install a high-efficiency furnace/air conditioner or a geothermal heat pump.
- Set your hot water heater no higher than 140° F (60° C) if you have a dishwasher. Otherwise, set it at 120° F (48° C).
- Turn off electronics when not in use. Idle TVs and VCRs alone cost U.S. consumers

\$1 billion a year, or some \$30 per household.

- Do only full loads when using your clothes washer or dryer. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. On sunny days, hang your clothes out to dry.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room. In the summer, lights add additional heating load to the home that your air conditioner must overcome.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Rule of thumb for thermostat savings: For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you can save about 3 percent.
- Purchase Energy Star rated products (refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers, computers and stereo equipment). These products provide higher energy-efficient capabilities. If over the next 15 years, Americans bought only Energy Star qualified products, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion.
- Excerpted from [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

Available from Clay Electric  
**Business and Residential long  
 distance phone service**

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



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

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- No term agreements • Major carrier
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
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**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

All calls out of state



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 Clay Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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  
July 28, 2003

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

The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

**Heard** a presentation by Youth Tour Participants Sheena Barbee and Mitch Gill regarding their experiences on the recent trip to Washington, DC sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held June 30, 2003.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

**Canceled** 18 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$33,090.30.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of June 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of June 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Were Informed** by Mgr. Meng about an upcoming Director Summer School session.

**Discussed** upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting agenda.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning Clay Electric Annual Meeting plans to be held September 11, 2003.

**Heard** a progress report by Mgr. Meng on the Automatic Meter Reading project.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the surplus oil tank and following discussion **Authorized** Mgr. Meng to advertise for bids for the sale of the tank.

**Were Advised** of upcoming NRECA Region V meeting by Mgr. Meng.

**Appointed** President Czyzewski as Voting Delegate and Trustee Logan as Alternate for the NRECA Region V meeting.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning an Automatic Debit program.

**Discussed** reviewing facility charges for other member classifications as previously done for residential rates.

**Advised** that Senate bill 1066, concerning the Good Samaritan Act, had passed both houses and was awaiting action by the Governor.

**Approved** one Purchase Power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Reviewed and Discussed** Policy Bulletin 800-11 concerning Return to Work Policy with no affirmative action being taken.

Adjournment.

# FREE WATER HEATER!

**C**ontact our member services department at (618) 662-2171 for information on how to qualify for a free water heater. Also ask about our Geo-Thermal rebates and Comfort Home building techniques booklet. We can help you build a new home that is comfortable and energy-efficient.



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

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



## Across the Manager's desk

John E. Meng

### The Northeast blackout and fixing the electric grid

**A**s U.S. and Canadian authorities investigate the causes of the August blackout in the Northeast, the U.S. Congress is in the final stage of hammering out a national energy bill to send to the President. An overall national energy policy is important, but if we have learned any lessons from recent history like the Midwest price spikes, the California electricity crisis, and the massive Northeast blackout, it is that we cannot afford to make mistakes in the electricity part of the legislation.

#### ■ What got us to where we are today

Electricity is unlike any other energy commodity. It cannot be stored. It must be used in the instant it is produced. It must be transported by wire. And it is not easily substituted for, particularly in the short-term. Because of this, the nation's electric system is ripe for manipulation, price gouging and miscalculation. That has happened, and that is the dark side.

The bright side is the North American electric system, the largest machine invented by mankind, has worked amazingly well over the last 75 years. The manipulation and price gouging by some large power companies in the late 1920s were corrected when Congress enacted the Public Utility Holding Company Act and the Federal Power Act. Consumer-owned electric cooperatives were the last piece of the puzzle as the new electric industry grew, giving people an opportunity to provide themselves with electricity by relying on their own initiative and good judgment to act in the interests of themselves and their communities. The combination of adequate federal and state regulation of

profit-making utilities, while relying on the good judgment of consumers to manage the electric cooperatives they had formed, has been a successful formula.

In 1992, Congress repealed a portion of the Public Utility Holding Company Act and modified the Federal Power Act to promote wider access to the existing transmission system and wholesale competition in the generation of electricity. That experiment obviously has had mixed results. California compounded the problem by preventing utilities from owning the electric generation needed to serve their customers, and instituting a poorly designed market with flawed market rules. While the intent was to create a market not dominated by utilities, the actual result was to separate generation from the utility's responsibility to serve customers. California and the entire West are still paying the price for that big mistake.

#### ■ Where we are today

Even though the lights are back on, the real work is just beginning. We need national energy legislation that promotes increased reliability and protects consumer interests. Before the blackout the House and Senate passed versions of an energy bill that will have to be reconciled in a conference committee. Co-op leaders favor the Senate approach.

The House bill would totally repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act and modify the Federal Power Act, resulting in vastly reduced protections for consumers and investors. It seriously reduces federal regulation of the investor-owned power companies and increases federal regulation of consumer-owned and operated

not-for-profit cooperatives.

The House bill also seeks to take more money from consumers in transmission charges and give it to the big power companies, hoping that they will use the money to invest in transmission upgrades. The Senate bill also repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, but replaces it with good consumer protections that require power companies to show they are actually benefiting consumers. The Senate leadership position emphasizes the "just and reasonable" test for transmission pricing and recognizes the important differences in motivation between absentee-owned, for-profit investor-owned utilities, and consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, by mandating federal regulation of investor-owned power companies and relying on consumer regulation of cooperative electric systems.

#### ■ Legislative goals

The choice is clear. The goal is a modern, reliable, affordable electric system capable of meeting the requirements of today's electronic society. The Senate electricity proposals look at the past and the future in a realistic way. Congress should pass the Senate's version of electricity legislation.

The House bill ignores the lessons of the past, demonstrates a blind faith in "market forces," and provides no guarantee that the millions of dollars prescribed for upgrades will actually improve service or otherwise benefit consumers.

Electric cooperatives agree the electric transmission system is inadequate and believe the solution is to reduce the financial risk associated with transmission investments. Cooperatives believe that once a new piece of transmission is proven to be necessary, and approved by the appropriate regional authority, its cost should be rolled into the rate base and recovered like other transmission assets over its useful life.

If the government can substantially reduce the financial risk, transmission will become a safer

■ (Continued on 16c)

investment and require a lower rate of return to attract the necessary investment. That is not just our opinion. That view is shared by a Wall Street investment firm, which testified to that effect in Congress two years ago.

We also need a set of national standards to assure the system operates reliably and efficiently. Electric cooperatives operate a well-maintained electric infrastructure in some of the toughest terrain in the nation, and have done it for years. The Rural Utilities Service, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration, has played a critical role in reducing risk by (1) assuring that prices to consumers are adequate to pay for the system, and (2) requiring electric cooperatives to adhere to a set of design and operating standards for the system.

Electric cooperatives have a model that is working

both for consumers and the nation. Let's hope that this investigation ushers in a new approach to the creation of a national transmission grid -- one based on the principle that in exchange for a just and reasonable rate of return on low-risk transmission investment, owners must adopt appropriate national standards for the construction and maintenance of the national transmission system and must be held accountable for its safe and reliable operation.

Let's hope the investigation of the blackout is not used to advance an agenda that will not serve the people well. If the investigation is a serious attempt to find the causes of the blackout, and proposes realistic solutions for investing in and improving the transmission system, it will conclude that the electric cooperatives' "national standards" and "reduced risk" model should be the preferred alternative.

# Protect trick-or-treaters

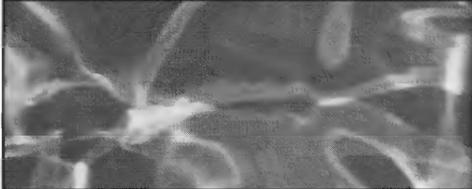


**B**y following some simple suggestions, you can help ensure trick-or-treating is a safe and fun event for children.

- 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 most wear 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 cowboys and princesses have a safe Halloween.

## Want pure water?



If you want pure water and are in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer or Xenia townships, call us today to sign up for Clay County Water. Applications for phase II of the project are now being accepted; but hurry, applications need to be received before the construction design is complete.

# The cooperative difference . . .

## People working together to find solutions

**F**inding the best solution by working together. That's what cooperatives are all about.

Member-owned and democratically controlled enterprises, cooperatives belong to the people who use them — people who have organized to provide themselves with the goods and services they need when those needs are not being met by other types of businesses.

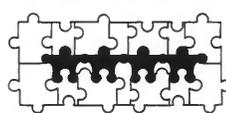
All across America, 120 million people are finding solutions to community needs through their cooperatives. This means cost-savings, less risk and more choices for America's consumers and producers. And more choices mean more innovation in the marketplace and more accessible products and services. Today, more than 48,000

cooperatives exist for farming, banking, housing, childcare, healthcare, electric and telephone service, food retailing and other goods and services.

People trust their cooperatives to help them find solutions. Support your local cooperatives.

For more information about cooperatives, visit [www.ncba.org](http://www.ncba.org).

### COOPERATIVES



Businesses People Trust

## Available from Clay Electric **Business and Residential long distance phone service**

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



**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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- **6 second increment billing**

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.

# 4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

# 6.9¢

All calls out of state

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

**For additional information, call (877) 796-2333**

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
August 25, 2003

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 Herman.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2003.

**Accepted** 13 new members for service.

**Canceled** 8 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$21,323.31.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of July 2003 presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting. Were **Informed** by Mgr. Meng about the upcoming NRECA Region V meeting.

**Resolved** that Trustee Herman serve as Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Voting Delegate and President Czyzewski serve as Alternate Delegate to the Region V meeting.

**Discussed** upcoming Clay Electric Annual Meeting to be held September 11, 2003.

**Approved** Policy No. 800-11 and 800-12, concerning return to work for disabled employees and hazard communication, in the form presented.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Opened** bids for the sale of a used oil tank.

**Accepted** the high bid of \$400 from Knapp Oil Co. for the used oil tank.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning Rates 2, 3, 4, 15 and 16 with discussion following.

**Resolved** that Rates 2, 3, 4, 15 and 16 be amended in the form presented and that the members affected be notified by mail of the changes.

**Approved** one Purchase Power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

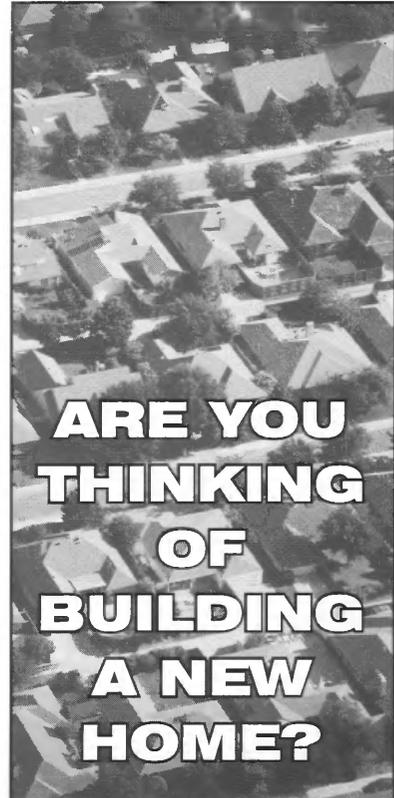
**Approved** refund of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased member as pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**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.**

**Get your applications in before the construction design is completed, so your residence can be included.**



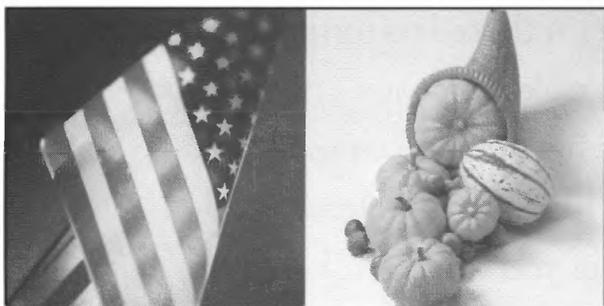
**GET ALL OF  
THE LATEST  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME  
CONSTRUCTION!**

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

# THANKS!! THANKS!! THANKS!! THANKS!!

**T**hanks to all those that attended the Clay Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The entertainment provided by the Leib family was fantastic, Old Smoky Kooking and Katering did a great job on the meal, the business meeting was very informative, several people gathered information about our Power Net Global long distance phone service, Air Evac Lifeteam handed out information and signed up some new members, and the weather was super. If you could not make it this year, try to plan on being there in 2004. Here are a few pictures of the many that attended.





## **Office closings**

Our office will be closed November 11  
in observance of Veteran's Day,  
and November 27 & 28  
to celebrate Thanksgiving.



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

7784 Old Hwy. 50  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

Office hours:  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



## Caring and sharing so everyone's holiday can be happy

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on those less fortunate. Take time this holiday season to make someone's holiday brighter. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, donate canned goods, or even a food basket, to a local food pantry. There are many low-cost and no-cost things you can do to help your community. Share and show you care today.

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 29, 2003

**T**rustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, 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 Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held August 25 and the minutes of the organizational meeting held September 11, 2003.

**Accepted** 31 new members for service.

**Canceled** 22 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$32,156.11.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of August 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of August 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning financial report of the AIEC.

**Approved** three purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

Were **Informed** by Mgr. Meng about the upcoming NRECA training courses offered by the state association.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning the resolution process at the Region V meeting.

**Discussed** upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting.

**Advised** of "Wild Blue" program being offered by National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC).

Reviewed Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) interest rates presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Advised**, by Mgr. Meng, of changes in Health Insurance Plan.

**Advised**, by Mgr. Meng, of intention to seek bids for the cooperative's Engineering Inspection, required by the cooperative's lender.

**Discussed** the cooperative's power contract, and the need to begin negotiations.

**Heard** a report on the progress of injured lineman Dan Henderson.

Heard a report on the recent safety accreditation audit performed at the cooperative.

**Adjournment.**



## OFFICE CLOSING

The cooperative will be closed December 24 & 25, 2003, in observance of Christmas, and January 1, 2004, in observance of New Year's Day.



## Director earns certification

Francis Herman

**F**rancis Herman from Clay Electric Cooperative received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Herman was recognized at NRECA's Region V meeting here for his commitment to education and attainment of the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate before an audience of more than 600 electric cooperative officials from three states.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on

electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Clay Electric Cooperative has a commitment to work through NRECA and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of

the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- ◆ Director Duties and Liabilities
- ◆ Understanding the Electric Business
- ◆ Board Roles and Relationships
- ◆ Business Planning
- ◆ Understanding Financial Planning

The NRECA Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. Directors who have attained the Board Leadership certificate have completed 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 36 million people in 47 states. Visit NRECA's web site at [www.nreca.coop](http://www.nreca.coop)

## Notes from members who attended the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Thursday, September 11, 2003

*I want to thank you for the good supper Thursday evening. I enjoyed the Leib's. Thank you for the extension cord I won. I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup>. I thank you for all the years I have come to the meeting.*

*Thank you, Dorthea Morris.*

*We always look forward to the Annual meeting, and don't want to miss it. Of course we enjoy the good food, and the entertainment this year we thought was special.*

*Thanks again, Frances and Howard Cantrell.*

*Just a note to thank you for last Thursday evening at Charley Brown Park. The Leib Family was the "drawing card" for our attending but we were pleasantly surprised to have enjoyed the entire evening! We will be mailing the letter to Mr. Shimkus, too.*

*Thanks again! Sincerely, Terry and Alvena Hildebrand*

## Toll free number • (800) 582-9012

As was promised by Manager John Meng at the September Annual Meeting of Members, Clay Electric Cooperative now has a toll free 800 number for anyone having to dial long distance to the office during, or after hours. In the past (800) 582-9012 was to be dialed only for after hours outages, now that number, (800) 582-9012, can be dialed during regular business hours for questions, problems, or service work. If you experience an outage after hours, you still call the same number, (800) 582-9012. Local residents please continue to call 662-2171 for all calls, during or after hours.

# (800) 582-9012

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171 • (800) 582-9012 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# Students encouraged to apply for 2004 IEC Memorial Scholarships



**C**lay Electric Cooperative's General Manager Jon Merg has announced that for the ninth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The four scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the four scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other

\$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2004.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Merg. "Clay Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact the cooperative or ask your high school guidance counselor.

## Clay County Water

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

**Please call Doug Hockman 662-6666 for information.**

Get your applications in before the construction design is completed, so your residence can be included.

**IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN PLANNING  
ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT NEW HOME  
YOU ARE DREAMING OF BUILDING NEXT SUMMER!  
GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!**

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

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**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
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- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
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**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

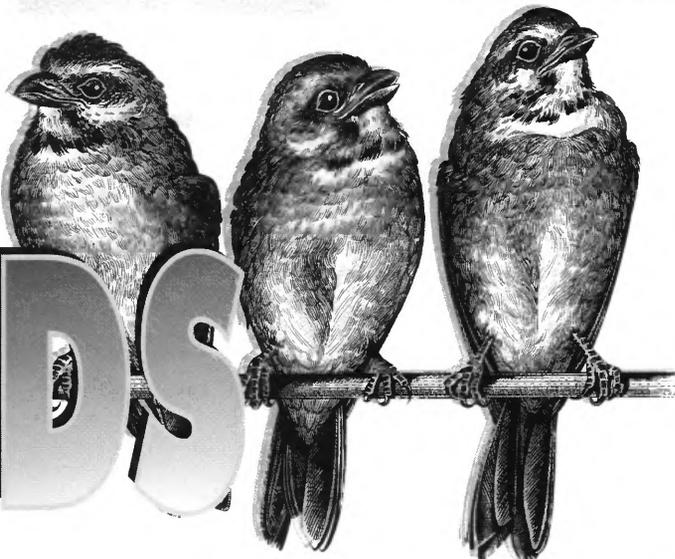
All calls out of state

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

**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intralata (local toll) \_\_\_\_\_ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service  
 Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 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. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.  
 Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Class 1 + LDA69EZ 800# E 69EZ Travel T14F Agency CLA

# For the BIRDS



A flash of red marks a cardinal's descent. A splash of orange heralds an oriole's arrival. A beacon of blue reveals the presence of a blue jay. To the thousands of bird watchers in Illinois, these are the welcoming sights seen from back porch swings and through bedroom windows.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that feeding birds is the most popular wildlife related recreational activity around the home. More than 50 million Americans participated last year. This winter, prepare your backyard for birds, then sit back and watch natural beauty take its course.

Do you love witnessing the acrobats of finches, hearing the call of a cat-bird, or do you prefer watching the fluttering wings of hummingbirds? When the weather outside turns cold, birds need a safe haven to rely on for food, water and shelter. The type of shelter and food you provide depends on which species of bird you wish to attract.

The most popular feeders are tubular, hopper, hummingbird and suet style. Tubular styles attract small birds such as finches and chickadees, and hold niger and sunflower seeds.

Hooper style feeders attract a wide variety of birds such as cardinals and grosbeaks. Any type of seed can be used, but black-oil sunflower seeds seem to be a favorite of many bird species.

Hummingbird feeders are plastic cylinders filled with a nectar solution. These feeders should be cleaned and refilled every few days, especially in hot weather. Put your feeder out in early spring and wait until late fall to take it down.

Suet supplies some needed nutrients to birds such as chickadees and woodpeckers. You can buy suet cakes and feeders or make your own.

To attract attention to your new backyard feeders, put some seed on a piece of aluminum foil placed below them. Also, wash them regularly. Feeders need to be placed about 5-10 feet from nearby shrubbery and cover. Otherwise, predators can hide from the vulnerable birds. But don't put feeders out in the open where hawks can spot them either.

Also, find a place that's shaded part of the day and out of the wind. Remember, birds only use feeders to supplement their diet. They will continue to find the

nutrients they need in the wild as well. Planting flowers and trees that provide food for birds can also help attract them to your paradise. Trees that produce sap in the spring, flowers in the summer, or fruits in the fall are some favorites of birds.

Let children become involved in bird watching. Have them smear peanut butter on a pine cone and hang it near a window so they can observe their guests.

Shelters are another good way of attracting birds to your backyard habitat. But don't expect all 100 bird species it's possible to see in Illinois to flock to your newly built birdhouse. Species of birds have different housing requirements. Most important is the entrance hole size.

For example, chickadees require a 1-1/8 inch hole, whereas bluebirds need 1-1/2 inch openings. Birdhouses also need to be placed correctly; some birds prefer very high homes, while others do not. When in doubt, place houses about 10 feet from the ground. This will accommodate most species.

Clear out your birdhouses this winter and add sawdust for roosting winter species. A brush pile or discarded Christmas tree next to your feeding station also provides shelter from predators.

And don't forget to supply a constant fresh water source for your feathered friends. Birdbaths are easy to create and care for. You can even use a garbage can lid placed on the ground. Heaters are available for wintertime bathers, or add warm water regularly to frozen baths. Water makes a bird's life much easier. Bathing and preening feathers keeps birds in good health all year long. Readily available fresh water in the winter helps birds conserve energy.

Many people join in bird feeding in the winter months, but it is also important to keep feeders out all year long. You can experience some of the other seasonal joys of watching your feathered friends. For example, in the summer mothers will bring their babies to the feeders, and in spring, the birds will return to your feeders after migration. Or birds will stop off for a treat in the spring and fall on their way north or south.

To join the National Bird Feeding Society or learn more about them, visit their Web site at [www.birdfeeding.org](http://www.birdfeeding.org) or mail an inquiry to P.O. Box 23, Northbrook, IL 60065.



**F**ireplaces help warm your family's home, but can be dangerous if not properly attended. Please follow these steps to keep your home safe and warm in the dead of winter:

- Check your fireplace and chimney often and keep them clean and in good repair.
- Always use a good fire screen in front of the fireplace.
- Keep the damper set so the draft (flow of air) will remove all smoke and gases.
- Keep the area near the fireplace clear of materials like papers, books, toys, etc.
- Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher close at hand. Make sure everyone knows how to use it. Keep emergency phone numbers on or next to the telephone.
- Do not stack artificial logs in the fireplace like you would real wood.
- Do not use your fireplace if it has loose bricks or needs to be cleaned.
- Do not burn charcoal, coal or plastic materials (wrap, cups, plates, etc.).
- Never burn garbage in the fireplace.
- Never use gasoline or other such liquid to start a fire.
- Do not allow small children near the fireplace.

**For other questions about fireplace safety, call your local electric cooperative.**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢**  
All calls in Illinois

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



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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 23, 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 Herman.

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

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 9 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$25,725.52.

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

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November 2002.

Heard a managers report presented by Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report from Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Approved the purchase of a used pickup.

Heard a report by Mgr. Meng regarding the cost of service.

Approved write-offs totaling \$1,138.18

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.**

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Old Route 50 West  
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## ARE YOU THINKING OF 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.**

# Have you ever attended your cooperative's annual meeting?



If you have not attended your co-op's annual meeting, you're missing a great experience. At the annual meeting you will learn about your cooperative's plans for the future, elect your board representation, get a chance at some great prizes, and have a chance to visit with old friends and the cooperative's employees.

And this experience is unique to cooperative members because cooperatives follow a set of seven principles that differentiate them from other electric utilities. These principles are:

## **1. Voluntary and Open Membership.**

Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## **2. Democratic Member Control.**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In electric cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one vote per member).

## **3 Members' Economic Participation.**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the co-op. Members allocate surpluses for such purposes as developing the cooperative and setting up capital reserves.

## **4. Autonomy and Independence.**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they

enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-op's autonomy.

## **5. Education, Training and Information.**

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-ops.

## **6. Cooperation Among Co-ops.**

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

## **7. Concern for Community.**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

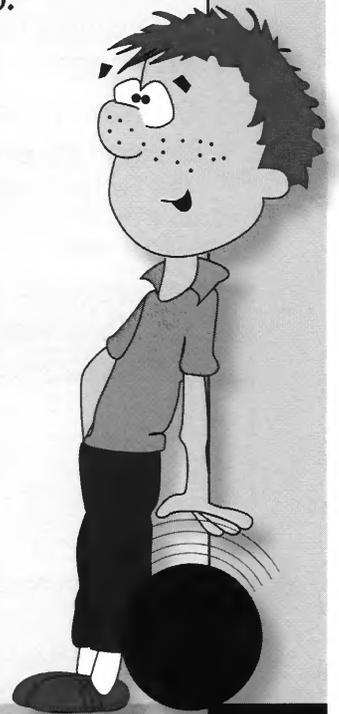


# TOP 10 LIST

## for power line safety

**Kids, here are the top ten reasons not to ever interfere with anything caught in a power line:**

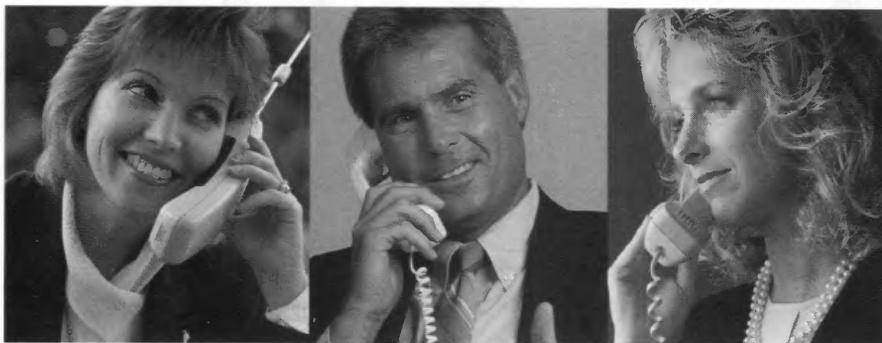
1. You don't like the nickname "Sparky."
2. You don't like hospital stays.
3. You don't want to hear your mother say "I told you so."
4. You'd like to live to see your 15th birthday.
5. You'd like use of both arms and legs.
6. The balloon, shoe or kite that's caught in the lines isn't as valuable as your life.
7. You have a promising future ahead.
8. It's not a "cool" thing to mess with.
9. Fireworks shouldn't be seen in your county again until July 4th.
10. You know better.



**For more information about power line safety, call your local electric cooperative or visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).**

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- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 27, 2003

**T**rustees 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 Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held December 23, 2002.

**Accepted** eight new members for service.

**Canceled** 12 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$13,388.25.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of December 2002.

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

**Heard** the managers report presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning AIEC.

**Informed** by Mgr. Meng of the completion of alterations on the recently purchased used pickup.

**Appointed** the following Board Delegates and Alternates:  
NRECA Delegate President Czyzewski, Alternate Trustee Dunigan NRTC Delegate Trustee Herman, Alternate Trustee Logan, Federated Delegate Trustee Rudolphi, CFC Delegate Trustee Dunigan, Alternate President Czyzewski.

**Discussed** plans for upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Informed** of upcoming health fair for insurance compliance.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng and Attorney Todd regarding transmission issues with Illinois Power.

**Reviewed and Discussed** the cost of service study prepared by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

**Resolved** that Policy Bulletin

1000-1 regarding residential rates be amended in the form presented to this meeting.

**Reviewed** and Discussed the proposed budget presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Approved** the proposed budget in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** one purchase power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** a refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Betty Peter and Vernia Lewis pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng regarding activities with LIHEAP.

**Informed** of upcoming AIEC financial planning seminar.

**Authorized** participation in the "Youth Tour" program.

**Informed** of upcoming Newton Power Plant tour by Ameren CIPS.

**Conducted** a manager performance appraisal.

**Adjournment.**



## Are you thinking of building a new home?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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.**

# Adjustment of rates to residential members

Clay Electric board of directors authorized the engineering department at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) to perform a cost of service study at its July 29, 2002, meeting. After several months and much discussion, a decision based on the results of the study was made at the January 27, 2003, meeting to revise the structure of the rates for residential members. Overall, the new rates will not produce any additional revenue for the cooperative.

The COS study showed that it costs approximately \$31 per month (plant investment, accounting and maintenance) to provide electrical service to each of the residential accounts plus the cost of energy. The present facilities charge is \$10.50, which means other members are paying a portion of the cost to serve the no and low usage accounts.

Based on this information the board decided to raise the facilities charge to \$15.50 and at the same time reduce the rate for each kilowatt-

hour (kWh). This will help distribute the cost of service more fairly for all residential members. As a result of the change in the Residential Rate 1, Rates 11 and 12 (grain drying) and Rate 21 (electric heat) will also be affected in the future.

The new and old rates are shown below and a few examples are listed to give an idea as to how your bill will be affected. If you need help in determining what the effect will be on your bill, please contact the office.

OLD RATE: (RATE 1)		NEW RATE: (RATE 1)	
Facility charge	10.50	First 1,000 kwh	.1095
First 200 kwh	.1275	All kwh over 1,000	.0798
Next 800 kwh	.1095	No WPCA	
All kwhs over 1,000	.0926		

(\* Includes present wholesale power cost adjustment, WPCA, of .005 per kwh.)

TABLE OF USAGE AND COSTS (RATE 1)			
Monthly kwh usage	Old rate	New rate	Difference
0 kwh	10.50	15.50	5.00
250 kwh	41.48	42.88	1.40
500 kwh	68.85	70.25	1.40
750 kwh	96.23	97.63	1.40
1000 kwh	123.60	125.00	1.40
1250 kwh	146.75	144.95	-1.80
1500 kwh	169.90	164.90	-5.00

The new residential rates will take effect May 1, 2003, and will be reflected on your June bill. All other rates are under study and changes to them will be implemented later this summer.

## Chemical line maintenance to begin

Each year we concentrate on clearing overhead power lines of unwanted vegetation. Trees and vines that creep into overhead power lines are dangerous and cause electric service interruptions. We have several

areas that need attention and we will begin working on them in the spring. We will begin chemically treating the Xenia and Oskaloosa area, and any other areas of the system that need

immediate attention in the spring and early summer. Please call (618) 662-2171 if you have areas of concern that you know are a hazard to the power lines.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# Tornado safety



About 1,000 tornadoes occur in the United States each year, causing about 42 deaths and massive destruction. Tornadoes can happen anywhere at any time. But as they are most prevalent in the Midwest in April, May and June, now is the time to prepare.

A very important part of this preparation is to update or create your disaster supply kit. This kit should contain the following: a flashlight and radio with extra batteries, a first aid kit, emergency food and water, a can opener, essential medications, cash and credit cards, and sturdy shoes.

Also be sure to discuss with your family the difference between a tornado watch (tornados are possible within the area - stay close to shelter) and a tornado warning (a tornado has been sighted in the area and shelter should be sought immediately). Conduct a tornado drill each season with your family. Make sure everyone is aware of the safest place to seek shelter.

In your home, seek a windowless interior room on the lowest level, storm cellar or basement. Mobile home owners will be safer in a building with a sturdy foundation or in a low-lying ditch away from the unit. If you are driving when a tornado hits, never try to outrun it; get out of the car and try to find shelter, or lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the car.

One option for many families is to build or buy a storm shelter. Shelters are available in many different styles, both above and below ground, and can be built on-site or prefabricated. Below ground shel-

ters are safer from flying debris, but are also more susceptible to floods and winter freezes. They can also require a great deal of land preparation. Above ground shelters may be more easily installed and built, but can take up more space on your land and are more prone to flying debris and wind damage.

Shelters can also be built separate from the home, incorporated into an existing home, or added to new home plans. In-house entry is safer if a tornado is almost upon you, but cannot be easily installed into pre-existing homes.

A lot of factors both positively and negatively affect storm shelters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an 86-page booklet describing these factors. It includes suggestions for what to look for in a storm shelter, instructions on basic installation, cost estimates, reasons for storm shelters, and what to ask a manufacturer.

Storm shelters are not required by law to pass any testing. But, the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) has prepared a standard for shelters that tests the shelters' ability to withstand great winds, debris impact, ground stress and flooding, and entryway door security, among other criteria. The FEMA also provides a listing of manufacturers that have undergone and passed this testing.

To order a storm shelter booklet, call (888) 565-3896 or (800) 480-2520 and ask for booklet FEMA 320a. Or, visit the agency's Web site at [www.fema.gov/hazards/tornadoes](http://www.fema.gov/hazards/tornadoes). The NSSA can be reached at (877) 700-NSSA or [www.nssa.cc](http://www.nssa.cc).

# FIRE SAFETY



## lasts a lifetime

**P**eople over the age of 65 face the greatest risk of dying in a fire. Last year, more than 1,200 Americans over the age of 65 died in home fires, and 3,000 were injured in fire-related incidences.

So why are older Americans at risk? Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit a person's ability to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire emergency. And depending on physical limitations, any of the actions an individual can take to protect themselves from the dangers of fire may require help from a caregiver, neighbor or outside source.

Here are some fire prevention steps seniors can follow:

### Install smoke alarms

- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on each level of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- Test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Caregivers are encouraged to check the smoke alarms of those who are unable to do it themselves. The chances of surviving a home fire almost doubles with the initial warning from a smoke alarm.

### Plan your escape

- Know at least two exits from every room.
- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure they can go through the doorways.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Unless instructed by the fire department, never use an elevator during a fire.

### Don't isolate yourself

- Speak to your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Contact your local fire department's non-emergency line and explain your special needs.
- The fire department will probably suggest escape plan ideas and may perform a home fire safety inspection and offer suggestions about smoke alarm placement and maintenance.
- Ask emergency providers to keep your special needs information on file.

### Live near an exit

- If you live in a multi-story home, arrange to sleep on the ground floor near an exit.

### Be fire-safe around the home

- If you must smoke, never smoke in bed or near an oxygen source, gas stove, or other flammable object.
- When cooking, never approach an open flame while wearing loose clothing, and don't leave cooking unattended. Use a timer to remind you of food in the oven.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- Never use the oven to heat your home. Properly maintain chimneys and space heaters.
- Take special precaution if you are on medication that makes you drowsy.

For more information on fire prevention, contact the United States Fire Administration Office at (301) 447-1000, or log on to their Web site at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## EMERGENCY CALL - 911

# 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  
February 24, 2003

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 Schnepfer.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held January 27, 2003.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$10,470.45.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of January 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of Janu-

ary 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Opened** sealed bids for the sale of a used cooperative pickup truck and following review of the same the board,

**Resolved** that the cooperative accept the high bid submitted by Kenny Sessions.

**Discussed** upcoming NRECA annual meeting plans.

**Reviewed** upcoming article of new rate adjustment to be published in the Illinois Country Living center section.

**Reviewed and Authorized** the agreement to NRECA concerning the National cooperative logo.

**Approved**, for the purpose of security reasons, the purchase of an automatic gate opener.

**Appointed** Manager Meng as voting delegate and Doug Hockman as alternate delegate for the annual meeting of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group (IC-WCG) and Retirement Safety and Insurance (RSI).

**Discussed** dates for the annual meeting of members with no affirmative action being taken.

**Approved** one purchase power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Advised** that the cooperative would begin interviewing for a lineman position the first part of March. Informed of upcoming director training seminar.

**Adjournment.**

## Building your dream home?



Geo-Thermal heating is the ultimate in comfort and energy efficiency. Call our member services department for Geo-Thermal rebates, information on how to receive a free lifetime water heater, and a Comfort Home building brochure featuring the best in home efficiency.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

**Office hours:**  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

## Pool Safety



**S**pring is prime time for installing swimming pools. So if you're considering adding a pool this year, make sure that you choose your site carefully, with an eye to any power lines that may be overhead or underground. When doing so, consider these key safety points:

- Make sure overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. In fact, it's best to keep your pool at least 25 feet away from power lines in all directions.
- Allow at least 18 feet of clearance between overhead power lines and a diving board, deck, platform, slide or observation area.
- Never build an in-ground pool or set up an aboveground pool over underground electric cables. Pools and pool decking should be installed at least five feet away from all underground utility lines.
- Except for specially designed lighting fixtures, don't put electrical fixtures or receptacles within five feet of a pool. Any electrical wiring that is within 20 feet of a swimming pool should have protection from a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.

# WARN CHILDREN

## to stay away from substations

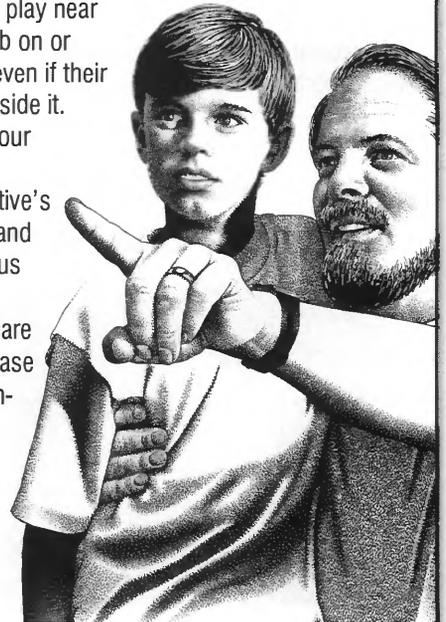
**S**ummer is a time for children to explore and play, but they need to know how and where to play safely. Teach your children to respect electric substations.

Your cooperative has posted warning signs on all substation fences for your family's safety. But do your children understand these signs and the dangers within the high-voltage area?

Warn your children not to play near substations, and never to climb on or over the surrounding fences, even if their favorite football was thrown inside it. Leave the ball alone and call your local co-op.

Remember, your cooperative's linemen have the proper gear and are trained to work in dangerous high-voltage situations.

At your cooperative, we care about your family's safety. Please warn children about all the dangers of electricity.



**For more safety tips, go to  
[www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)**

## Adjustment of rates to residential members

Clay Electric board of directors authorized the engineering department at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) to perform a cost of service study at its July 29, 2002, meeting. After several months and much discussion, a decision based on the results of the study was made at the January 27, 2003, meeting to revise the structure of the rates for residential members. Overall, the new rates will not produce any additional revenue for the cooperative.

The COS study showed that it costs approximately \$31 per month (plant investment, accounting and maintenance) to provide electrical service to each of the residential accounts plus the cost of energy. The present facilities charge is \$10.50, which means other members are paying a portion of the cost to serve the no and low usage accounts.

Based on this information the board decided to raise the facilities charge to \$15.50 and at the same time

reduce the rate for each kilowatt-hour (kWh). This will help distribute the cost of service more fairly for all residential members. As a result of the change in the Residential Rate 1, Rates 11 and 12 (grain drying) and Rate 21 (electric heat) will also be affected.

The new and old rates are shown below and a few examples are listed to give an idea as to how your bill will be affected. If you need help in determining what the effect will be on your bill, please contact the office.

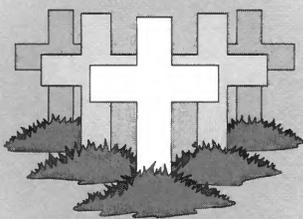
OLD RATE: (RATE 1)		NEW RATE: (RATE 1)	
Facility charge	10.50	Facility charge	15.50
First 200 kwh	.1275*	First 1,000 kwh	.1095
Next 800 kwh	.1095*	All kwh over 1,000	.0798
All kwhs over 1,000	.0926*	No WPCA	

(\* Includes present wholesale power cost adjustment, WPCA, of .005 per kwh.)

TABLE OF USAGE AND COSTS (RATE 1)			
Monthly kwh usage	Old rate	New rate	Difference
0 kwh	10.50	15.50	5.00
250 kwh	41.48	42.88	1.40
500 kwh	68.85	70.25	1.40
750 kwh	96.23	97.63	1.40
1000 kwh	123.60	125.00	1.40
1250 kwh	146.75	144.95	-1.80
1500 kwh	169.90	164.90	-5.00

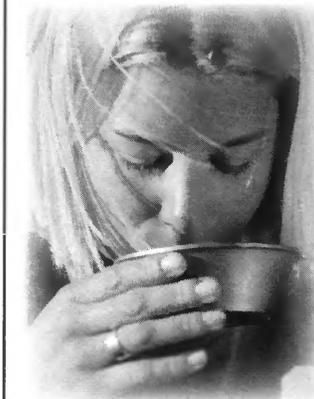
The new residential rates will take effect May 1, 2003, and will be reflected on your June bill. All other rates are under study and changes to them will be implemented later this summer.

### Memorial Day closing



Clay Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27.

### Tired of well water?



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 at 662-6666 for information.

Wish Mom a  
**Happy Mother's Day**

and save money with Power Net Global!



**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week**

- Free to join and free 800-number at same low rate
- No monthly fees, premiums or term agreements
- 6 second increment billing

*Go ahead and give Mom a call this Mother's Day (May 11), she'll be glad to know she's taught you to be so thrifty!*



**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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. A service charge may be assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

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## 2003 Youth Day

Three area high school students were among a group of some 300 students participating in "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day" activities held in Springfield on April 2, 2003, co-sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative.

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich proclaimed Wednesday, April 2, 2003, as "Illinois Rural Electric and Telephone Youth Day." The proclamation honors students from throughout the state who are finalists in the "Youth to Washington" tour program sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives.

Students from this area participating in the day's activities were Sheena Barbee of Louisville, Stacy Buerster of Noble and Mitch Gill of Flora.

Their day began at the State Capitol, where the students met with Senator John O. Jones of Mt. Vernon and Secretary of State Jesse White. They later toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the Executive Mansion and Lincoln's Tomb.

The students will participate with some 70 other downstate Illinois students on the June 13-20 tour of Washington, D.C.

This is the 44th year of youth activities sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois. The cooperatives annually send outstanding high school students from downstate Illinois to Springfield and Washington, D.C.

During the week-long tour of Washington, D.C., the students will see the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg and visit the historic shrines and monuments in Washington. They'll tour the Mount



Students are pictured with Senator John O. Jones. From left are Sheena Barbee of Louisville, Stacy Buerster of Noble, Senator Jones and Mitch Gill of Flora.



Secretary of State Jesse White stood on his desk to address the more than 300 young leaders in his office.

Vernon home of George Washington, the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Washington Cathedral and the Smithsonian Museum. They'll visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Archives.

During visits to the U.S. Capitol, the students will meet with Senator

Richard Durban and Senator Peter Fitzgerald, and will meet downstate Illinois congressmen at a special Capitol Hill luncheon.

The Youth to Washington tour is sponsored by Clay Electric and the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois.



# Staying COOL for less

**K**ee cool for less this summer with these energy-efficient tips from your electric cooperative.

- Install inexpensive window shades, and keep them closed during the day.
- Close windows and doors before leaving for work, and open them in the evenings.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature higher when no one is at home.
- Use circulating fans when you are in a room; turn them off when you leave.
- Use window fans to bring in cool air at night, and push out hot air during the day.
- Use whole house fans to exhaust hot air from your home.
- Keep your air conditioner's blades, evaporator coils, registers and condensers properly cleaned and maintained. This can mean a 10 to 40 percent energy savings.
- Clean air conditioner filters every 1 to 4 months.

# Think before you plug



**B**efore you get engrossed in home improvement projects or yard work this spring, think of safety first. The threat of ground faults or electrocution in or around the home can be eliminated by using ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs monitor electricity flowing into a product. If electricity flowing into the product differs than that returning, the GFCI will shut off the current, protecting you, your family and your pets from injury or even death.

There are three types of GFCIs on the market —

1. Wall receptacle GFCIs - can be used as standard receptacles in the home to protect against ground faults whenever an electrical product is plugged into the outlet.
2. Circuit breaker GFCIs - can serve a dual purpose: to shut off electric-

ity in the event of a ground fault and trip when a short circuit or an overload occurs.

3. Portable GFCIs - come in two types. One type has a self-contained enclosure with plug prongs in the back, and receptacle slots in the front. Electrical products are plugged into the GFCI. The second type is an extension cord combined with a GFCI. It adds flexibility to using receptacles not protected by GFCIs.

Be sure to select whichever GFCIs meet your needs, and make sure you have them on hand so you can be prepared when it's time to do projects in and around your home. GFCIs are inexpensive compared to the value of a human life, so think before you plug, and stay safe this spring.

For more information about GFCIs, call your local electric cooperative.

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

March 24, 2003

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 Logan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held February 24, 2003.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$251,684.97.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of February 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of February 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning AIEC financial statement.

**Reviewed** the NRECA Annual Meeting report.

**Discussed** 2003 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members and following discussion

**Set** the date for said meeting for Thursday, September 11, 2003.

**Approved** execution of railroad crossing permit in the form presented at this meeting.

**Informed** of upcoming director schools.

**Approved** two purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Josephine Keck and Jerry Cobb pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Informed** of upcoming legislative conference.

**Reminded** that the April board meeting would begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Informed** that the three students selected to attend the Illinois Electric & Telephone Cooperative's Youth Day to Springfield, IL were Stacy Buerster of Clay City H.S., Sheena Barbee of North Clay H.S. and Mitch Gill of Flora H.S.

**Advised** that the lineman position had been filled by Jeb Thackrey.

**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.**

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

**GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!**

**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!**

## Mark your calendar!

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members will be Thursday, September 11, 2003.



### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
(618) 662-2171

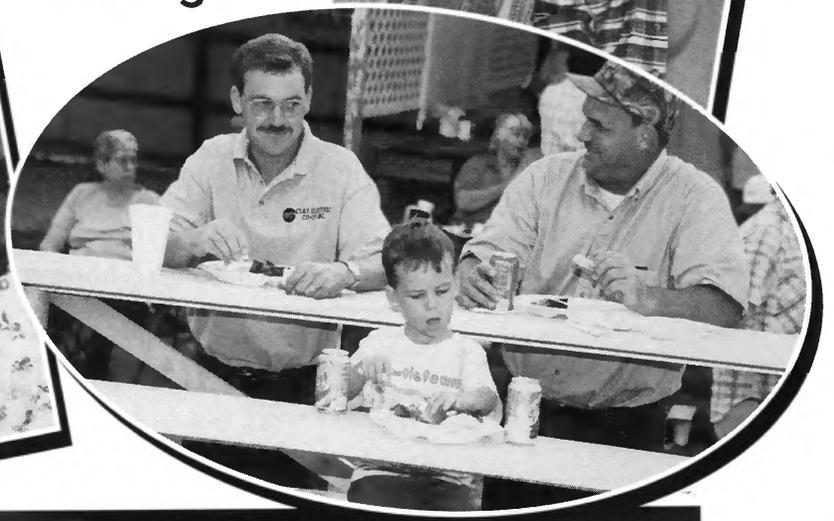
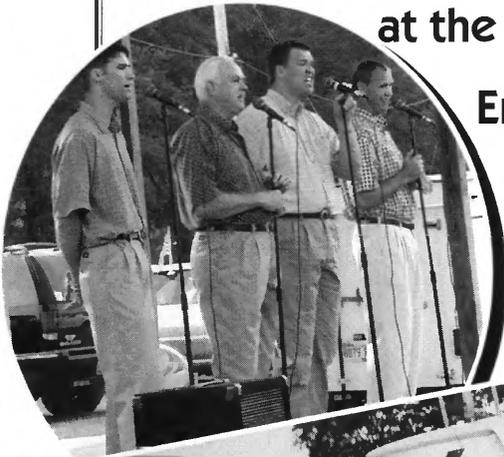
Office hours:  
8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

— Join us for —  
*Clay Electric Cooperative's*  
annual meeting of members

**Thursday, September 11, 2003**  
at the Charley Brown Park in Flora

Entertainment provided  
by the Leib Family  
gospel group

Dinner provided  
by Old Smoky  
Kooking and  
Katering



## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 29, 2003

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, Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd, and Kevin Kelso of Dreyer and Kelso, CPAs.

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held March 24, 2003.

**Heard** the audit report presented by Kevin Kelso, and following questions and discussion of the same **Approved** the audit as presented.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$15,926.36.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of March 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of March 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Discussed** 2003 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting of members, and following discussion **Approved** hiring the Leib Family gospel group as this years entertainment and **Agreed** to participate in the annual meeting survey program provided by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

**Heard** a report concerning ACH and credit card billing for the

Cooperative's consumer retail electric accounts.

**Approved** two purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estates of deceased members Elizabeth Anderson and Helen Bergman, pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Resolved** that the May board meeting would be on May 27 at 7:00 p.m. instead of May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

**Heard** a report from Mgr Meng regarding the Good Samaritan Energy Plan Act.

**Approved** participation in the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Cooperative System Integrity Fund. Adjournment.

## Are you thinking of building a NEW HOME

Get all of the latest recommendations  
on new home construction!

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.



## Wishing for water?

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 more information.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

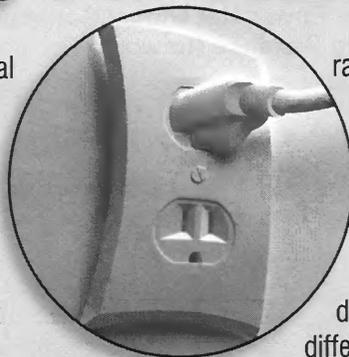
7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# Three easy electrical projects you can tackle

Despite their long service life, electrical wiring devices occasionally need to be replaced. The good news is, you don't have to be a master electrician to replace these devices yourself.

Below are three simple electrical upgrades you can do yourself. But don't let your weekend electrical project become a shocking experience. Your Electric Cooperative urges you to turn off the power at the circuit breaker box before you begin any electrical work and always follow the instructions manufacturers include with their devices.



range of motion or minimal dexterity due to age or disability. Toggle switches and rocker style switches come in illuminated versions, which make them easy to locate in darkened areas.

You can also consider adding a dimmer. These are available in many different styles. Dimmers conserve energy and save on your electric bill.

Seeking a hands-free alternative to lighting control? Consider installing an occupancy sensor. It "senses" when a person enters and leaves a room. The sensor automatically turns the lights on and off in response. You'll never find yourself reaching for a light switch with an arm full of packages or fumbling around in a dark room to locate the switch.

Another alternative is an electronic timer switch, which lets you set up the time intervals when lights and appliances should be activated.

## 1. Replacing Electrical Outlets:

The contacts in an electrical outlet that hold a plug securely can fatigue and lose their gripping force. If an appliance plug doesn't fit into the outlet, don't bend the prongs on the plug. Replace the outlet as soon as possible.

Another reason to replace an outlet is to upgrade to a specialized outlet, like a surge protected or GFCI protected outlet. When re-decorating is the objective, consider upgrading to designer-style outlets. These outlets have a decorative rectangular shape and offer a sleek contemporary appearance that enhances your home's interior.

## 2. Replacing Switches:

The mechanism inside a switch can wear out, resulting in loose action or outright failure. When this happens, it's time to replace the switch. A standard single-pole switch with two screw terminals is the easiest to replace; three-way and four-way switches are more complicated because you have additional traveler wires to deal with.

You can replace your run-of-the mill toggle switch with a decorative switch with a rocker-style ON/OFF mechanism. A rocker switch has the added advantage of a universal design that is easier to use if you or someone in your household has limited

## 3. Upgrading Outdoor Devices:

Don't overlook outdoor devices when considering your weekend electrical projects. And don't replace outdoor switches and receptacles with indoor versions unless you also use a bubble-type cover or a cover with a flip-style lid known as a weatherproof cover. Adding this type of weather protection to your outdoor devices will help create a safer electrical environment.

Outdoor switch covers are available with a built-in horizontal, lever-type switch that comes with a foam gasket between the cover plate and the box. The lever activates a regular toggle switch underneath. Outdoor receptacles should always be GFCI types with an outdoor, weatherproof cover. Installing a rain-tight, while-in-use cover for equipment that is plugged in all the time adds an extra measure of protection. These covers can be mounted vertically or horizontally. They are easily installed with the GFCI by following the manufacturer's instructions.

For more information go to [www.leviton.com](http://www.leviton.com).

Available from Clay Electric  
**Business and Residential long  
 distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- 6 second increment billing

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**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intralata (local toll) \_\_\_\_\_ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service  
 Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

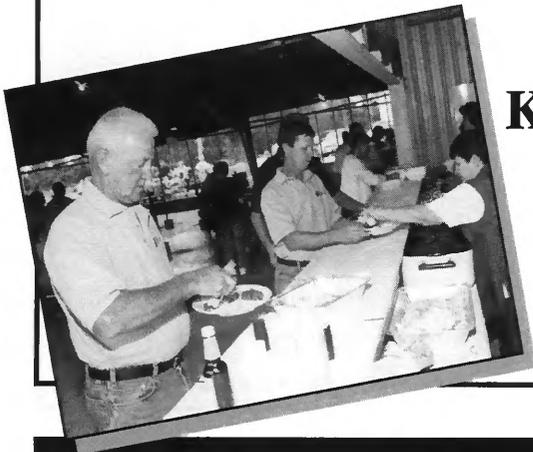
## CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

WILL BE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003



**ENTERTAINMENT  
BY THE  
LEIB FAMILY**

**MEAL BY OLD SMOKY KOOKING  
AND  
KATERING**



# Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 27, 2003

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 April 29, 2003.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

**Canceled** 14 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$25,095.49.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of April 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of April 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Reviewed and Discussed** an ACH agreement with Flora Bank and Trust for the Cooperative's consumer retail accounts.

**Authorized** the president to sign the ACH agreement between Flora Bank and Trust and Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Heard** a report about a new delivery point from Ameren transmission line to this cooperative.

**Approved** two Purchase Power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Resolved** that the June board meeting be Monday June 30, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

**Approved** membership dues to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

**Advised** of upcoming Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) annual meeting.

**Appointed** President Czyzewski as voting delegate and Trustee Logan as alternate to the NRECA meeting being held in conjunction with the AIEC Annual meeting.

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

**Appointed** the following members to represent their district's nominating committees:

## District II:

Tom Brooks, Terry Birch, Jack McGee, Sherman Frazier, Lester Stortzum, Glen Hall, Don Griffith, Darrell McKnelly, Sam Heiden, Charles Dueker, Steve Porter

## District VI:

Gene Beard, Russell Beard, Jerry Britton, Xenophen Butcher, Timothy Kessler, William G. Krutsinger, Richard L. Rice, Phil Sefton, Darrell Smith, Dan Warren

## District VIII:

Clem Hilmes, Tom Hinkle, Jerry Hearing, Jim Stanford, Jeff Ruger, Doug Hockman, Louise VanDyke, Dennis Cox, Gary Lehman, Don Dillon, Gene Burgess

**Set** Nominating Committee Meetings for District II, at 6:00 p.m. District VI at 6:15 p.m. and District VIII at 6:30 p.m. to be held at the Cooperative Headquarters on July 7, 2003.

**Adjournment.**

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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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

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 more information.**

# Stay safe after school

Do you go home alone after school? Take this quiz to see if you know how to stay safe.



1.

**As soon as I get inside my house after school I:**

- a. Turn on the television and fix a snack
- b. Start my homework
- c. Lock the door and call Mom or Dad

2.

**If I get scared while I'm home alone I:**

- a. Hide underneath my bed
- b. Call a trusted adult, like a neighbor or relative
- c. Ignore the feeling because I am "grown-up"

3.

**If someone calls and asks for my mom or dad, I say...**

- a. I'm the only one home.
- b. Dad can't come to the phone right now. Can I take a message?
- c. Can I have Mom call you back when she gets home?

4.

**If someone stops by while I am home alone I:**

- a. Tell them to come on in and wait until Mom or Dad gets home.
- b. Open the door to tell the person Mom or Dad isn't home
- c. Look through the peephole to see if I know the person and if I don't, I never open the door.

5.

**If I'm supposed to go home after school but Jimmy is having a cool party I:**

- a. Figure as long as I'm home before my parents it's okay.
- b. Call Mom or Dad to ask them if I can go; and if it's okay, let them know when I'll be home.
- c. Call my parents from Jimmy's house to say I am home so they won't know.

## Answers:

1.

- c) Always lock the door as soon as you get home and call to let your parents know you are home.

2.

- b) Make sure you have a list of numbers of trusted adults that you can call if you feel scared or need help. Keep emergency numbers handy.

3.

- b) Never tell a caller you are home alone.

4.

- c) Never open the door to a stranger or unexpected visitor.

5.

- b) Your parents need to know where you are at all times. Always check with them first before going anywhere.

Available from Clay Electric

# Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- **6 second increment billing**

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**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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 Intralata (local toll) \_\_\_\_\_ (initials) This charge applies to local instate toll call charges only, not local service  
 Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 30, 2003

**T**rustees present were: Frank Czynewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Bob Pierson, Howard Pochler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schaeffer and Greg Smith. Also present were Cooperative Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held May 27, 2003.

**Accepted** 13 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$20,267.08.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of May 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of May 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Were reminded** that the nominating committee meetings would be held at the cooperative office on Monday, July 7, 2003.

**Approved** three purchase power contracts in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** refunds of capital credits, pursuant to cooperative policy, to the estates of three deceased members.

**Approved** payment of Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) annual dues.

**Reviewed** Policies 300-6, 300-7, 300-8, and 300-9 pertaining to capital credits.

**Approved** an Authorization Resolution for Flora Bank & Trust in the form as presented.

**Discussed** upcoming Region V Meeting.

**Heard** a presentation by Mgr. Meng concerning rental security lights policy and directed Mgr. Meng to prepare a policy based on his presentation.

**Approved** write-offs in the amount of \$1,719.97.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng regarding the recent injury suffered by a cooperative lineman.

**Were presented** thank you cards from "Youth Tour" participants Sheena Barbee and Mitch Gill, for Clay Electric's support of the Youth Tour.

**Adjournment.**

### INDOOR HOME SAFETY



# Cords & plugs

**T**ens of thousands of fires are caused each year by electrical problems inside the home. Make sure your home is safe. Inspect cords and plugs often and replace worn ones. To prevent damage, pull by the plug not by the cord when unplugging an appliance or tool. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can overheat increasing the risk for fire. Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet. To learn more, visit [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org).

[www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)

## Clay County Water

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. Get your applications in before the construction design is completed, so your residence can be included.



# Start preparing now for Old Man Winter

It may still be warm out, but winter's icy winds and driving snow will soon be at your door. The price of natural gas is expected to soar this winter, and you need to be prepared. Call your local electric co-op today for ideas on energy efficiency. Plan ahead and keep Old Man Winter outside where he belongs.

## ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW HOME?

GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS  
ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!

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



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7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171  
Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

# SAVE MONEY and the ENVIRONMENT with energy conservation

By Shawn Wilcockson

**E**nergy efficiency creates three positive benefits at once. By lowering your utility bills, reducing pollution and increasing your comfort, you win and so does our planet.

Did you know that the average household pays more money on energy bills than necessary? That's right! You are paying for needless energy usage because available energy conservation practices are not being implemented in your home. Learn more about energy conservation and you can begin saving money and helping the environment, all while making your home more comfortable. Here are some home energy-savings techniques to get you started.

- Replace common incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. These bulbs use only about a third as much electricity and last 10 times longer than regular bulbs. Another cost savings technique in lighting is to replace fixed outdoor lighting with a motion-detector equipped bulb. Outdoor lights left on all night can add unnecessary costs to your power bill.
- Clean or replace furnace and air conditioning filters regularly, following manufacture's instructions. A dirty filter can

lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.

- Caulk or use expanding foam anywhere you find air leaks.
- Install double-pane windows with low-e coatings. Add storm windows or use plastic film kits to improve single-pane windows.
- Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes. The insulating jacket will reduce standby heat loss by 25-45 percent, saving 4-9 percent on your water heating bills.
- Plant trees to shelter your home from the elements. Provide effective shade for east and west windows.
- Install ceiling or other fans to cut down on air conditioning costs. Air circulation keeps costs down.
- Install a high-efficiency furnace/air conditioner or a geothermal heat pump.
- Set your hot water heater no higher than 140° F (60° C) if you have a dishwasher. Otherwise, set it at 120° F (48° C).
- Turn off electronics when not in use. Idle TVs and VCRs alone cost U.S. consumers

\$1 billion a year, or some \$30 per household.

- Do only full loads when using your clothes washer or dryer. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. On sunny days, hang your clothes out to dry.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room. In the summer, lights add additional heating load to the home that your air conditioner must overcome.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Rule of thumb for thermostat savings: For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you can save about 3 percent.
- Purchase Energy Star rated products (refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers, computers and stereo equipment). These products provide higher energy-efficient capabilities. If over the next 15 years, Americans bought only Energy Star qualified products, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion.
- Excerpted from [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

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



**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
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- No term agreements • Major carrier
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- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
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**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

All calls out of state

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

**For additional information, call (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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 28, 2003

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

The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

**Heard** a presentation by Youth Tour Participants Sheena Barbee and Mitch Gill regarding their experiences on the recent trip to Washington, DC sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held June 30, 2003.

**Accepted** 15 new members for service.

**Canceled** 18 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$33,090.30.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of June 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of June 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Were Informed** by Mgr. Meng about an upcoming Director Summer School session.

**Discussed** upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting agenda.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning Clay Electric Annual Meeting plans to be held September 11, 2003.

**Heard** a progress report by Mgr. Meng on the Automatic Meter Reading project.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the surplus oil tank and following discussion **Authorized** Mgr. Meng to advertise for bids for the sale of the tank.

**Were Advised** of upcoming NRECA Region V meeting by Mgr. Meng.

**Appointed** President Czyzewski as Voting Delegate and Trustee Logan as Alternate for the NRECA Region V meeting.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning an Automatic Debit program.

**Discussed** reviewing facility charges for other member classifications as previously done for residential rates.

**Advised** that Senate bill 1066, concerning the Good Samaritan Act, had passed both houses and was awaiting action by the Governor.

**Approved** one Purchase Power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

**Reviewed and Discussed** Policy Bulletin 800-11 concerning Return to Work Policy with no affirmative action being taken.

Adjournment.

# FREE WATER HEATER!

**C**ontact our member services department at (618) 662-2171 for information on how to qualify for a free water heater. Also ask about our Geo-Thermal rebates and Comfort Home building techniques booklet. We can help you build a new home that is comfortable and energy-efficient.



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

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839 • (618) 662-2171 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



## Across the Manager's desk

John E. Meng

### The Northeast blackout and fixing the electric grid

**A**s U.S. and Canadian authorities investigate the causes of the August blackout in the Northeast, the U.S. Congress is in the final stage of hammering out a national energy bill to send to the President. An overall national energy policy is important, but if we have learned any lessons from recent history like the Midwest price spikes, the California electricity crisis, and the massive Northeast blackout, it is that we cannot afford to make mistakes in the electricity part of the legislation.

#### ■ What got us to where we are today

Electricity is unlike any other energy commodity. It cannot be stored. It must be used in the instant it is produced. It must be transported by wire. And it is not easily substituted for, particularly in the short-term. Because of this, the nation's electric system is ripe for manipulation, price gouging and miscalculation. That has happened, and that is the dark side.

The bright side is the North American electric system, the largest machine invented by mankind, has worked amazingly well over the last 75 years. The manipulation and price gouging by some large power companies in the late 1920s were corrected when Congress enacted the Public Utility Holding Company Act and the Federal Power Act. Consumer-owned electric cooperatives were the last piece of the puzzle as the new electric industry grew, giving people an opportunity to provide themselves with electricity by relying on their own initiative and good judgment to act in the interests of themselves and their communities. The combination of adequate federal and state regulation of

profit-making utilities, while relying on the good judgment of consumers to manage the electric cooperatives they had formed, has been a successful formula.

In 1992, Congress repealed a portion of the Public Utility Holding Company Act and modified the Federal Power Act to promote wider access to the existing transmission system and wholesale competition in the generation of electricity. That experiment obviously has had mixed results. California compounded the problem by preventing utilities from owning the electric generation needed to serve their customers, and instituting a poorly designed market with flawed market rules. While the intent was to create a market not dominated by utilities, the actual result was to separate generation from the utility's responsibility to serve customers. California and the entire West are still paying the price for that big mistake.

#### ■ Where we are today

Even though the lights are back on, the real work is just beginning. We need national energy legislation that promotes increased reliability and protects consumer interests. Before the blackout the House and Senate passed versions of an energy bill that will have to be reconciled in a conference committee. Co-op leaders favor the Senate approach.

The House bill would totally repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act and modify the Federal Power Act, resulting in vastly reduced protections for consumers and investors. It seriously reduces federal regulation of the investor-owned power companies and increases federal regulation of consumer-owned and operated

not-for-profit cooperatives.

The House bill also seeks to take more money from consumers in transmission charges and give it to the big power companies, hoping that they will use the money to invest in transmission upgrades. The Senate bill also repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, but replaces it with good consumer protections that require power companies to show they are actually benefiting consumers. The Senate leadership position emphasizes the "just and reasonable" test for transmission pricing and recognizes the important differences in motivation between absentee-owned, for-profit investor-owned utilities, and consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, by mandating federal regulation of investor-owned power companies and relying on consumer regulation of cooperative electric systems.

#### ■ Legislative goals

The choice is clear. The goal is a modern, reliable, affordable electric system capable of meeting the requirements of today's electronic society. The Senate electricity proposals look at the past and the future in a realistic way. Congress should pass the Senate's version of electricity legislation.

The House bill ignores the lessons of the past, demonstrates a blind faith in "market forces," and provides no guarantee that the millions of dollars prescribed for upgrades will actually improve service or otherwise benefit consumers.

Electric cooperatives agree the electric transmission system is inadequate and believe the solution is to reduce the financial risk associated with transmission investments. Cooperatives believe that once a new piece of transmission is proven to be necessary, and approved by the appropriate regional authority, its cost should be rolled into the rate base and recovered like other transmission assets over its useful life.

If the government can substantially reduce the financial risk, transmission will become a safer

■ (Continued on 16c)

investment and require a lower rate of return to attract the necessary investment. That is not just our opinion. That view is shared by a Wall Street investment firm, which testified to that effect in Congress two years ago.

We also need a set of national standards to assure the system operates reliably and efficiently. Electric cooperatives operate a well-maintained electric infrastructure in some of the toughest terrain in the nation, and have done it for years. The Rural Utilities Service, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration, has played a critical role in reducing risk by (1) assuring that prices to consumers are adequate to pay for the system, and (2) requiring electric cooperatives to adhere to a set of design and operating standards for the system.

Electric cooperatives have a model that is working

both for consumers and the nation. Let's hope that this investigation ushers in a new approach to the creation of a national transmission grid -- one based on the principle that in exchange for a just and reasonable rate of return on low-risk transmission investment, owners must adopt appropriate national standards for the construction and maintenance of the national transmission system and must be held accountable for its safe and reliable operation.

Let's hope the investigation of the blackout is not used to advance an agenda that will not serve the people well. If the investigation is a serious attempt to find the causes of the blackout, and proposes realistic solutions for investing in and improving the transmission system, it will conclude that the electric cooperatives' "national standards" and "reduced risk" model should be the preferred alternative.

# Protect trick-or-treaters



**B**y 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 most wear 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 cowboys and princesses have a safe Halloween.

## Want pure water?

If you want pure water and are in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, Songer or Xenia townships, call us today to sign up for Clay County Water. Applications for phase II of the project are now being accepted; but hurry, applications need to be received before the construction design is complete.

# The cooperative difference . . .

## People working together to find solutions

**F**inding the best solution by working together. That's what cooperatives are all about.

Member-owned and democratically controlled enterprises, cooperatives belong to the people who use them — people who have organized to provide themselves with the goods and services they need when those needs are not being met by other types of businesses.

All across America, 120 million people are finding solutions to community needs through their cooperatives. This means cost-savings, less risk and more choices for America's consumers and producers. And more choices mean more innovation in the marketplace and more accessible products and services. Today, more than 48,000

cooperatives exist for farming, banking, housing, childcare, healthcare, electric and telephone service, food retailing and other goods and services.

People trust their cooperatives to help them find solutions. Support your local cooperatives.

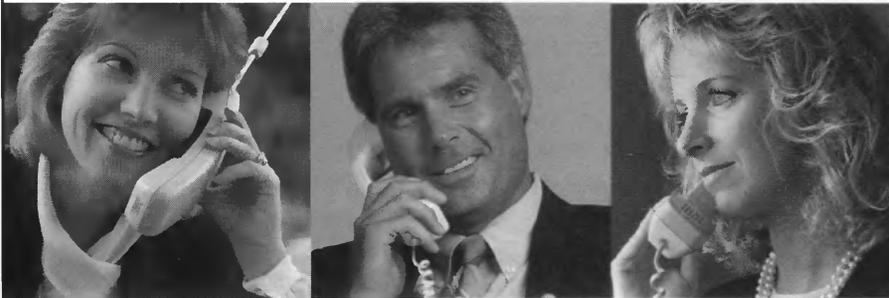
For more information about cooperatives, visit [www.ncba.org](http://www.ncba.org).



### Available from Clay Electric

# Business and Residential long distance phone service

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



**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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- **6 second increment billing**

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.

# 4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

# 6.9¢

All calls out of state

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

**For additional information, call (877) 796-2333**

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
August 25, 2003

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

The invocation was given by Trustee Herman.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2003.

**Accepted** 13 new members for service.

**Canceled** 8 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$21,323.31.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July 2003.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of July 2003 presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

Were **Informed** by Mgr. Meng about the upcoming NRECA Region V meeting.

**Resolved** that Trustee Herman serve as Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Voting Delegate and President Czyzewski serve as Alternate Delegate to the Region V meeting.

**Discussed** upcoming Clay Electric Annual Meeting to be held September 11, 2003.

**Approved** Policy No. 800-11 and 800-12, concerning return to work for disabled employees and hazard communication, in the form presented.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Opened** bids for the sale of a used oil tank.

**Accepted** the high bid of \$400 from Knapp Oil Co. for the used oil tank.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning Rates 2, 3, 4, 15 and 16 with discussion following.

**Resolved** that Rates 2, 3, 4, 15 and 16 be amended in the form presented and that the members affected be notified by mail of the changes.

**Approved** one Purchase Power contract in the form presented to this meeting.

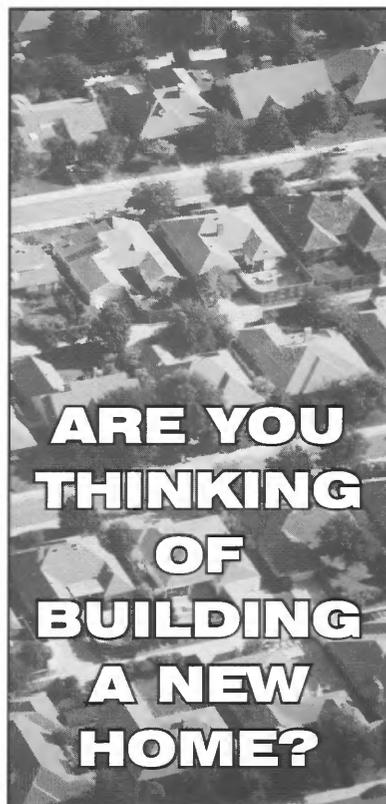
**Approved** refund of Capital Credits to the estate of 1 deceased member as pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**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.**

**Get your applications in before the construction design is completed, so your residence can be included.**

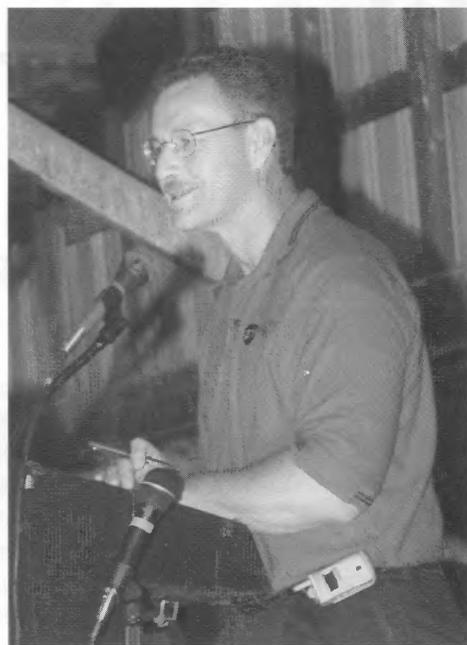


**GET ALL OF THE LATEST RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION!**

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

# THANKS!! THANKS!! THANKS!! THANKS!!

**T**hanks to all those that attended the Clay Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The entertainment provided by the Leib family was fantastic, Old Smoky Kooking and Katering did a great job on the meal, the business meeting was very informative, several people gathered information about our Power Net Global long distance phone service, Air Evac Lifeteam handed out information and signed up some new members, and the weather was super. If you could not make it this year, try to plan on being there in 2004. Here are a few pictures of the many that attended.



## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 28, 2002

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poesler, 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 Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held September 30, 2002.

**Accepted** 18 new members for service.

**Canceled** 22 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$13,625.16.

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

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of September 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.

**Reported** by Mgr. Meng about the cost of service study conducted by (AIEC) Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

**Reviewed** a letter from CEFS, following discussion of the same,

**Directed** Mgr. Meng and Cooperative Attorney Todd to review the matter further and report back to the board at the next regular meeting.

**Set** the time for the December regular meeting of the board for 5:00 p.m.

**Heard** a report from Mgr. Meng concerning NRECA health insurance

increases with no affirmative action being taken.

**Heard** a presentation by Mgr Meng concerning the replacement of a Cooperative pickup and following discussion,

**Directed** Mgr. Meng to work with the purchasing committee to present a proposal to the board.

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

**Approved** payment of capital credits to the estates of deceased members, Dean McGee and Ruby McGee, pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Advised** of upcoming NRECA continuing education training course.

**Advised** that the November regular meeting would be at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment.**

## William Todd passes away

William R. Todd passed away November 9, 2002 after a long life of serving the residents of Flora. At a young age, Todd graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Juris doctorate of Law. He was then a veteran of World War II.

In 1955, he entered law practice in Flora. In 1978 he quit his practice to serve as Circuit Judge for the Fourth Judicial circuit of the State of Illinois. He retired from that position in 1996.

He also participated in and served the First Christian Church of Flora, Flora Bank and Trust, Christopher Rural Health Planning Commission, Gulf Coast Bible College, the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the High School Board of Education.

Todd was also a past attorney for Clay Electric Cooperative and Wabash Telephone Cooperative. His son, Robin Todd has carried on that tradition and serves as attorney for the two co-ops.

### 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.**

Mike Winka, avid hunter and Purchasing Agent at Clay Electric Cooperative, recently had an article he had written published in the North American Hunter magazine. The article is as follows:

## Take Your Father Hunting



So much is said today about the future of hunting. Taking children and introducing them to the outdoors is endorsed by almost every hunter. I have two sons and I couldn't agree more with those thoughts.

However, I believe we are overlooking one aspect of our hunting heritage. I'm talking about those who used to let us clean their guns or carry their limit of ducks. They're the ones who taught us the difference between rubs and scrapes, and demonstrated how to tell a good story. If you haven't guessed by now, I'm talking about dear ol' Dad.

He had his hunting buddies, as we now have ours. The only difference is that in many cases, some or all of his are gone. We head into the fields and woods each fall with our hectic lifestyles and the latest technology, while he sits watching the first flock of geese head south and dreams of days gone by. Don't we at least owe him an invitation?

Most fathers won't ask to come along on one of our outings or hunting trips. They don't want to be a burden and get in the way while you're taking all the necessary precautions to get your trophy buck. It might take a little effort on your part, and you might even have to insist that he come along.

Here are a few suggestions for getting your older hunting buddy to spend some time with you. Invite him along on scouting trips, whether it's driving the back roads of late summer to glass fields, or putting up stands in the early fall. Also, dove hunting opening day. That's an easy way to spend some time afield with the kids and their grandfather.

Another suggestion is to try a game preserve. They are now located almost everywhere, and are open from early fall until late winter. Most offer a variety of upland birds, as well as dog rental, and most of these outfits will really try to cater to your needs.

My brothers and I built a blind for our father to hunt from. It has enough room for two people, which helps pass the time when things are slow. He is able to stay out longer, and his time in the outdoors is a little more comfortable. There are many portable blinds that set up with ease, and they work well for deer and turkey hunting.

The next time you head into the outdoors, remember one of the reasons you're out there to begin with. I realize this doesn't apply to everybody, but if you still have the opportunity "Take a Dad Hunting." He will not invite himself along, so you have to. He won't care if he brings home game, or even fires a shot. What matters is time spent together, rekindling old memories and maybe sharing one more story to retell around a fall campfire.

Mike Winka  
Flora, Illinois



# Being a cooperative member...

## What it all means



**W**e don't like to admit it, but sometimes we have a tendency to forget that all our members have not always received their electricity from an electric cooperative. You may not know about the advantages of receiving electricity from a cooperative — your rights, your privileges and your responsibilities.

When receiving your electric service from an electric cooperative, you should know:

- You are a member of the cooperative and as a member, you are part owner of the cooperative.
- You have the right to attend the cooperative's annual meeting of members held each year and to vote for the board of directors who governs the cooperative.
- You have the responsibility to keep up with the developments affecting your cooperative.
- Your cooperative was established by local activists at a time when existing utilities refused or neglected to serve the area where you live now.

Your local cooperative chooses to provide you with a monthly subscription to *Illinois Country Living*. Electric cooperatives began publishing periodicals such as this in the 1940s to communicate with their members.

Today, your cooperative relies on this magazine not only to relay information about this business, but also to encourage you to use electricity wisely and safely. Promoting electrical safety can help save the lives of our cooperative members. Promoting wise electrical use can help the cooperative and its members save money. Cooperative personnel can help members make informed decisions when purchasing new, efficient appliances and technologies for the home.

### **BUILDING A NEW HOME?**

Please call our Member Services department about a Comfort Home Building techniques booklet, our GeoThermal 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.

*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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_