

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 27, 2003

**T**rustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi 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 September 29, 2003.

**Accepted** 19 new members for service.

**Canceled** 13 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$39,067.77.

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

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

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

**Reviewed** the results of the AIEC survey that was conducted at the recent Clay Electric Annual Meeting.

**Reviewed** recommended policy guidelines for 400 amp services presented by Mgr. Meng with no affirmative action taken.

**Approved** the purchase of replacement computers for the upgrading requirements of Southeastern Data Company.

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

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estates of two deceased members, pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Adopted** the cooperative's section 125 plan in the form presented to this meeting.

**Heard** a report on House Bill HR2989 "hours of service" concerning truck drivers.

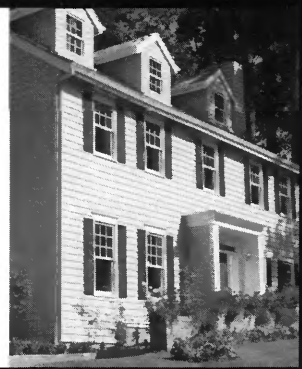
**Advised** of cancellation of National Energy Bill Conference meeting.

**Advised** by Mgr. Meng of recent safety accreditation audit that was performed at the cooperative in which the cooperative scored an 81 percent on facilities, equipment and documentation.

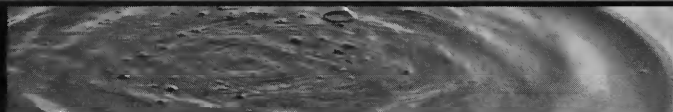
**Adjournment.**

**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.



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

# So how much does that puppy in the window really cost?

**A**nimal shelters are full of cats and dogs returned by owners who didn't fully consider all the aspects of pet ownership. Please consider all of the possibilities and responsibilities before deciding to adopt a pet.

Below is a shopping list for the unprepared pet owner who brought home a new puppy to join her family of two cats. She bought the crate, bed, bowls, food and toys ahead of time and thought she had everything. She was wrong.

## Shopping list:

More puppy food. More cat food, because the puppy ate theirs too. Two 10-gallon containers of cat litter because the puppy likes to play in it. New litter scoop because the puppy chewed up the old one. New cat bowl because he chewed that up too. New puppy bowl because he keeps tipping it over. New toys for the cats because the puppy ate theirs. New toys for the puppy because the cats retaliated. Shampoo for the cats because they have puppy drool on them. Shampoo for the dog because he rolls in icky stuff. New flea soap because the other 10 bottles didn't work. New bed for the cats because the puppy ate the stuffing. New bed for the puppy because he was still hungry. Earplugs, because the puppy hates his crate at night. Kitty tranquilizers because the puppy's nightly cries have driven them nuts. Ski pants and parka for taking the puppy out at midnight in -10° weather. Fifteen lint rollers for all the fur that's been flying. Paper towels and carpet cleaner for accidents. A book on how to train a puppy. A book on how to cope with an un-trainable puppy.

Although this list was meant to be humorous (also close to the truth), it is a sad fact that many pet owners don't consider all the responsibilities of owning a pet.

**Do you have time for a pet?** Pets require a lot of attention. They need to be played with, exercised,



groomed, fed, bathed and cleaned up after.

**Can you afford a pet?** Adoption fees, regular veterinarian check-ups, emergency care, grooming tools, food and toys can add up. It is estimated that the average annual cost of owning a cat or dog is \$1,000.

**Can you find a "babysitter?"** You may need someone to care for the pet when you are away for a few days, or to help with puppy training while you are at work.

**Have you chosen the right pet?** A pet needs to be compatible with your lifestyle, family and home. How big will they be? Are they good with children? Do they have potentially complex and expensive medical conditions? How much space do they require?

**Are you prepared for a mess?** Puppies and kittens will certainly make messes before they get accustomed to going outside or using a litter box. Older animals adopted from a shelter may already be trained and have a shorter adjustment period.

**Are you attached to your**

**furniture?** A new pet may claw or chew your furniture, shoes, clothes, carpet or anything else in reach. Be prepared to substitute a toy for an inappropriate item.

**Will your pet cause problems with your neighbors?** Pets can be noisy. Dogs bark, puppies whine, cats meow, birds sing. Will your relationship with your neighbors suffer because of your new pet?

Yes, nothing will ever be the same after you accept the responsibility of caring for a pet. But you will laugh at their antics and love their cuddles. Best of all, you'll have a best friend to tell all your troubles to, who sympathizes with you when you're sick, and doesn't criticize you when you gain weight or forget their birthday.

For more information on what to consider before welcoming a new pet into your family, visit [www.newpet.com](http://www.newpet.com), visit your local library or call your local animal shelter.

# Remember when....



**R**emember when getting a trim meant 15 minutes in a chair with John the barber? In the electric utility business trimming is serious. Our linemen do right-of-way tree trimming and maintenance every year to be sure you, our members, get the safest and most reliable electricity possible. When tree limbs fall on your lines, it could cause electric blinks, outages, and even injury or death.

When you have limbs dangerously close to power lines, do the right thing – call your local electric cooperative. John the barber can wait.

**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 in place, 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.

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

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

# Start your new year off right, with savings from Clay Electric

**Ring in the new year  
with savings on your long distance phone bills!**

**T**hrough Clay Electric Cooperative and PowerNet Global, you can receive one of the cheapest long distance services available with these great features:

- No codes to dial
- Free to join with no monthly fees, premiums or term agreements
- 6-second increment billing
- Free 800 number with no fees and same low rate
- Free calling cards at 13.9¢ per minute
- Overseas calling at 12¢ per minute



**4.9¢**      **6.9¢**

**All calls in Illinois**

**All calls out of state**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 24, 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 Schnepfer.

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

**Accepted** 19 new members for service.

**Canceled** 24 members no

longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$22,355.28.

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

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

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

**Discussed** Rates 11 and 12 with no affirmative action being taken.

**Reviewed** Policy 900-5 for 400 amp services and following discussion, **Approved** Policy 900-5 in the form presented to this meeting.

**Approved** a proposal from Vandyke Trucking for rock.

**Approved** the refund of capital credits to the estate of 1 deceased member, pursuant to cooperative policy.

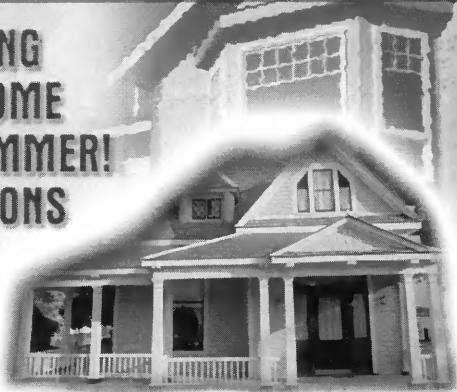
**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning a proposed zoning ordinance change affecting the Cooperative's communication tower.

**Adjournment.**

HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME HOME

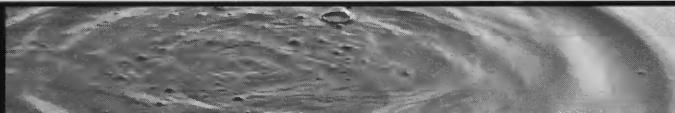
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## Clay County Water



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



# Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning Systems (HVAC)

Your HVAC system works year-round for you, and is another area that should not be compromised. The more efficient the system that is installed, the lower your operating costs will be. The most cost-competitive method for heating and cooling your home is the geothermal heat pump with the second being a high-efficiency air-to-air heat pump. *Geothermal and air to air heat pumps, which move heat energy rather than create it, can be three times more efficient than gas furnaces.*

A geothermal heat pump is an extremely efficient, year-round heating and cooling system. It uses a ground loop system to transfer heat to and from your home. (See Figure 25.) According to the Environmental Protection Agency geothermal systems are the most energy efficient, environmentally clean, and cost effective space conditioning systems available.

In addition to space conditioning, geothermal heat pumps can be used to provide domestic hot water when the system is operating. Most residential systems are equipped to transfer excess heat from the geothermal heat pump to the house's hot water tank, saving 50 percent or more on hot water heating costs.

A frequent question asked about geothermal heat pumps is, "How long will it take to recoup my investment?" In general the payback can vary from 2 to 10 years. Factors include initial cost of different systems, energy rates, weather, and the size and efficiency of your new home. To determine a more accurate payback ask your heat pump

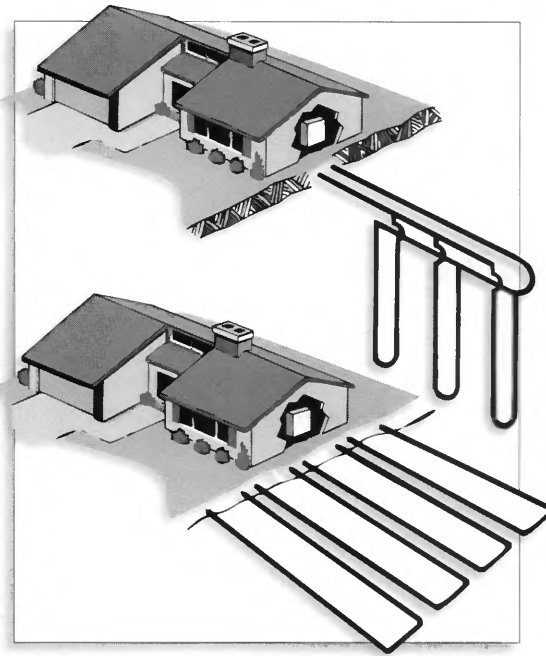


Figure 25

***Geothermal and air to air heat pumps, which move heat energy rather than create it, can be three times more efficient than gas furnaces.***

dealer or local electric co-op for an energy audit and payback analysis.

Instead of looking at the time it takes to payback, consider the monthly cash flow. If the additional monthly mortgage payment for the investment in a geothermal heat pump is less than the savings generated every month then you will receive a positive cash flow each month.

An air-to-air heat pump operates similarly to a geothermal heat pump, except it does not have a ground loop system. It absorbs or rejects its heat from or to the outside air. Air-to-air heat pumps should have a minimum 12 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) rating.

Wood-burning appliances and gas fireplaces are not

recommended as these units require large amounts of combustion air and may not be compatible with tight home construction. If they are installed in the home, they should have airtight doors, a tight fitting flue damper and combustion air must be supplied from the outdoors. A better alternative is an electric fireplace or sealed combustion gas log fireplace.

Proper design, balancing and sizing of the duct system, including the return air system, is critical to the comfort of your home.

No ductwork should be installed in the attic area as attics can reach extreme temperatures. Fur-down duct systems in hallways or placement of the duct system in the basement or crawl space should be incorporated into the design of the home. Duct systems in crawl spaces should be caulked at all points where the duct system passes through the floor. Any duct system (supply or return) that is outside of the building envelope should be insulated to R-6.

All ventilation equipment, range hoods, vent fans, dryers, etc., must have back draft dampers installed in the duct system and must be vented to the exterior. Clothes dryers should not use vents that can be vented to the interior, as the additional moisture introduced into the home can be excessive.

In a tightly-built energy-efficient home a heat-recovery ventilator (HRV) may be necessary. It will exhaust stale air, but recover most of the BTUs to pre-warm or pre-cool incoming fresh air. The HRV can also help control excess moisture, and expel radon gas and odors.

# Grants money available for geothermal energy systems

**C**ommunities and non-profit organizations served by an Illinois electric cooperative can now receive up to \$50,000 to help with the installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems through a grant program administered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and funded by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calls geothermal heating and cooling systems "the most energy efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective space conditioning systems available."

Clay Electric Cooperative's Manager John Meng says, "We are very excited about the availability of this grant because this will really help some of our local schools or churches save money on their monthly energy bills. Geothermal systems on average can cut energy expenses by 50 percent, and have been proven to decrease maintenance costs as well.

"Clay Electric looks forward to collaborating with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation on this program, which will promote a proven, under-utilized, energy-saving clean technology."

"The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foun-



## GEO ALLIANCE

Promoting the installation of energy efficient geothermal systems

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calls geothermal heating and cooling systems "the most energy efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective space conditioning systems available."**

dation appreciates the leadership of the electric cooperatives on this effort," says James Mann, Executive Director of Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. "We see this as a breakthrough opportunity for public and non-profit organizations. They can benefit from improved comfort in their facilities, lower operating and maintenance costs and reduced energy use, leading to less pollution in Illinois communities."

For more information about the geothermal system funding program, contact Clay Electric Cooperative Member Services, Doug Hockman, at (618) 662-2171 or the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives at (217)529-5561, or go to [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop).

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

# WILL YOU BE MY *Valentine's*

**T**hrough Clay Electric Cooperative and PowerNet Global, you can receive one of the cheapest long distance services available with these great features:

- **No codes to dial**
- **Free to join with no monthly fees, premiums or term agreements**
- **6-second increment billing**
- **Free 800 number with no fees and same low rate**
- **Free calling cards at 13.9¢ per minute**
- **Overseas calling at 12¢ per minute**



**4.9¢** **6.9¢**

**All calls in Illinois** **All calls out of state**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 22, 2003

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

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held November 24, 2003, and the Special Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2003.

**Accepted** 12 new members for service.

**Canceled** 15 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$9,966.63.

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

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

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

**Resolved** that Policy No. 800-4, concerning Compensation of Trust-

ees, be adopted in the form presented to this meeting.

**Appointed** President Czyzewski as Voting Delegate and Trustee Dunigan as Alternate to the 2004 NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Appointed** Trustee Herman as Voting Delegate and Trustee Smith as Alternate to the 2004 NRTC Annual Meeting.

**Appointed** Trustee Rudolphi as Voting Delegate and Trustee Logan as Alternate to the 2004 Federated Rural Electric Insurance Annual Meeting.

**Appointed** Trustee Dunigan as Voting Delegate and President Czyzewski as Alternate to the 2004 CFC Annual Meeting.

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the National Cooperative Services Corporation.

**Approved** membership in the National Cooperative Services Corporation.

**Approved** write-offs totaling \$1,378.69.

**Adjournment.**

HOME HOME HOME HOME  
HOME HOME HOME HOME

**It's never too early to begin planning on the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building this 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.

HOME HOME HOME HOME  
HOME HOME HOME HOME

# SIGN UP NOW!

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.**

**A Design Grant Application has already been completed and awaiting approval, please sign up now so your area is not left out.**



"How will our children know who they are if they don't know where they come from?" - John Steinbeck

**I**n ancient cultures, a family's stories were passed down from generation to generation. Children were always taught about their ancestors' ways and views of the world. This was done to give children a sense of who they were and where they had come from. Children defined themselves by their past, not just by what their futures held.

In today's society, we don't spend much time passing our family histories along. Children are sent to school to learn things from books that will help them secure a career in the future, and a lot of money and time is spent on this education. Our world's history is taught from grade school on, but children are not taught their own history. They don't realize how world events have shaped their family's history, and through their ancestors, their own life.

In order to teach our children about their heritages, we must learn about our family history. Recording your history and that of your parents, grandparents and other relatives can help to preserve a way of life for centuries and generations to come.

Everyone has a story. Think of a grandfather who worked on the railroad during the Depression. A grandmother who helped build bombs during World War II. A father who grew up when men were called "Sir." A mother who never imagined working outside of the home.

Many of those able to tell us stories of life during World War II, the Great Depression and those times of great sorrow and hope are no longer here. And in many cases, their stories have gone with them. By preserving your family's stories, you can make sure their stories don't vanish, but are available for future generations.

Ask a relative to retell a story you've heard them tell before and ask questions from there. Use photos and other memorabilia to jog their memories if needed. You may want to record the interview and write it out later so you can concentrate on the stories themselves and ask questions. Be sure to also get basic information recorded such as full name, nickname, date and place of birth and the same information for all siblings, parents, grandparents, spouse(s) and children. Also record dates and locations of marriages. This information could be useful to future generations trying to trace their family tree.

If you want to do a formal interview, have a list of questions to get you started, but don't be afraid to let the interview

go wherever the stories take you. Here are some sample questions for discovering what life was like for your relative.

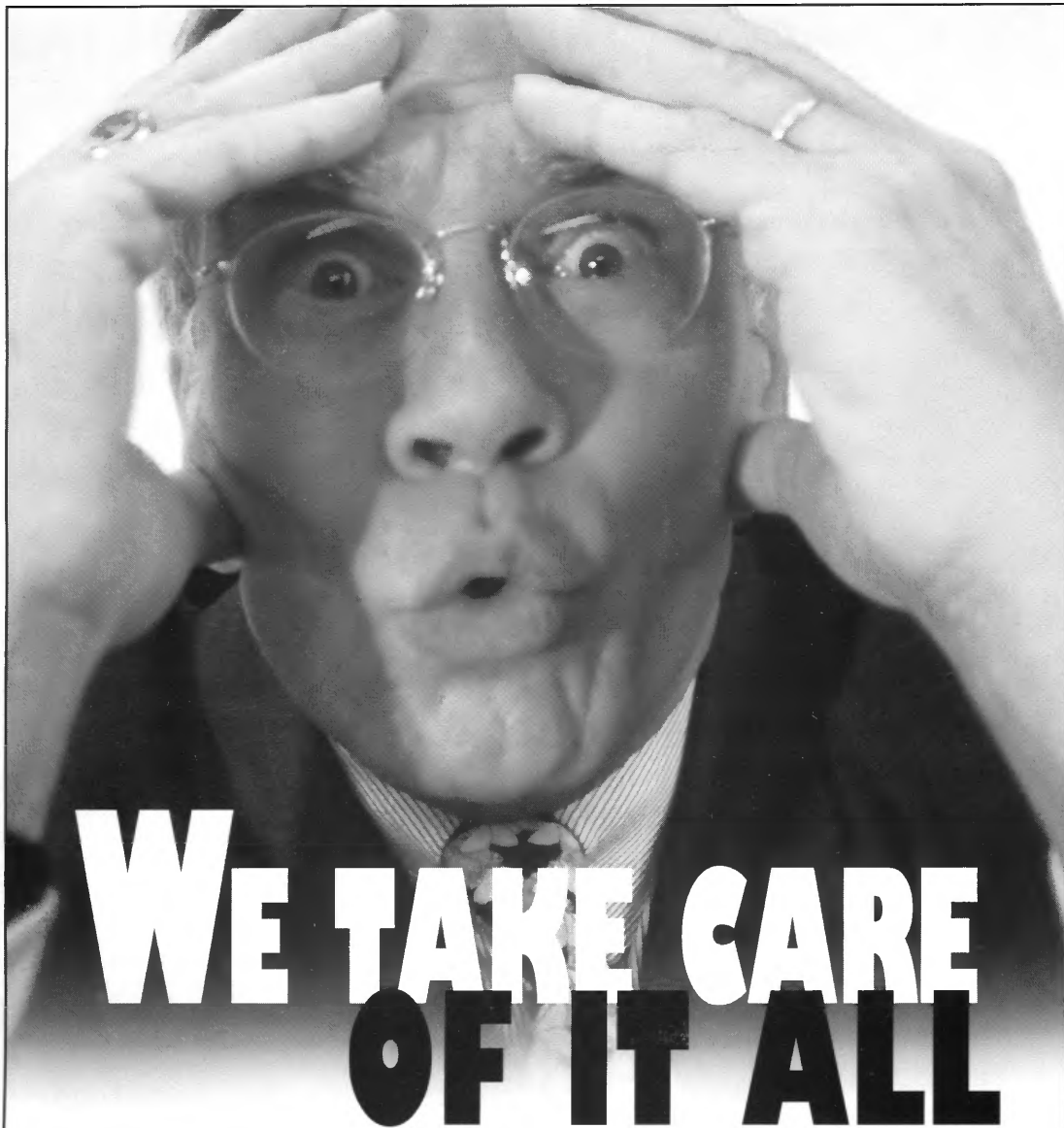
- *What do you remember about the places you've lived?*
- *What is your earliest childhood memory? What was your favorite toy and game?*
- *Were you brought up in a religion? What were the morals your parents most enforced?*
- *What was school like?*
- *Are there any traditions in your family? Or any family heirlooms?*
- *When were you married? What was the ceremony like?*
- *What professions have you had? When was your first job?*
- *What changes has the world gone through in your lifetime? How did the changes affect you, your family?*
- *What is your proudest accomplishment?*
- *What is your most cherished memory?*
- *What stories have you heard of your ancestors?*
- *What do you want future generations to remember about you most?*

But once you have an oral history from a relative, what do you do with it? You can keep a binder of your family's history and include transcriptions of interviews, other stories you've heard about the person, and any photos, artifacts or memorabilia about that person. This binder can be expanded as your family grows, and will be a valuable resource for anyone researching your family.

Heritage scrapbooks are another way to preserve these family treasures. These scrapbooks enable you to put descriptions and stories with your photos. Local craft stores often have items specifically for heritage scrapbooks. There may also be a scrapbook store or club near you.

Whatever method of preserving your history you choose, be sure that the information will be readily available for future generations.

More information about your ancestors can often be found at your local public library, or with the help of a genealogy Web site such as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Some of this information was taken from <http://genealogy.about.com>.



# WE TAKE CARE OF IT ALL

**D**o words like “load usage,” “kilowatt hours,” “cost of service analysis” and “debt-to-equity ratio” make your eyes glaze over? Your local electric cooperative is here to take the guesswork out of electricity. We handle all the things that are “Greek” to you, and ensure that you have reliable and reasonably priced electricity every hour of every day. Every month, all you need to know is included in your neat and concise bill. But if you ever have questions, just call us.

*We're your electric cooperative.  
We're where we've always been. In your back yard.*

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

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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**

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.



**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

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

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.  
618-662-2171 • FLORA, ILLINOIS  
1-800-582-9012

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## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 26, 2004

**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 President Czyzewski.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held December 22, 2003.

**Accepted** 9 new members for service.

**Canceled** 17 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$251,704.00.

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

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of December 2003, and the year-end report for 2003, presented by Mgr. Meng.

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

**Heard** a report by Mgr. Meng concerning the lowering of interest on an existing note with Cooperative Finance Corporation.

**Discussed** upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Meeting plans.

**Heard** an update by Mgr. Meng on the 2 disabling injuries suffered by cooperative linemen.

**Informed** by Mgr. Meng of damage done to the awning over the drive-up window at the cooperative office.

**Reviewed and Adopted** rates 1000-6, 1000-13, 1000-22, and 1000-31 in the form presented to this meeting.

**Resolved** that the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. be held Thursday, September 9, 2004, at Charley Brown Park.

**Reviewed and Adopted** the 2004 budget as presented by Mgr. Meng.

**Authorized** Mgr. Meng to sign the Electric service agreement between Ameren Energy Marketing Company and this Cooperative.

**Authorized** Mgr. Meng to negotiate and execute the power agreement between Aquila and this Cooperative for service at the Raccoon Creek Energy Center.

**Were Advised** of upcoming Directors seminars.

**Adjournment.**

**It's never too early to begin planning the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building this 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.

**SIGN  
UP  
NOW!**

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.**

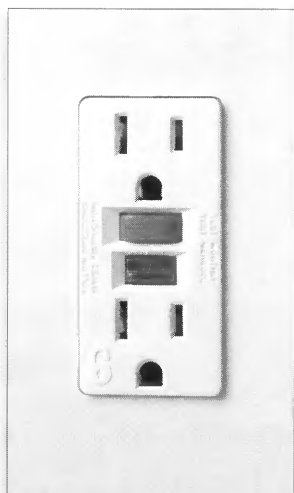
A Design Grant Application has already been completed and awaiting approval. Please sign up now so your area is not left out.



# Those Strange Outlets Protect You

**H**ave you ever wondered why you have different outlets in the bathroom? Those outlets are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). More than two-thirds of 300 electrocution deaths could have been prevented with the use of GFCI outlets, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The GFCI is able to shut off when a small fluctuation in current is detected. These outlets are much more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or your circuit breaker.



These GFCI outlets should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact accidentally with water, typically in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room or garage.

Don't take your GFCI for granted. The Underwriters Laboratory suggests testing your GFCI monthly to make sure it is working properly with the following steps:

- Push the "Reset" button located on the GFCI receptacle.
- Place a nightlight (with an "ON/OFF" switch) or other product (such as a

lamp) into the GFCI receptacle and turn the product "ON."

- Push the "Test" button located on the GFCI receptacle. The nightlight or other product should go "OFF."
- Push the "Reset" button again. The light or other product should go "ON" again.

If the light or other product remains "ON" when the "Test" button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly or has been incorrectly installed (miswired). If your GFCI is not working properly, call a qualified, certified electrician who can assess the situation, rewire the GFCI if necessary or replace the device.

**Source:** Underwriters Laboratory, Inc.: [www.safeelectricity.com](http://www.safeelectricity.com)

## Daylight Savings Time Begins



**D**aylight Savings Time begins on April 4. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Closed for Good Friday



Clay Electric Co-operative will be closed on Friday, April 9. We will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 12.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50 • P.O. Box 517 • Flora, Illinois 62839  
(800) 582-9012 • (618) 662-2171

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.



## Are you involved in illicit drug production?

**I**f you don't have a security light over your anhydrous ammonia tank, you might be.

Anhydrous ammonia, a primary ingredient in the production of methamphetamine (meth), a dangerous and illegal drug, is stolen everyday from rural tanks that belong to everyday people like you.

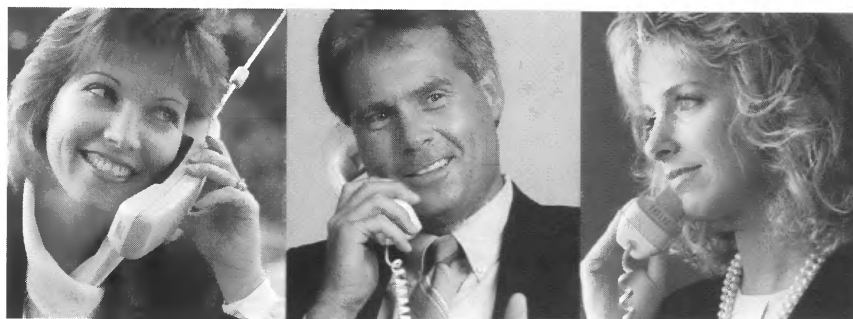
A security light won't prevent such theft, but it will be a strong deterrent to these thieves. Help cut down on the manufacture and use of meth in your area. Put up a security light today.

Call your local electric cooperative today for more information about security light installation and maintenance.

# Long Distance Service

# NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative



**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 monthly fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 12.9¢ per minute (No monthly surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Low International rates
- 6 second increment billing

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

# 4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

# 4.9¢

All calls out of state

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 + LDAV9RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T12E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 23, 2004

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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd. The invocation was given by Trustee Logan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held January 26, 2004.

**Accepted** 10 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$12,507.37.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of January 2004.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of January 2004 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

**Reviewed and Approved** the highest bid received from Jeff and Whitney Gocey for the sale of a cooperative vehicle.

**Authorized** Gen. Mgr. Meng to execute the Equity Investment

Subscription Agreement in the form presented to this meeting.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng and the Purchasing Committee regarding the replacement of Truck 5 a 1985 Digger unit.

**Authorized** Gen. Mgr. Meng to purchase the replacement digger unit from Drake-Scruggs Versa Lift.

**Appointed** Mgr. Meng as Voting Delegate and Doug Hockman as Alternate Voting Delegate to the Rochdale Services, Inc. Annual Meeting.

**Resolved** that the regular monthly meeting in March be held on March 29, 2004.

**Adjournment.**

**SPRING IS HERE AND IT'S TIME TO PLAN  
ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT NEW  
HOME YOU ARE DREAMING OF BUILDING!**

**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, our special  
total electric rates 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, and parts of  
Songer and Xenia  
Townships.**

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

**Design Grant  
Application has  
already been  
completed and  
awaiting approval,  
please sign up now  
so your area is not  
left out.**



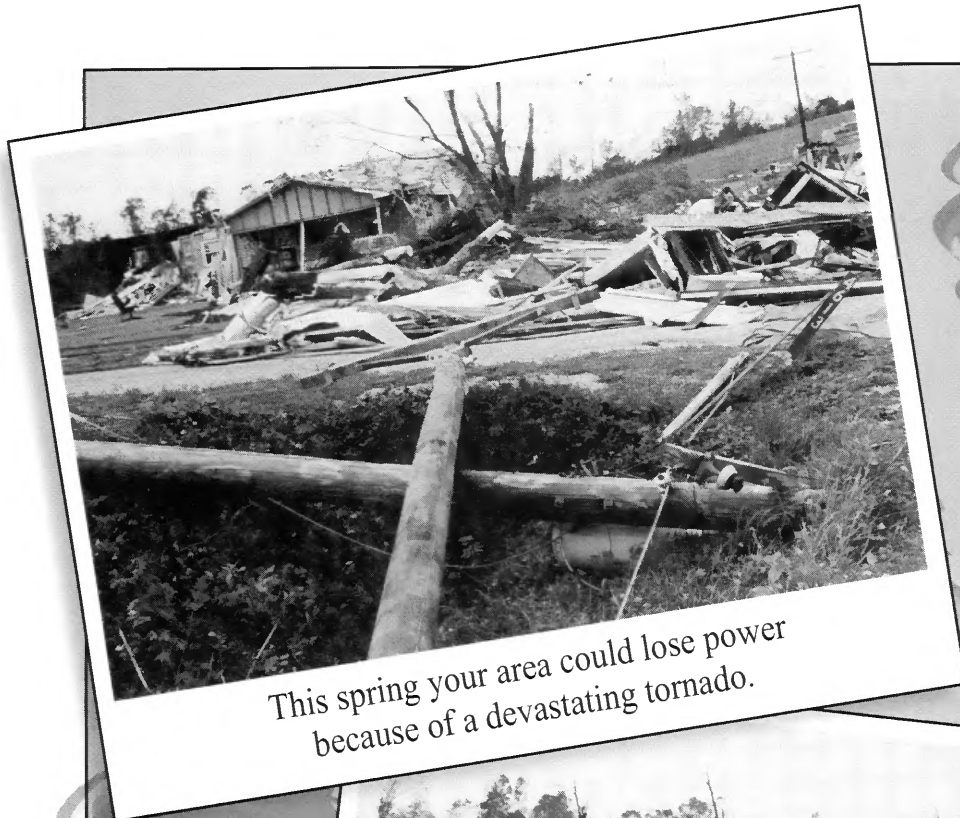
# Every state has its quirks.

by Heather Halstead

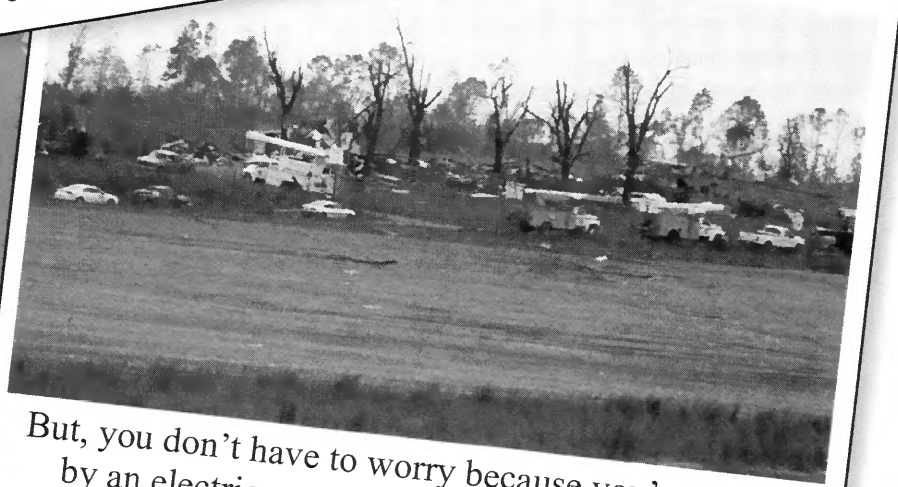
## You Know You're From Illinois if . . .

- ◆ You've ever rubbed Lincoln's nose.
- ◆ You think a horseshoe is edible.
- ◆ Buying fruits and vegetables from the back of a truck is not unusual.
- ◆ You know the capital of Illinois is Springfield, not Chicago.
- ◆ You insist the St. Louis Cardinals are an Illinois team.
- ◆ You think Egypt is just a few counties away.
- ◆ You don't pronounce the "s" in "Illinois."
- ◆ You wish for summer during winter and winter during summer.
- ◆ Spring only lasts a few days.
- ◆ You have to get on a boat to gamble.
- ◆ You've ever seen an albino squirrel.
- ◆ Your Paris doesn't have an Eiffel Tower.
- ◆ Tractor-pulling is a family sport.
- ◆ You've ever traveled to the state fair to see a cow made out of butter.
- ◆ A tour of Lincoln's Home is a standard school field trip.
- ◆ You know the Bulls are not just livestock.
- ◆ You've seen the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Niles.
- ◆ Cardinals in your backyard are the only birds to sing in January.
- ◆ You consider deer to be a road hazard.
- ◆ You know Dairy Queen was invented here.
- ◆ You consider native John Deere a national hero.
- ◆ You think "John Deere green" is a primary color.
- ◆ You think Wrigley is a field instead of a gum.
- ◆ You still insist the Sears Tower is the tallest building in the world.
- ◆ You call all the other states you've visited "bumpy."
- ◆ Your state capital is not your largest city.
- ◆ You think "Downstate" is anywhere but Chicago.
- ◆ You know the word Chicago means "stinking weed."
- ◆ You know the Wizard of Oz was started not in Kansas, but here in Illinois, by L. Frank Baum.
- ◆ You know the lava lamp was invented here.
- ◆ You're proud to be a native along with the likes of Walt Disney, Ray Bradbury, Harrison Ford, Ronald Reagan and Ernest Hemingway.
- ◆ You have Crete and Cuba in the same state.
- ◆ You're only "Normal" near Bloomington.





This spring your area could lose power because of a devastating tornado.



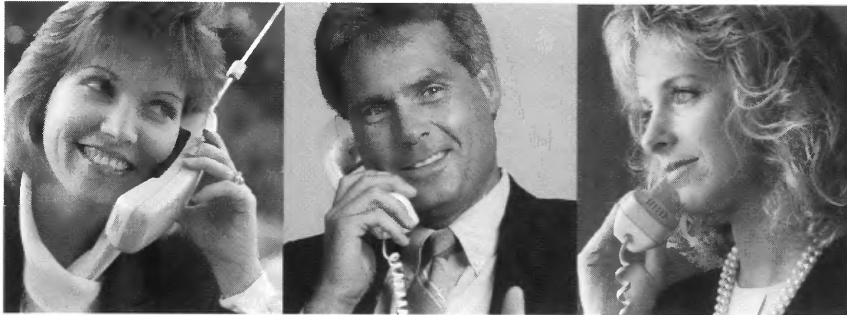
But, you don't have to worry because you're served by an electric cooperative. Our Illinois electric cooperatives participate in an emergency help plan, so assistance is never far away.

**You come first to us because you're not just a customer; you're a member.**

# Long Distance Service

# NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative



**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 monthly fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 12.9¢ per minute (No monthly surcharge)
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# 4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

# 4.9¢

All calls out of state

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 29, 2004

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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held February 23, 2004.

**Accepted** 11 new members for service.

**Canceled** 9 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$9,052.03.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of February 2004.

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

February 2004, as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng and cooperative Attorney Todd concerning the tower ordinance recently adopted by the City of Flora.

**Advised** of upcoming legislative rally.

**Updated** on the progress of the power agreement with Aquila.

**Reviewed** proposed policies 800-14 and 800-15, in the form presented, to be in compliance of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**Adopted** Policies 800-14 and 800-15 in the form presented.

**Discussed** a Strategic Planning Session with no affirmative action

being taken.

**Reviewed and Re-Adopted** Policies 100-1, 100-2, 100-3, and 100-4 in the form presented.

**Approved** two purchase of power agreements in the form presented.

**Advised** of time change, (7:00 p.m.) for the regular meeting in April due to daylight savings time.

**Advised** that Abe Forth from Flora High School and Brittany Watkins from North Clay High School were the participants for this years "Youth Day" to Springfield and "Youth Tour" to Washington, DC.

**Reviewed and Accepted** a proposal from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, for the Cooperative's Blanket, Umbrella, Directors and Officers policy coverage's.

**Adjournment.**



**Summer is here and it's time to plan on the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building!**

**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, our special total electric rates and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.

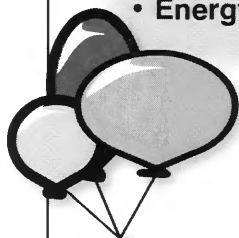
**Clay County Water is accepting sign up contracts for their phase II rural water project in Stanford, Clay City, North Harter, and parts of Songer and Xenia Townships.**

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

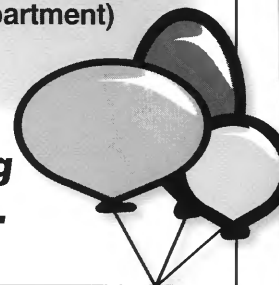
**Design Grant Application has already been completed and awaiting approval, please sign up now so your area is not left out.**

## **The 2004 Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held Thursday September 9, 2004.**

- Great meal (Steve Ehrhart pork chops)
- Great entertainment featuring the Leib Family, (Southern Gospel)
- Energy efficiency tips
- Prizes
- Information
- Mini Health Fair (Clay County Hospital and Clay County Health Department)
- and more.



**Plan on attending YOUR Annual Meeting and visiting with friends and neighbors.**

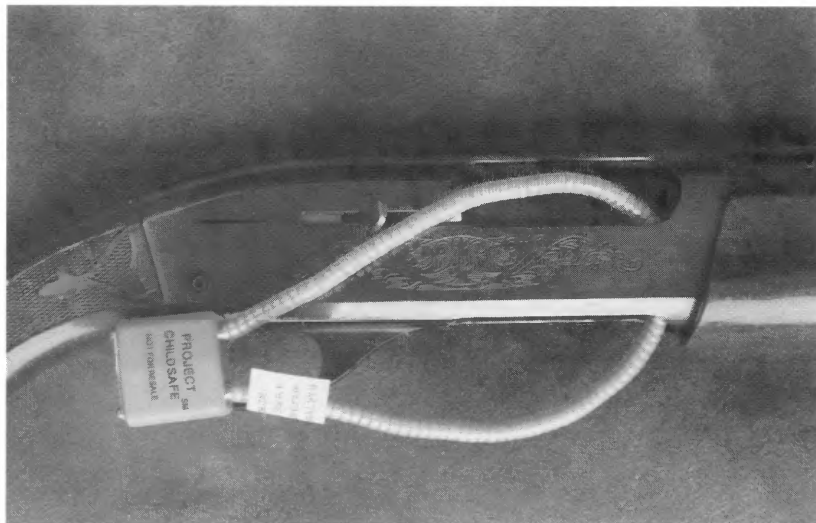


## **Project Childsafe - Putting A Lock On Gun Safety**

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., as well as other electric cooperatives across Illinois, has joined the Project Childsafe program. CEC will distribute free gun-locking devices and safety instructions at our office in Flora. These devices are Free Of Charge. The free gun-locking device distributed in the Project ChildSafe program is a vinyl-covered steel cable with one end permanently secured to a keyed padlock. Cable locks require that many types of firearms be unloaded before the cable lock is installed, providing an extra level of safety. The lock prevents the firearm's action from closing.

This program is sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and is funded by a grant from the Department of Justice and is a component of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America.

Clay Electric has ordered 400 of these gun-locking devices and we expect the shipment to arrive soon.



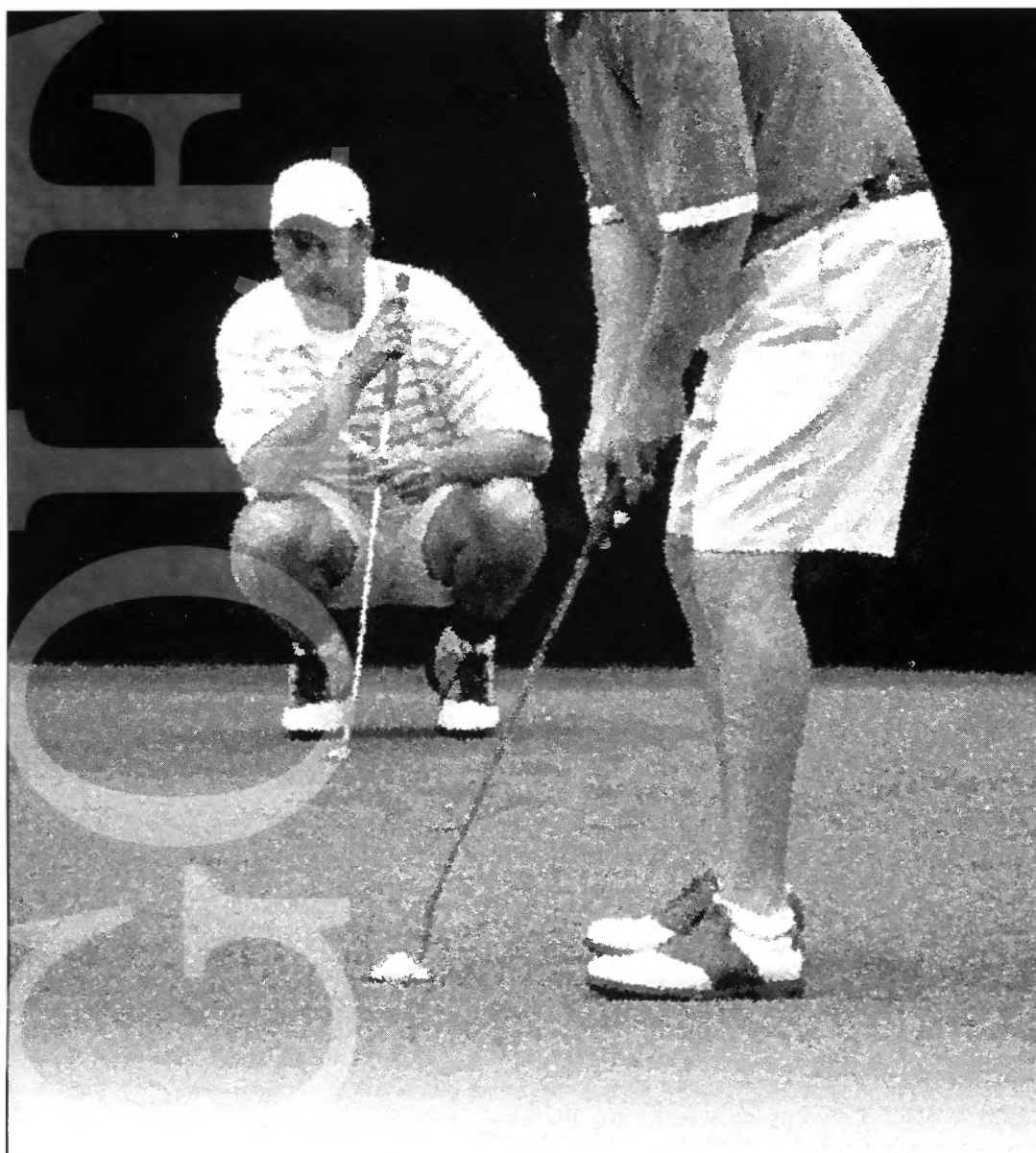
### **How Do You Get One?**

First, you have to be a member of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc..

Second, you must come in to our office at 7784 Old Hwy. 50, Flora, and pick one up. Remember, these are Free Of Charge.

And last, we are limiting the number of these gun-locking devices to two per household.

We will not reserve any for you – it's first come, first serve, but you might want to call the office to make sure we have the shipment of gun-locking devices in before you make the trip to Flora.



Is your list of “honey-dos” longer than the golf club you’d rather be using today? We understand, but please bring electric safety items to the top of your list – especially if they include checking electric wiring, installing grounded outlets, or replacing that frayed electric cord. Your spouse will thank you, and you’ll still have time to get that golf game in today.

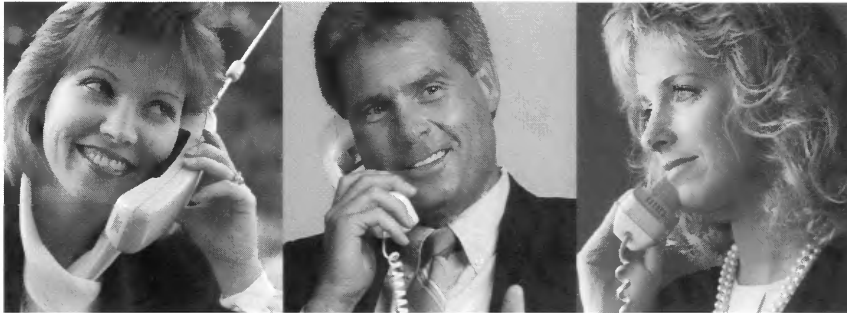
*For more electric safety tips,  
contact your local electric cooperative.*



# Long Distance Service

# NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative



**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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- NO CODES TO DIAL
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**4.5¢**  
All calls in Illinois

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**FREE**  
Personal  
**800 NUMBER**  
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Same low rate

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Services Desired:  Outbound Toll (initials) \_\_\_\_\_  Travel Cards (initials) \_\_\_\_\_

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Class 1 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
April 26, 2004

Trustees present were: Frank Czynewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng, cooperative Attorney Robin Todd and Kevin Kelso of Dreyer & Kelso, P.C., P.A.

The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held March 29, 2004.

**Accepted** 21 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$14,530.06.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of March 2004.

**Approved** the financial and main-

tenance reports for the month of March 2004 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

**Heard** a report by Kevin Kelso of Dreyer & Kelso, P.C., P.A. concerning the year-end audit of the cooperative.

**Accepted** the audit as presented to this meeting.

**Discussed** annual meeting plans.

**Advised** by Mgr. Meng that the agreement between this cooperative and Aquila had been signed.

**Discussed** bidding on property located in Stanford Township.

**Approved** making a bid of \$3,500.00 on land acquisition with one abstention by Trustee Dunigan.

**Approved** participation in the Cooperative Finance Corporation Integrity Fund.

**Reviewed and Adopted** policies 100-5, 100-6, and 100-7 in the form presented.

**Discussed** a strategic planning session with no affirmative action being taken.

**Heard** a report regarding Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) by Gen. Mgr. John Meng.

**Authorized** Gen. Mgr. Meng to join the MISO if required.

**Advised** of upcoming director training schools.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the cooperative's employee uniform program.

**Were Advised** that the Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments would be in operation very soon.

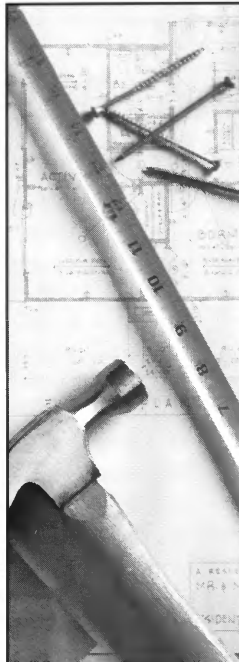
**Reviewed** a two-year audit agreement with no affirmative action taken.

**Adjournment.**

**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.**

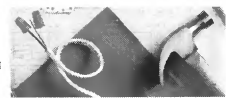
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# Paying Your Electric Bill Just Got Easier!



**C**lay Electric Cooperative's new Automatic Clearing House (ACH) system is now available!

We can now automatically withdraw your electric payment from your bank account each month.

No more deadlines, late fees or stamps to worry about.

Just contact our office at (618) 662-2171 or toll-free at (800) 582-9012 to request a form.

Start making your bill paying easier today!

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. • P.O. Box 517 • 7784 Old Hwy. 50 • Flora, Illinois 62839


## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

P.O. Box 517  
7784 Old Hwy. 50  
Flora, Illinois 62839

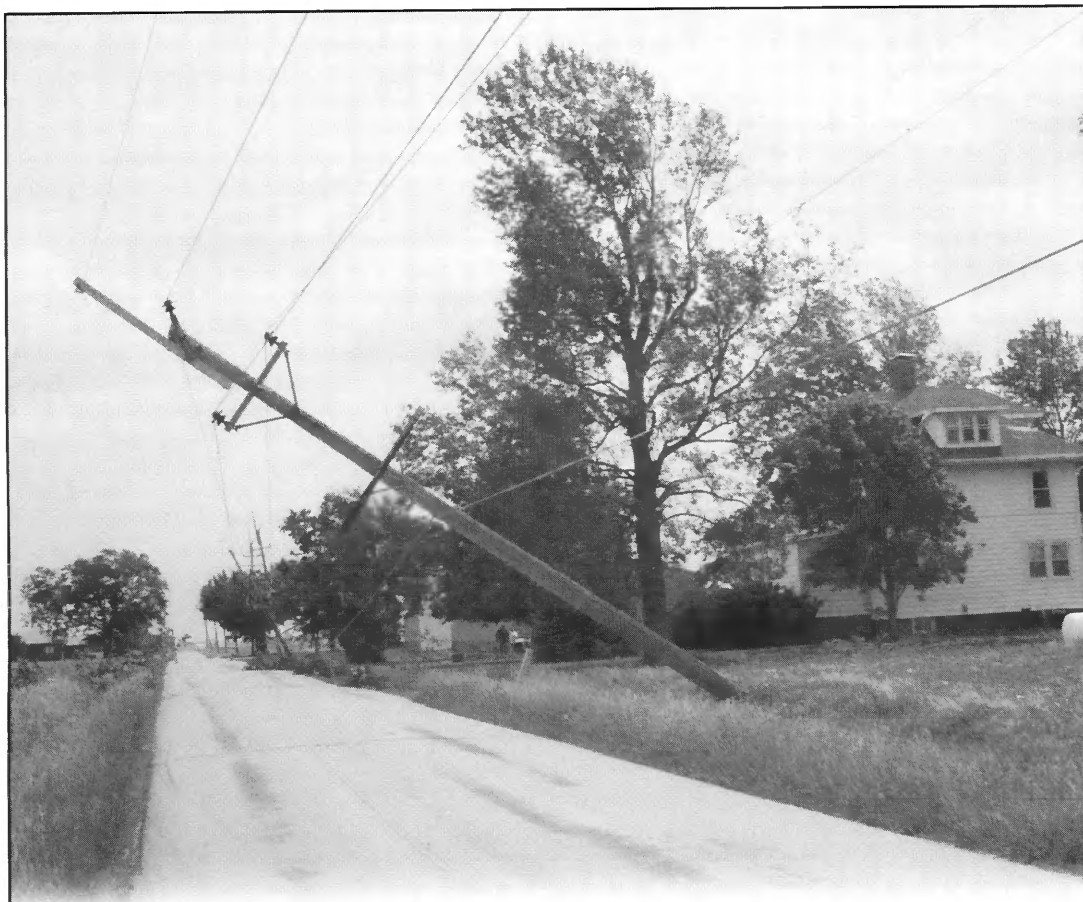
(618) 662-2171  
(800) 582-9012

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

## Office Closing



**Our office  
will be closed  
Monday, July 5 for  
Independence Day.  
Have a safe and  
happy Fourth of  
July weekend.**



## After the Storm Stay Clear of Lines

**M**ost everyone likes the pitter-patter of soft raindrops gently falling in the night — that is until they're accompanied by 50 mile-per-hour winds, hail and lightning. Violent storms can cause power outages, and when they do, rest assured that your electric cooperative personnel are repairing the lines as quickly as possible. You likely aren't the only one without power. When you call your co-op, please be patient if you hear a busy signal. We want to hear from you, especially if you know the location of a downed power line. Stay clear and keep others away too.

*We're your electric cooperative, and remember,  
you're not just a customer, you're a member!*

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- Low International rates
- 6 second increment billing

Clay Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

## 4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

## 4.9¢

All calls out of state

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_



## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 24, 2004

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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by President Czyzewski.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held April 26, 2004.

**Accepted** 12 new members for service.

**Canceled** 13 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$11,424.58.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of April 2004.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of April 2004 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC

board meeting.

**Approved** the following Nominating Committees: District I; John Grove, Neil Gould, Steve Birch, Henry Carter, Cecil Sparling, Michael Maloney, Dwaine Wendling, Troy Traub, and Brant Fulfer.

District III; Raymond Scoles, Robert Brewer, Bobby Ingram, Helen Smith, Leslie Blair, Eric Bailey, Ronald Byers, Cecil Pilcher, Tony Prather, and Carlos Post.

District IX; Robert Bumgarner, Dewayne Wesner, Darrell Ward, Howard Cantrell, Jay Wallace, Robert L. Henson, Bob Ragsdale, Penne Fatheree, Kenneth L. Lane, Bill Harrell, and Frank King.

**Scheduled** the nominating committee meetings for June 30, 2004, at the cooperative headquarters.

**Were advised** by Gen. Mgr. Meng that the cooperative was the successful bidder on the Stanford Township Hall property.

**Advised** of upcoming sum-

mer school sessions for Directors.

**Approved** renewing the cooperative's membership in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

**Advised** of upcoming Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

**Reviewed** Audit proposals for 2004/2005.

**Accepted** the two year Audit proposal as presented by Dreyer and Kelso.

**Reviewed and Discussed** Policies 200-1, 200-2, 200-3, 200-4 and 200-5 in the form presented.

**Approved** Policies 200-1, 200-2, 200-3, 200-4 and 200-5 in the form presented.

**Authorized** Gen. Mgr. Meng to enter into a contract with Asplund for tree trimming.

**Were informed** that Line Foreman Raymond Williams would be retiring May 28, 2004

**Adjournment.**

### Need Clean, Fresh 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.



### Take Advantage of Low Interest Rates

Interest rates are low and it's time to plan on the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building!

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

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# Students Learn About Our Nation's Past, Present, and Future at Youth Tour 2004

More than 1,400 students from 43 states descended on the nation's capitol in June for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Youth Tour. Sixty-four outstanding young leaders from throughout Illinois joined the tour this year. The students wrote essays, applications, or were personally interviewed by representatives of their local electric and telephone cooperatives for selection for the trip.

The participants saw some amazing sites in Washington, D.C., including Gettysburg; the Smithsonian Museums; memorials of Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Vietnam War, the Korean War and World War II; the Washington National Monument and National Cathedral; an Iwo Jima Parade and Pageant; the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery; the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia; and the Memorial Holocaust Museum.

In addition to these sites that gave the students a feel for their country, its wars, its presidents and its history, the students toured the Capitol, saw a debate in action in the House Gallery, and met with their local congressman and Senator Dick Durbin to discuss current events and what young voters can do to change their country for the better. Durbin discussed the current situation overseas, education and health care issues, current bills affecting energy prices, and other issues important to the students.

In addition to watching democracy in action, the students practiced



democracy by voting for an Illinois representative to the National Youth Leadership Council. Max Nash-Howe of Macomb, sponsored by Mc-Donough Power Cooperative in Macomb, was selected and will represent Illinois students at events throughout the year.

The students also learned about the democratic principles of a cooperative. They selected a board of directors, co-managers, and employees for a chip n' pop co-op. The board of directors (voted on by the members) held an annual meeting, and determined pricing of items, membership fees, salaries of employees and capital credit returns for members. All of the students who paid the \$.50 membership fee, and purchased from the co-op, received capital credits before going home. The chip n' pop co-op taught the students all the basic workings of a cooperative.

The Illinois students also joined the other 42 states for a National Youth Day Assembly. At the

event the students learned about Touchstone Energy, the Rural Utility Service, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and cooperatives' roles in politics. Glen English, CEO of NRECA, encouraged the students to ask their congressman questions and become involved in their local communities as well as their state and national government. The keynote speaker was four-time Paralympic Medalist Mike Schlappi, who encouraged the large crowd with his inspirational, touching and humorous stories. His primary message was "If you can't stand up, stand out!"

In addition to learning about cooperatives, our nation, and how to make a difference, the students learned about themselves. They



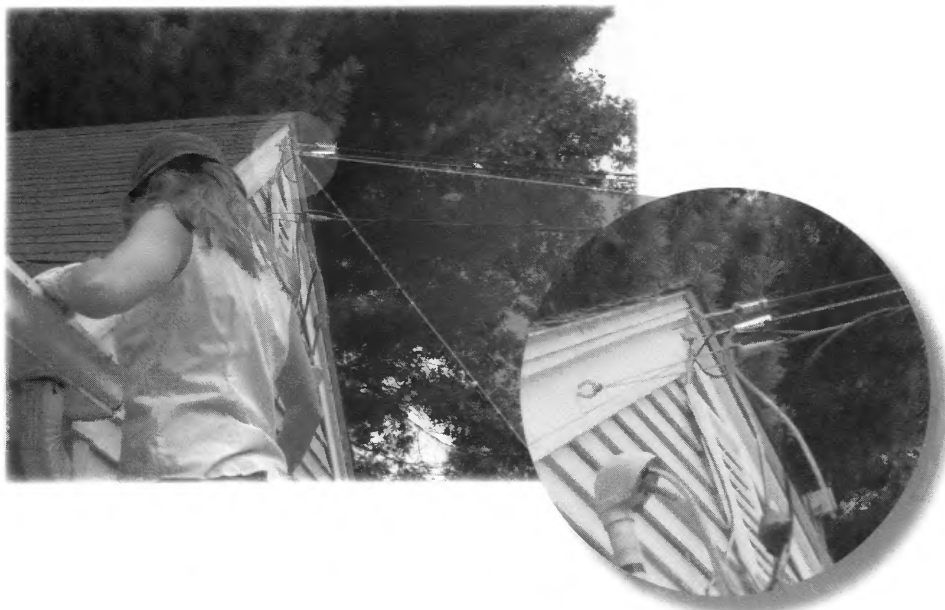
Abraham Forth of Xenia and Brittany Watkins of Louisville represented Clay Electric Co-operative in Washington, D.C., during this year's "Youth to Washington" Tour. They met with Illinois Congressman John Shimkus on Capitol Hill. From left are Forth, Congressman Shimkus, and Watkins.

formed friendships with students from across the state as well as meeting with students across the nation. They learned what issues were important to students in other communities, and how their rural area may be different from others. For some students, this was their first major trip anywhere beyond Illinois' borders. For others, it was one of many. But one thing that everyone had in common was the feeling that this was the trip of a lifetime, one that could not be duplicated even if the students are fortunate enough to return to the nation's capital.

Additional photos and information about the trip are available at [www.aiec.coop](http://www.aiec.coop). **Contact your local electric cooperative for information on how an outstanding youth in your life can participate in this "trip of a lifetime."**



## It Just Takes a Second



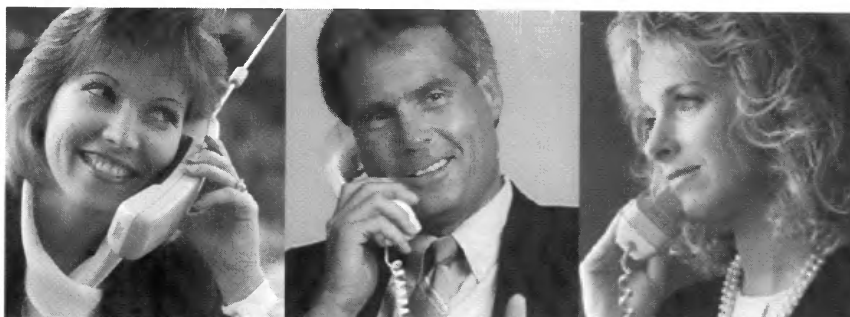
Summer is a "happy-go-lucky" time, a time when everyone is out of the house, soaking up every bit of the warm summer sun that they can. Summer is also the time when many people are fixing their gutters, freshening up their outside paint and washing windows. Don't let these projects turn deadly by letting your ladder come into contact with an electric line. Always look up before you start working. What just takes a second can make the difference between life and death.



*For more information about electric safety, call your local electric cooperative.*

# Long Distance Service NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative



**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 monthly fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 12.9¢ per minute (No monthly surcharge)
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Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Class 1 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 28, 2004

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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd. The invocation was given by Trustee Pierson.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held May 24, 2004.

**Accepted** 19 new members for service.

**Canceled** 7 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$36,741.53.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of May 2004.

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

May 2004 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

**Advised** of the following nominating committee meeting times to be held at the principal headquarters of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. on June 30, 2004:

District I, 6:00 p.m.; District III, 6:15 p.m.; and District IX, 6:30 p.m.

**Authorized** the payment of dues to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

**Appointed** Kevin Logan as the cooperative's director to the AIEC board and Loren Dunigan as alternate

**Appointed** Kevin Logan as voting representative for the AIEC annual meeting and Loren Dunigan as alternate.

**Approved** one purchase of power agreement in the form presented.

**Advised** of recent damage to the cooperative system during the extensive storms May 30, 2004, by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

**Advised** of upcoming Region V meeting.

**Set** the date of a strategic planning session for the board to be held in January 2005.

**Approved** write-offs in the form presented.

**Reviewed and Amended** Policies 200-6, 200-7, 200-8, and 200-9 in the form presented and deleted Policy # 200-10.

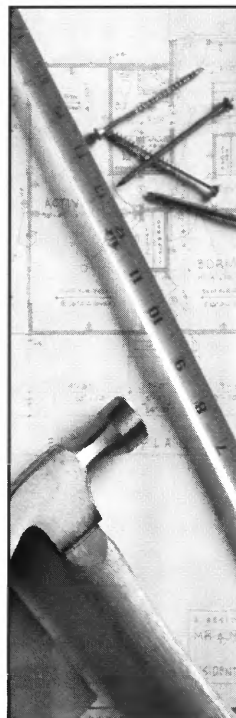
**Heard** reports from Gen. Mgr. Meng, on the Stanford Twp. property recently purchased by the cooperative, progress of the contract tree trimmers, Youth to Washington Tour and trends in variable rates offered by Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) from 1983 to present.

**Adjournment.**

### Need Clean, Fresh Water?

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# Recognize Farm Electrical Hazards

**D**uring the rush of harvest, or everyday hurry to beat a storm cloud, it's easy to make a mistake with heavy farm equipment. That split second mistake could cost someone you love his or her life. Operating farm equipment near energized power lines can be especially dangerous. Take a few minutes to review the following safety tips with your family and employees.

Four common on-farm electrical risks are listed below to get your discussion started. The first hazard is associated with overhead power lines, while the others describe unsafe wiring inside buildings.



*Don't make this mistake. Stay clear of guy wires. Accidentally hitting guy wires weakens the support for utility poles. Know the height of all equipment and stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Never attempt to raise or move a downed power line.*

## 1. Raising Tall Equipment Into Overhead Lines

Everyone on the farm needs to understand that overhead power lines are not insulated. Each year, dozens of people are killed or permanently injured as tall farm equipment accidentally touches a line. Of particular concern are grain augers, hay stackers, combines, fold-up cultivators, tractor front loaders, and portable irrigation pipe.

Consider the location of power lines on your farm, particularly those that cross heavily traveled areas or pathways to fields. Make sure everyone understands that these areas are potential hazards, and knows the clearance height of tall equipment.

## 2. Trees, Buildings, and Hay Stacks Near Power Lines

Children, in particular, are at greater risk if they are in a tree, on a roof, or on stacks of

hay located under power lines. Show children these potential danger areas to avoid. For storing hay and lumber or any material, find other areas away from overhead lines. In fact, it is best not to use the 10-foot area around any power line as a travel route or storage area.

## 3. Undersized and Worn Extension Cords

The circuits in homes and farm buildings are protected from overheating by a fuse or circuit breaker. But an extension cord has no protection. If an undersized cord is asked to carry more current than its wire size can handle, there's nothing to keep the wires from overheating and possibly starting a fire.

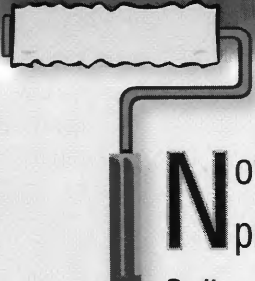
Replace any light duty extension cords that serve multiple appliances, or have worn or brittle insulation. Avoid running cords under rugs, because this traps in heat and adds to the risk of fire.

## 4. Deteriorated Wiring in Farm Buildings

Special wiring materials and methods are needed in agricultural buildings, particularly those housing livestock and poultry. Moisture, dust, and corrosive vapors from animal manure can cause conventional wiring (used in homes) to prematurely deteriorate. Inadequate wiring increases the risk of a fire. At the very least, the result could be a power outage. This can interrupt ventilation fans in confined poultry or swine buildings, causing devastating losses.

Keep yourself and your loved ones safe by recognizing those situations that invite an electrical accident. Even though electricity is our safest form of energy, it must be understood and respected. Most accidents are preventable, it just takes a few minutes of family education and discussion.

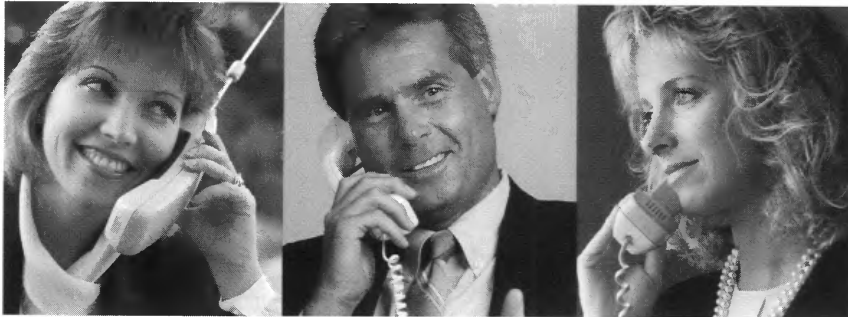
*Source: National Food and Energy Council. [www.nfec.org](http://www.nfec.org).*



**N**ow is the time to finish your summer home improvement projects and start thinking about winter. Call your local electric cooperative today for advice on how simple fall projects can yield big results on your winter heating bills.

# Long Distance Service NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative



**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
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Street \_\_\_\_\_

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Class 1 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
July, 26 2004

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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd. The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held June 28, 2004.

**Accepted** 12 new members for service.

**Canceled** 13 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$7,084.73.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of June, 2004.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of June, 2004, as presented by Gen. Mgr.

Meng.

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

**Advised** of the upcoming AIEC Annual meeting.

**Heard** a report of the recent "Youth To Washington Tour" from Gen. Mgr. Meng.

**Advised** of the progress of the Automatic Meter Reading installation.

**Discussed** building repairs needed on the Cooperative office.

**Advised** by Gen. Mgr. Meng that the Stanford Township Hall building acquisition had been completed.

**Reported** by Gen. Mgr. Meng of updating mapping of the Cooperative system.

**Informed** by Gen. Mgr. Meng of regular Monday morning safety meetings being implemented by management for all linemen to begin the workweek.

**Were Reminded** of upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members being held Thursday evening September 9, 2004 at Charley Brown Park.

**Reviewed and Amended** Policies 300-1 through 300-9, 400-1 through 400-5, 500-1, 500-4, 600-1 and 600-2 in the form presented.

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding Soyland.

**Approved** 1 purchase of power agreement in the form presented.

**Conducted** the Annual Cooperative Executive Vice President/General Manager evaluation.

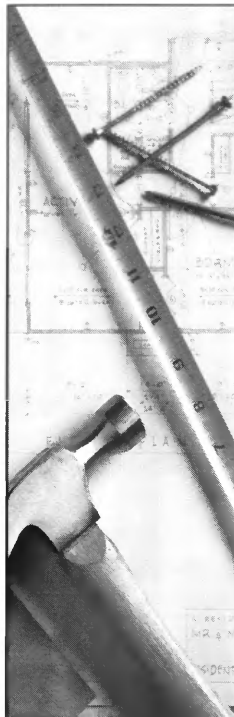
**Resolved** that Gen. Mgr. Meng serve as this Cooperative's Delegate and Trustee Rudolphi serve as Alternate Delegate at the upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region V meeting.

**Adjournment.**

### Need Clean, Fresh 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.



### Winter is Just Around the Corner!

Interest rates are still very low, building materials are not getting any cheaper! Time to plan on the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building!

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# Incandescent, Halogen, or Compact Fluorescent?

The least expensive bulbs may cost you the most.

By Tina Farmer, Intern

In 1879 Thomas Edison had a bright idea – a light bulb – now the icon for all bright ideas. While many of us still use a version of Edison's incandescent bulb, grabbing the first one we glide past while speeding through the supermarket aisles, this least expensive of bulbs may not be the most economical in the long run.

Shopping for new light bulbs can be confusing. Which is best? Which lasts longest? Which will save you money? Below, we have broken down and simplified the different bulb types to make the comparison easier.

■ **Incandescent-** The most common light bulbs are the incandescent bulbs. They cost about \$0.75 per bulb and last about 750 to 1,000 hours (long-life bulbs may last up to 2,500 hours). They give a comfortable spectrum of light and work well with the dimmer switches that are so popular in homes. They also waste energy. Lots of it. In fact, about 90 percent of the energy they produce is released not as light, but as heat. While this may be fine during the cooler months, it can mean higher air conditioning bills in the warmer ones.

■ **Halogen-** Halogen bulbs are more efficient than incandescent bulbs and burn longer. They have a standard life of approximately 2,250 to 3,500 hours and with continued use maintain their clean white light without fading. Unfortunately, rather than using energy efficient standard halogen bulbs, most halogen users employ high-wattage halogen tubes. These energy gluttons create four times more heat than incandescent

bulbs and, with temperatures reaching about 1,200 degrees, they can be serious fire hazards.

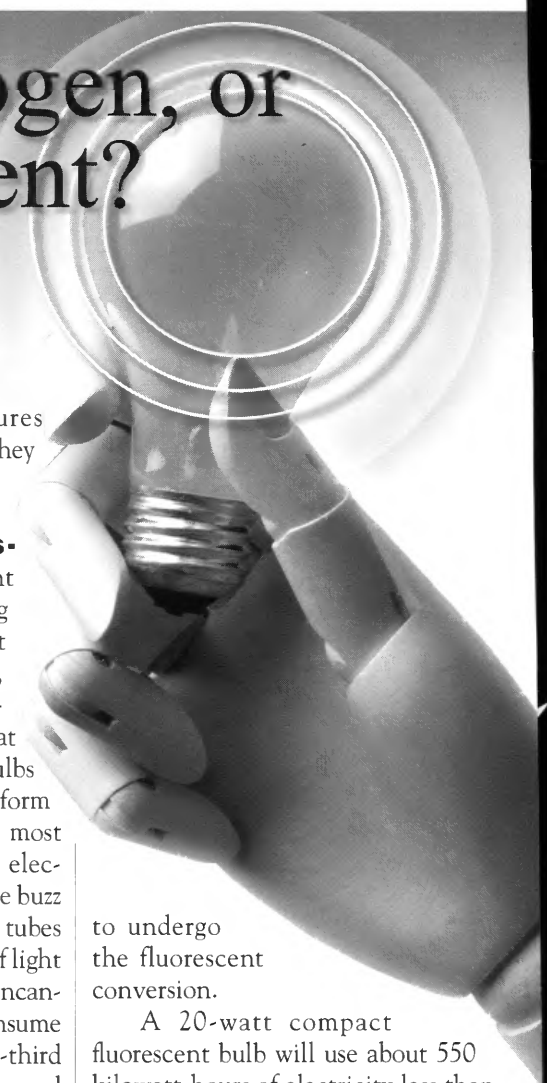
■ **Compact Fluorescent-** The words “fluorescent light” may bring horrifying recollections of buzzing light fixtures and visions of dull, sickly, institutional type lighting. But it's time to rethink that image. Today's fluorescent bulbs are the most energy efficient form of lighting out there and the most economical to operate. New electronic ballasts have quieted the buzz and the phosphor-coated glass tubes produce a soothing spectrum of light that closely mimics that of the incandescent bulbs. Fluorescents consume only about one-quarter to one-third of the energy as incandescents and last 10,000 hours or more! Replacing the high-use bulbs in your home with fluorescent bulbs can reduce your lighting costs by about half. The newest bulbs are about the same length as traditional bulbs and will fit in most light fixtures. And for those die-hard dimmer users out there, new dimmable fluorescent bulbs are being marketed for home use.

The initial cost of fluorescent bulbs is higher, around \$5 compared to the \$0.75 incandescent bulb, but you should keep in mind that the operating cost of a 75-watt incandescent bulb will be about \$6 over its relatively short life span. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb with a 32-watt compact fluorescent bulb can save about \$30 in operating costs over the life of the bulb and provides the same light output. You should also consider the environmental benefits when deciding whether

to undergo the fluorescent conversion.

A 20-watt compact fluorescent bulb will use about 550 kilowatt-hours of electricity less than a 75-watt incandescent bulb. That equates to 500 pounds of coal that will not be used in coal-fired power plants and 1,300 pounds of carbon dioxide and 20 pounds of sulfur that will not be released as environmental pollution. The government estimates that replacing one incandescent bulb in every U.S. household with a compact fluorescent bulb would be the pollution-saving equivalent of removing one million cars from our streets.

There are several lighting options to choose from when illuminating your home. Many people will remain loyal to Edison's “bright idea,” but the new fluorescent lighting options are certainly worth a look. They are more energy efficient, more economical to operate, and environmentally friendlier. For more information about compact fluorescent lighting options, visit the federal government's ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).







**I'll admit it,** even though I look big and tough in this costume, Halloween can scare me. Please keep me and my dog and cat friends safe by following my commands below.

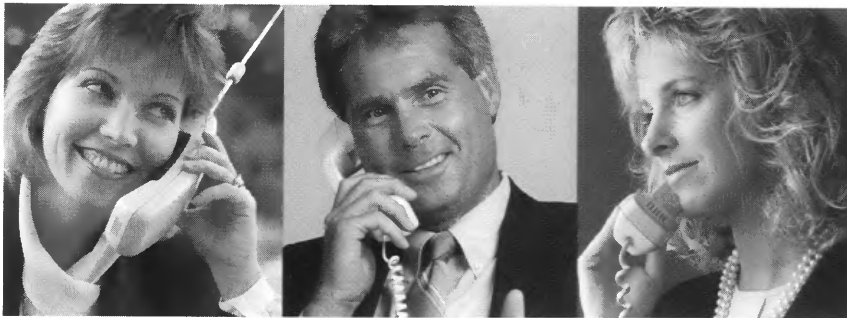
- No matter how much I beg, please don't give me any candy. Even though it's yummy, it can make me very, very sick.
- I like the pretty lights in the Jack-O-Lanterns, but sometimes I forget they're around and knock them over. Put them up high so I don't get burned or start a fire.
- I'd rather just stay home on Halloween. Being in the car or going trick-or-treating can be scary. I might get upset and not be my usual "good dog self."
- But I don't want to be tied up outside either. Sometimes people tease me, scare me, or give me candy.
- Handing out candy might not be a good job for me either. I can be really fast, if I do say so myself, at getting outside the door. I should probably stay in my crate or in another room.
- I like to dress up as much as the next dog, but don't make me wear something I'm not comfortable in or can't see or hear well out of.



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Class 1 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

# CLAY ELECTRIC NEWS

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

48

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
August, 23 2004

**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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng, Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd, and Member Services Director Doug Hockman

The invocation was given by Trustee Herman.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held July 26, 2004.

**Accepted** 23 new members for service.

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

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$32,563.45.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of July, 2004.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of July, 2004, as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

**Heard** a presentation by Brittany Watkins and Abe Forth regarding their recent "Youth To Washington" Tour sponsored by Clay Electric Cooperative.

**Heard** a report from Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC meetings.

**Discussion** of the upcoming Clay Electric Annual meeting.

**Reviewed** information concerning the availability of special equipment loans from Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

**Heard** a presentation regarding the apprentice lineman training program sponsored by the Illinois Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 702 and the Illinois Electric Cooperatives from Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Were **Informed** that Bobby Briscoe Backhoe Service had been contracted to clean up the site of the Stanford Town Hall.

**Reviewed and Amended** the following Policies; 800-1, 800-3, 800-7, 800-8, 800-9, and 800-10 in the form as presented.

**Approved** the retirement of capital credits to the estates of 11 members pursuant to cooperative policy.

**Adjournment.**

### Need Clean, Fresh 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.



### Winter is Just Around the Corner!

Interest rates are still very low, building materials are not getting any cheaper! Time to plan on the construction of that new home you are dreaming of building!

### 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, our special total electric rates and how to receive a lifetime water heater free of charge.



# Prune Now or Pay Later

*Inadequate vegetation management carries a high price*

By Tina Farmer, Intern

**E**levators jerked to a halt. Trains screeched to a stop. The lights went out and darkness reigned. August 14, 2003, was a call to arms for many in the electric industry. An underestimated foe had breached the northeast United States' and Canada's electrical grids. The infiltrator? Untrimmed tree branches scraping against power lines.

The official report issued by the federal government cited overgrown trees as the cause of the largest blackout in our nation's history. The Ohio utility responsible for the maintenance of the right-of-way in which the trees reside was criticized for inadequate vegetation management techniques. Had those trees been properly pruned, says the report, the massive blackout may have been averted.

Tree trimming is a necessary concession we must make for electric reliability. In fact, it is one of the best ways to ensure that our lights will stay on during the most violent of storms. Proper pruning techniques not only mitigate the risk to electric lines, but the "natural" methods practiced by certified utility arborists encourage the health and strength of trees. Natural pruning methods include side pruning, "V," or through pruning, and crown reduction.

Side pruning, used when only the side of the tree has grown into the lines, is accomplished by the total removal of the branches on one side of a tree, making the tree look as if it were cut in half. "V," or through pruning, is necessary when the tree has grown around lines and they are literally running through the foliage. A "V" shape is cut out of the center of the tree to eliminate contact with lines. The alternative to this method of pruning is complete tree removal. Crown reduction

is the most radical method of trimming and requires the removal of all of the top branches, or crown, of the tree. If a tree is properly maintained early in its life, crown reduction can be avoided.

Often residents are concerned about the unbalanced appearance these methods give the tree. It may be helpful to keep in mind that natural pruning techniques are endorsed by such groups as the National Arborists Association and the International Society of Arboriculture as preferable for maintaining the health and strength of trees. Methods that are damaging to trees include pollarding- the removal of all branches, and shearing- trimming just the budding tip portion of the branches. Both of these methods can lead to weakening of the tree's infrastructure and accelerated growth, making excessive pruning necessary. They also subject trees to insect and weather damage.

While a proactive vegetation management plan is imperative to the reliability of our electrical grid, co-op members can do their part by incorporating space-appropriate vegetation in their landscaping. Only low-growth vegetation with a mature height of less than 20 feet should be planted near utility lines, and never closer than 15 feet from overhead lines. Keep in mind that the root system will need room to develop and that you should always consult your electric cooperative before digging so that underground utility lines can be located.

For more information about vegetation maintenance in utility right-of-ways or for more information about space appropriate vegetation, call your local electric cooperative.



*Unfortunately, as illustrated by the massive blackout of last summer, trees and people don't always co-exist peacefully.*



Thanksgiving brings visions of turkey,  
dressing and pumpkin pie, all under the  
warm glow of electric lights.

Your local electric cooperative  
is proud to be a part of all  
of your holiday festivities.

*Have a safe and  
blessed Thanksgiving.*

**Happy Thanksgiving from the Board of Trustees and employees  
of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**The cooperative office will be closed Thursday and Friday November 25-26, 2004,  
in observance of Thanksgiving**



LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

# NEW LOW RATES!

Available from Clay Electric Cooperative

# 4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

# 4.9¢

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 12.9¢ 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. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.



## FREE Personal 800 NUMBER No fees Same low rate

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Services Desired:  Outbound Toll (initials) \_\_\_\_\_  Travel Cards (initials) \_\_\_\_\_

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Class 1 + LD A49RBTC 800# E 49RBTC Travel T13E Agency CLA

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

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting  
September, 27 2004

**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 Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Robin Todd.

The invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan.

**Approved** the minutes of the regular meeting held August 23, 2004.

**Accepted** 17 new members for service.

**Canceled** 10 members no longer receiving service.

**Approved** work orders in the amount of \$52,160.79.

**Accepted** the disbursement list for the month of August 2004.

**Approved** the financial and maintenance reports for the month of August 2004 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

**Discussion** of the Clay Electric Annual Meeting.

**Discussed** information concerning the availability of special

equipment loans from Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and authorized Mgr. Meng to negotiate a line of credit concerning the same.

**Advised** of upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

**Reviewed** NRECA Insurance rates for 2005.

**Approved** one Power agreement in the form presented.

**Approved** refund of capital credits to the estate of 1 member pursuant to cooperative policy.


**Reviewed and Adopted** Policy 800-5 in the form presented.

**Adjournment.**



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from our family  
to yours!



# Weathering the Storm

## How to beat increased heating fuel prices

By Tina Farmer

**T**he pictures of the destruction were breathtaking. The hurricanes that ravaged the Gulf of Mexico region left thousands to wonder: *What next?* But winter is here and hurricane season is over. We weathered the storms, right? Wrong.

The September hurricane season caused a 500,000-barrel per day drop in oil production. Combined with an expected increase in demand, price increases are inevitable. In fact, analysts project an increase of \$0.27 per gallon for imported crude oil over last winter's prices.

The U.S. Department of Energy's 2004-2005 *Winter Fuels Outlook* report projects a natural gas consumer price increase of 11 percent. The report also projects a 17 percent increase in propane prices.

Okay, so our heating costs are going up. What can we do? Bryce Cramer, District Office and Member Services Manager for Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association, offers some advice to soften the impact to our pocket books. "Three elements determine what your total heating costs are: the price of fuel, the heating load of your home (how well insulated it is), and the efficiency of your home's equipment. You have no control over the fuel price, but you do have control over the amount of insulation in your home and the efficiency of your equipment."

To improve upon your home's energy load, stop up your energy leaks.

An estimated 30 to 40 percent of your heated (or air-conditioned) air is lost through leaks around doors and windows. If you can see sunlight peeking between your exterior doors and doorframes, add weather stripping and a door sweep to close those spaces. Also, caulk around windows to seal any leaks in your window frames.

Your hot water heater is an energy glutton, too. Keep the thermostat set to 120 degrees and wrap the heater in a water heater blanket if recommended by the manufacturer. Use only cold or warm water to wash clothes, insulate hot and cold water lines, and install low-flow showerheads to conserve hot water.

Install a programmable thermostat on your home's heating and cooling system and program the thermostat to adjust your home's temperature to a comfortable level during the hours you will be there and decrease the temperature during the hours you are away. Have your heating system professionally serviced at least once every season to ensure its efficiency and safety. Change the filters at least twice per season.

You may also want to consider replacing your equipment. "To save dollars, we

all have to move to high efficiency equipment," says Cramer. "Co-ops can really help members by providing them with energy audits and energy analysis. We go into homes and give an estimate of the operating costs of new equipment to determine whether or not it makes sense to upgrade."

For more energy conservation tips, visit the Consumer Federation of America's Web site at [www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org). Information on high efficiency appliances and heating and cooling equipment is at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). Call your local electric cooperative for more energy saving advice.



The north wind may be blowing outside this winter, but installing a geothermal heat pump will keep Old Man Winter out and keep your family toasty warm while reducing your heating bills.

*For more information about geothermal heat pumps contact your local electric cooperative.*

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