

No Alternative For Safety When Using Alternative Heating

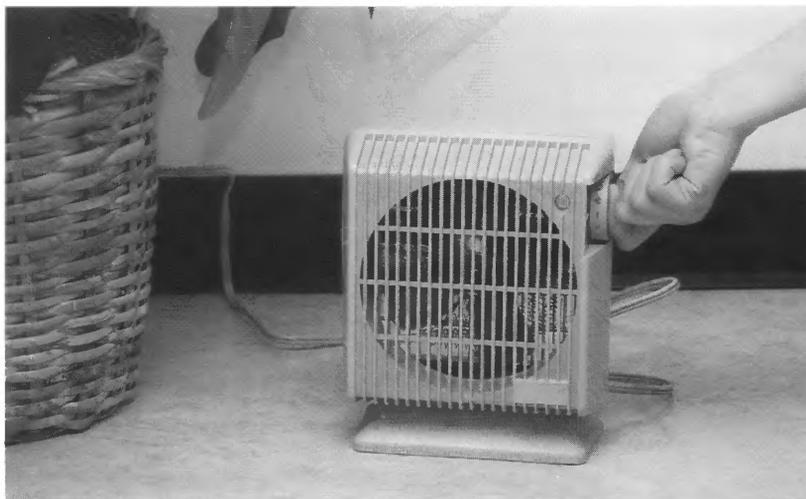
With heating costs rising each winter, the prospect of using alternative heating sources – woodstoves, space heaters and fireplaces – is more tempting than ever.

But alternative heating may carry some additional safety risks. Of the 45,500 home heating fires reported to the nation's fire departments in 2002, 68 percent involved fireplaces, space heaters and chimneys, according to the latest figures available from the National Fire Protection Association.

Of the 220 fatalities associated with home heating fires – 85 percent were associated with alternative heating sources. The 85 percent breaks down to include 46 percent for portable space heaters, 28 percent for woodstoves and other fixed space heaters, and 11 percent for fireplaces and chimneys.

"Alternative heating can save money, but be sure the savings don't translate into a fire in your home," warned John Drengenberg, Manager of Consumer Affairs for Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the not-for-profit product safety testing organization. "Many of us too often focus on cutting expenses while overlooking basic safety steps that could prevent a tragedy and the emotional costs associated."

To help reduce the injuries and property damage that occur every year from alternative heating, a few



simple safety precautions should be followed.

"Cooking stoves, gas ovens and grills should never be used for heating a room or home," Drengenberg said. "That's not what they were designed for and there are too many other options out there that are safer."

A popular alternative is space heaters – but before using one be sure to keep it away from combustibles such as draperies, clothing and furniture.

Other heating alternatives have a different set of safety considerations.

Fireplace and chimney fires are mostly caused by a buildup of flammable creosote, the product of wood smoke and moisture. To prevent this, wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors should be inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as inspections suggest. It's also important to burn properly seasoned wood.

Wood that is green has more moisture and is likely to smolder, leading to more creosote buildup and a greater risk of fire. Finally, it is essential that your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room, and allow fireplace and

wood ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

Like chimneys, furnaces should be inspected and serviced once a year. Homeowners, however, can change or clean the furnace filter themselves. Combustible materials, such as paint thinners, gasoline or kerosene, should never be used nor stored near the furnace.

Most importantly, the best defense is a good offense. Install smoke alarms to warn of a fire and have carbon monoxide alarms in the home to warn about faulty furnace, fireplace and oven flues or other venting problems and inadequacies. It's also important to consider installing interconnected smoke alarms, which would help alert occupants on all levels of a residence, regardless of where the fire starts.

Check existing alarms to ensure they are in working order. Replace the batteries once a year.

"Between the cold and the cost of heating, there will be enough discomfort this winter," Drengenberg said. "You needn't add to the suffering with a preventable home fire."

Source: UL

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
October 23, 2006

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present was Executive Vice President and General Manager John Meng. The invocation was given by Trustee Poehler.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held September 25, 2006.

Accepted 13 new members for service.

Canceled 16 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$140,896.09.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of September, 2006.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of September, 2006 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report on 2006 Transmission costs.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Approved a resolution as presented to change the signature authorization on bank accounts reflecting Greg Smith as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Discussed the upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting of Members.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding hardware and software upgrades on the AMR and SCADA.

Discussed policy additions and changes and directed Gen. Mgr. Meng to draft such policies for approval at a later date.

Approved two purchase of power agreements in the form as presented. Informed of an employee back injury resulting in a work comp temporary disabling injury.

Discussed the Safety Accreditation Audit conducted on October 18, 2006.

Adjournment.

Winter Weather Woes

Be prepared for ice storms and prolonged outages

As parts of Illinois saw last month, blasts of winter wind, moisture and fluctuating temperatures can result in severe freezing rain, sleet and ice storms. A heavy build-up of ice on power lines can cause wires to snap and utility poles to topple. Falling ice-laden trees or limbs can bring down power lines, cause outages and threaten life and property.

Safe Electricity and Clay Electric Co-operative stress the importance of being prepared for these potentially dangerous storms and the power outages they may cause.

"When severe weather hits, it can cause extensive damage to our substations, power lines and other electrical equipment. Even with our crews working around the clock, this damage can take days to repair. If the damage will cause long outages, we can call on other electric cooperatives for help. We'll do everything it takes to restore your power quickly," says Clay Electric General Manager John Meng.

Be prepared and know what to do in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages:

- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights and a supply of fresh batteries readily available.

- ✱ Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.

- ✱ Keep a supply of foods that don't require cooking or refrigeration, along with a hand opener for canned food.

- ✱ Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on to signal when your power returns.

- ✱ To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so water drips from the tap.

- ✱ Keep all grills outdoors to stay safe from carbon monoxide.

- ✱ Assemble a disaster supply kit ahead of time. Remember to include a first aid kit, prescription medicines and special items for infant, elderly or dis-

abled family members.

- ✱ If you use a standby generator, make sure it has a transfer safety switch or that your power is cut off at the breaker box before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines or what's known as "back feed." Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

- ✱ When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility.

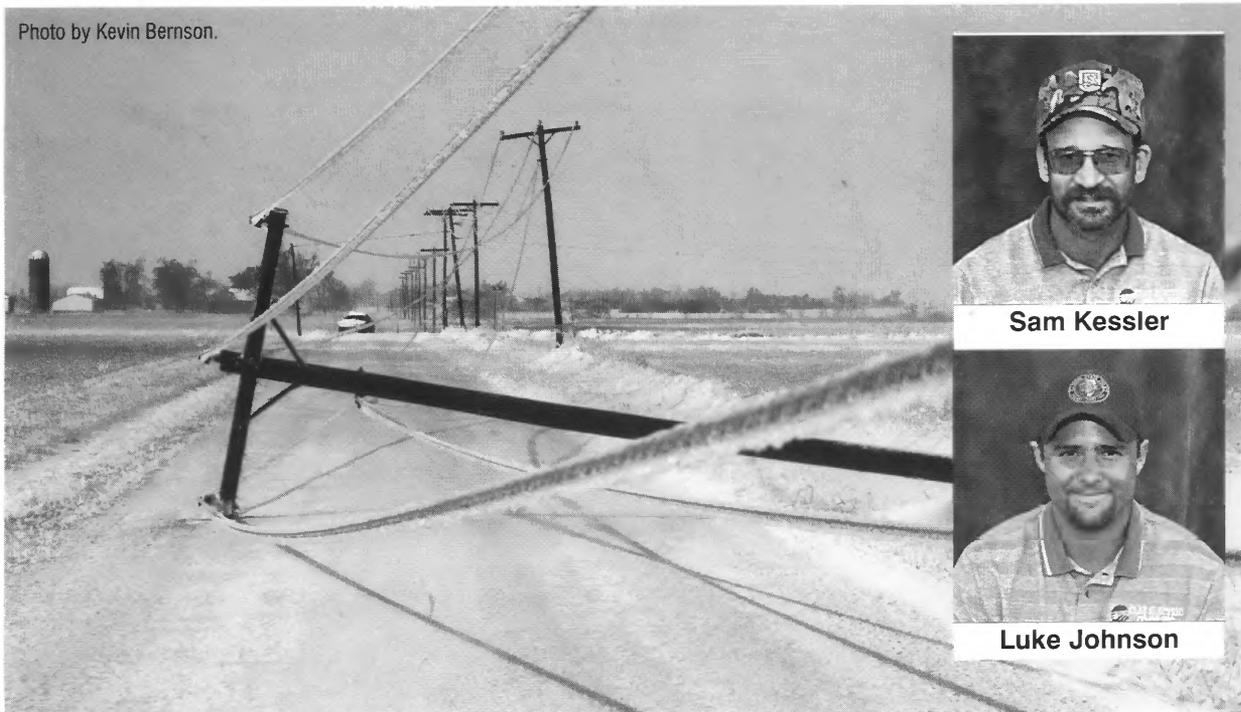
For more detailed information and electrical safety tips, visit the Safe Electricity Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.

Clay County Water, Inc.

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships. Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water when it is available in you area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Photo by Kevin Bernson.



On Thursday, November 30, much of central Illinois was covered by several inches of ice, causing hundreds of miles of line damage and thousands of members to lose power throughout the weekend.

Clay Electric Co-operative Linemen Sam Kessler and Luke Johnson took a basket truck to the Carlinville area to aid M.J.M. Electric Cooperative linemen in restoring power to their members following a major ice storm that hit the area November 30. Kessler and Johnson were among 28 cooperative linemen who responded to M.J.M.'s call for help because cooperation among cooperatives is one of the seven cooperative principles we were founded on. And you can bet that if we at Clay Electric Co-operative ever experience a major outage, we can count on the other electric cooperatives in the state to help us.

Q&A

What Makes This A Cooperative?

We are a local not-for-profit organization owned by you, our members. What does that mean?

- We care about you and this community—we live here too.
- Any profits made are returned to you in the form of capital credits.
- You elect a board of directors to govern the cooperative.

Investor-owned utilities are headquartered in another city or even another state. They are owned by stockholders who may not even use their services. Any profits made go to these stockholders.

Call your cooperative anytime and we'll tell you more about what it means to be a cooperative member!

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

AVAILABLE FROM CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

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 term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 number, for \$1 a month, 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 Co-operative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

**Personal
800 NUMBER**
Same low rate

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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
November 27, 2006

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, 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 Tyra Cycholl. Trustee Dunigan was absent. The invocation was given by President Czyzewski.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held October 23, 2006.

Accepted 18 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$38,023.81.

Accepted the disbursement list

for the month of October, 2006.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of October, 2006 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Discussed the upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting of Members.

Discussed and Reviewed new policies on Business Ethics, Confidentiality, and Harassment.

Discussed the interest rates of a Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) loan.

Approved payoff of a variable rate note.

Discussed wholesale power options.

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

Informed of the recent results of the Safety Accreditation audit.

Reviewed the Illinois Auction and Investor Owned Utility (IOU) Residential Delivery Service Update.

Informed of the purchase of a trailer for rubber gloving safety equipment.

Updated on the repair of the service truck.

Approved the purchase of rock for the Cooperative facility with one Trustee abstaining.

Adjournment.

Q&A

Why Do My Lights Blink?



We know that blinking lights are annoying. The reason your lights blink is that something has happened to short circuit the power line. Special devices installed on the lines called reclosures, click off and then back on again quickly if the short circuit is temporary, like if a tree branch hits the line. That short interruption of power when the reclosure shuts off is when your lights blink. If the reclosure wasn't present on the line, your power would be off until the co-op could send out linemen to restore it.

So the next time you have to reset your digital clocks, remember that it means your co-op's electric system is operating properly, and that short blink saved you from a longer outage.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.





Each day that you're inside your toasty warm house while the frigid wind howls outside is a gift from your electric cooperative. We work for your comfort.



Clay County Water, Inc. Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships.

Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in you area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Fire Prevention Tips

An estimated one-third of residential fires are related to electrical distribution or appliances and equipment. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), each year these electrical fires claim about 500 lives, cause more than 2,000 injuries, and translate into more than 800 million dollars in property damage. Safe Electricity urges homeowners to perform an electrical hazard check to help keep families safe from fires.

Many avoidable fires can be traced to poor maintenance and misuse of electrical appliances and electric cords. Do not place cords underneath rugs and furniture or run them behind baseboards, curtains or in high-traffic areas. Damaged, abused or worn extension cords can pose a major fire hazard.

"Begin a habit of regularly inspecting all appliances, cords and plugs," suggests Safe Electricity Director Molly Hall. "If you discover a frayed cord or loose prongs on a plug, discontinue use until repaired or replaced."

Another common fire hazard is overloaded electrical systems. Fuses blowing frequently, dimming lights when an appliance goes on, a shrinking TV picture, and slow-running or heating appliances are signals of overloaded circuits. Safe Electricity suggests that if you notice any of these warning signals, disconnect the appliances and call a qualified electrician to get expert help.

To prevent electrical overloading, avoid using extension cords on a permanent basis and never plug more than two home appliances into an outlet at once. Use only outlets designed to handle multiple plugs. Give special consideration to appliances that use 1,000 or more watts, such as refrigerators, hot plates, irons, microwave ovens, dishwashers, heaters and air conditioners.

Additional safety measures include:

- Use only three-pronged outlets for appliances with a three-prong plug. Never remove the grounding pin or force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Never "piggy-back" extension cords or power strips to make them longer.
- Replace any appliance that overheats, shorts out, gives off smoke or sparks, or causes small electrical shocks.
- Do not use light bulbs with wattage that is too high for the fixture, and replace all halogen bulbs with fluorescent bulbs.
- To prevent overheating, allow air space around heat-producing appliances such as TVs, plug-in radios, stereo sets, computers and powerful lamps.
- Do not let children play with or around electrical appliances, such as space heaters, irons and hair dryers.
- Keep clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- Be sure all electrical equipment bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.

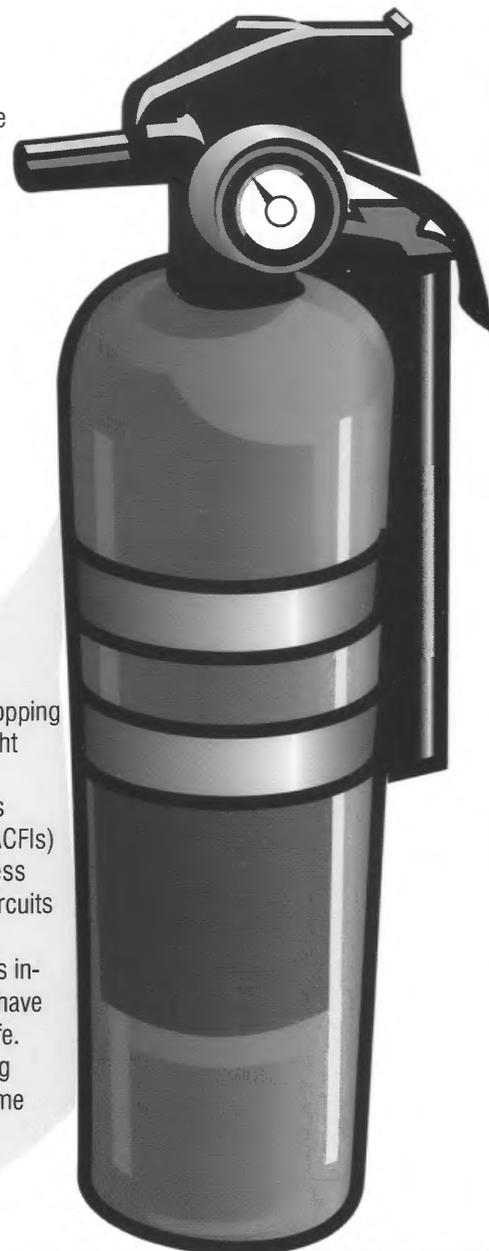
Home electrical wiring causes twice as many fires as electrical appliances. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, loose wires or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off and have a professional replace light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that spark or flicker.

The majority of fires caused by electrical wiring flaws occur in the bedroom. For this reason, Safe Electricity encourages homeowners to have Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) professionally installed on bedroom circuits. AFCI is a relatively new technology to address electrical fire hazards, and the National Electric Code now requires AFCIs for bedroom circuits in new residential construction.

In many older homes, the capacity of the wiring system has not kept pace with today's increase in modern appliances and electrical usage. If your house falls under this category, have a licensed electrician check for hazards and make essential updates to keep your home safe.

"Finally, a functioning smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire," reminds Hall. "Replace the batteries twice a year, and remember to practice a home escape plan with your family."

For more fire prevention information, visit the Web site www.SafeElectricity.org.



LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

AVAILABLE FROM CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

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 term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 number, for \$1 a month, 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 Co-operative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

**Personal
800 NUMBER**
Same low rate

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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
December 18, 2006

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/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. The invocation was given by Trustee Schnepfer.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held November 27, 2006.

Accepted 10 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$29,880.68.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of November, 2006.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of

November, 2006 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning financials of the AIEC since the meeting is not planned until a later date.

Discussed the upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting of Members.

Appointed Frank Czyzewski as voting delegate and Bob Pierson as alternate to the NRECA Annual meeting.

Appointed Bob Pierson as voting delegate and Frank Czyzewski as alternate to the CFC Annual meeting.

Appointed Frank Herman as voting delegate and Greg Smith as alternate to the NRTC Annual meeting.

Appointed Richard Rudolphi as voting delegate and Kevin Logan as alternate to the Federated Annual meeting.

Approved construction unit prices

for 2007 as presented.

Approved write-offs in the amount of \$1,117.22.

Discussed and Approved keeping policy # 800-4 the same for 2007.

Distributed revised policies under consideration.

Discussed the Investor Owned Utilities rate increase.

Distributed the AIEC 2007 calendar of events.

Updated on the repair of the service truck.

Were Informed of the progress of the tree trimming program.

Were Informed that Clay Electric Linemen Sam Kessler and Luke Johnson went to MJM Electric Cooperative in Jerseyville to assist with the repair of lines caused by the recent ice storm.

Adjournment.



Clay County Water, Inc.

Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships.

Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in you area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Why Joint Membership?

Should you change your membership to a joint membership? Maybe. It allows a husband and wife to share all benefits of membership. If your cooperative membership is in your name only, for example, and you are unable to attend the annual meeting, your spouse cannot be counted for attendance, receive an attendance gift, register for prizes, or vote at the meeting. A joint membership allows either spouse, but not both, to register for and vote at the annual meeting. In case of a joint membership the presence at a meeting of either husband or wife or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member.

Either spouse, but not both, may also be eligible to serve on the Board of Trustees if qualifications set forth have been met.

Upon the death of either spouse, a joint membership shall be deemed to be held solely by the survivor, provided however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any membership debts or liabilities to the co-operative.

Talk joint membership over with your spouse and call us at 618-662-2171 for more information or for a joint membership application.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



Grace went to an annual meeting of her fellow electric co-op owners. Which meant the whole county was there.

Only your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always there with you, reinvesting in your community.

Air Evac Lifeteam Membership Quick Facts

Save time and money with an Air Evac Lifeteam membership

Air Evac Lifeteam has been serving rural communities with air ambulance care since 1985. We provide fast, professional, safe and courteous emergency medical service. Our professionally trained crews of nurses, medics and pilots operate medically equipped helicopters that rapidly transport patients to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

As a member, Air Evac will work on your behalf with your insurance company to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your insurance company pays will be considered payment-in-full for your flight no matter how many times a year you use the service for a life or limb-threatening emergency.

Terms and Conditions

- Membership is valid 15 days after registration is received with payment.
- Members are entitled to transport by an Air Evac Lifeteam (AEL) helicopter to the closest appropriate medical facility, for medical conditions that are deemed by an attending medical professional to be life- or limb-threatening, or that could lead to permanent disability.
- A patient's medical condition will dictate whether or not air transportation is in the best interest of the patient's health and well-being. In certain conditions of compromised health, AEL will have the sole responsibility for determining whether or not a patient is flown.
- AEL is not an insurance company. AEL membership is not an insurance policy and cannot be considered as a secondary insurance coverage or a supplement to any insurance coverage.
- Membership provides prepaid protection against all covered air ambulance costs that exceed any insurance or medical benefits you may have. Members that carry insurance or other benefits that cover the costs of ambulance services are financially liable for the costs of services up to the limit of any available insurance coverage. In return for payment of the membership fee, AEL will waive all costs not covered by any insurance or benefits you may have.
- AEL reserves the right to directly bill the appropriate benefits provider for services rendered. Members agree to remit to AEL any payment received from benefit providers for air medical services provided by AEL.
- AEL will not be responsible for payment for services provided by another air ambulance service.
- Federal Aviation Administration restrictions prohibit AEL from transporting patients weighing over 400 pounds, or flying in inclement weather conditions. The primary determinant of whether to accept a flight regardless of the factor, be it patient size, weather conditions, or some other factor is always the safety of the patient and our medical flight crews.
- AEL services may not be available at the time of request for services due to factors beyond AEL's control, such as use of the appropriate aircraft by another patient or other circumstances governed by operational requirements such as regulations and maintenance.
- AEL members agree to arbitrate any and all claims, controversies or disputes against each other arising out of, or relating to, AEL membership even if the dispute arises after membership lapse. Arbitration would include any and all claims that an AEL member may bring against AEL's employees, agents, affiliates or other representatives of the company. The Federal Arbitration Act applies to this agreement and its provisions, not state law, govern all questions of whether a claim is subject to arbitration.

**Call 800-793-0010
to enroll immediately**

or visit www.lifeteam.net
for additional information

Enroll Today Membership Application

Quick STEP 1

Member Contact Information

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ MI _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

County: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Work Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____

Do you live within the city limits? Yes No

Quick STEP 2

List Persons In Household and Date of Birth (other than yourself)

1. Last Name _____ First Name _____ month _____ / day _____ / year _____

2. Last Name _____ First Name _____ month _____ / day _____ / year _____

3. Last Name _____ First Name _____ month _____ / day _____ / year _____

4. Last Name _____ First Name _____ month _____ / day _____ / year _____

Quick STEP 3

Membership Options	(select one)
1-Year Membership	\$50 for a 1 member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$55 for a 2 member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 for a 3 or more member household <input type="checkbox"/>
3-Year Membership *	\$135 for a 1 member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 for a 2 member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$165 for a 3 or more member household <input type="checkbox"/>
5-Year Membership *	\$225 for a single member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 for a 2 member household <input type="checkbox"/> \$275 for a 3 or more member household <input type="checkbox"/>

*(Multi-year memberships are not available in Indiana)

Quick STEP 4

PAYMENT OPTION 1
Personal Check
or Money Order

PAYMENT OPTION 2
Credit Card

Payment Method

If paying by personal check or money order, please enclose your payment with this form and mail to:
Air Evac Lifeteam, Post Office Box 948, West Plains, MO 65775

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ - _____ Security Code: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: **X** _____ Date: _____

this block is for Air Evac office use only

GET CODE _____

TRACK CODE _____

PLAN CODE _____

I attest that the information provided in this application is complete and accurate. This authorization or a copy will be valid for 12 months from the date of signature. I understand that Air Evac Lifeteam reserves the right to deny my enrollment or may remove my enrollment from the Air Evac Lifeteam Program based on any misuse or abuse of the program.

Form Number: AEL 1000w
Form Revised: Jan 2006

How Safe Is Your Home From Electrical Dangers?

We treasure our homes as a safe and cozy place where we can relax with family and friends. But there may be invisible hazards hidden behind your walls or lurking unseen outdoors that threaten your safety and that of your loved ones.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there's plenty of reason for concern: nearly 32,000 fires in the home were caused by faulty house wiring or wiring devices each year between 1999 and 2002. These fires resulted in 220 deaths, 950 injuries, and \$674 million in property damage annually.

Now for the good news – there is something you can do to safeguard your home from dangerous electrical hazards. The Leviton Institute recommends you hire a qualified electrician to make a thorough inspection of your house and grounds every 10 years. You should also make your own yearly inspection a part of your regular spring chores. It's easy – just follow this list:

1. Outdoor GFCIs:

Make sure all outdoor receptacles are protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) and a weather-proof cover. With warmer weather just around the corner, pools, hot tubs and barbecues are going to start getting a lot of use. Make sure pool pumps, hot tubs and appliances you use outdoors are plugged into GFCI-protected outlets. These will safeguard your friends and family from dangerous electrical shock. GFCIs detect when current is leaking from an electrical circuit to ground and automatically shut off the power at the receptacle.

2. Indoor GFCIs:

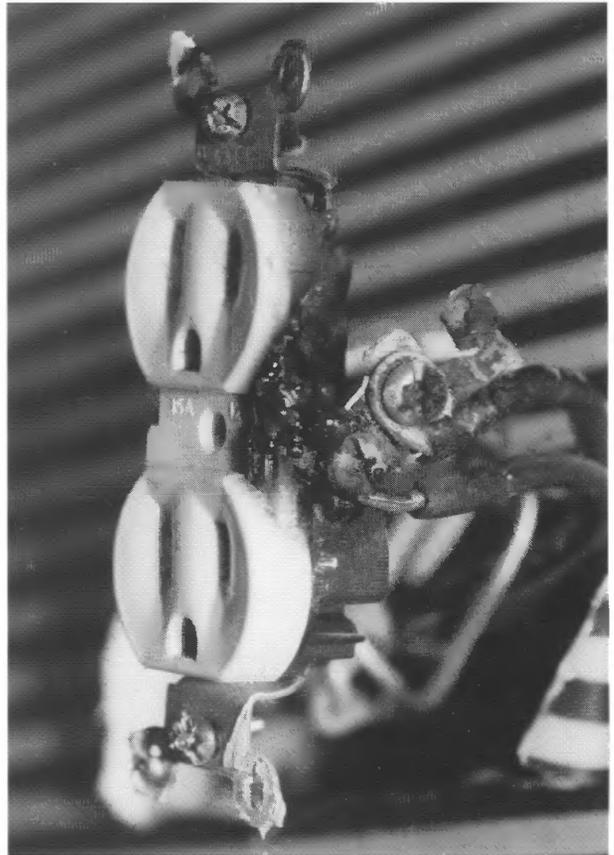
Kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms or any other place around the house that has a water source within six feet of the receptacle needs GFCI protection. Remember: water and electricity are a potentially deadly combination. Keep appliances like radios or hair dryers away from sinks, tubs and pools.

3. Defective Wiring Devices:

Check outlets and switches for cracks, broken parts or loose-fitting plugs. Replace defective devices immediately, as well as those that feel hot to the touch.

4. Overloaded Outlets:

Make sure outlets are not overloaded. Most household outlets are typically rated around 15-20 amps. Plugging too many appliances into one outlet can exceed that rating and create a fire or shock hazard.



5. Visual Inspections:

Inspect all power cords and extension cords: those showing signs of cracking, fraying or obvious wear should be replaced immediately.

6. Extension Cords:

Never run extensions under rugs, carpets or furniture where damage might occur unseen and start a fire. When using an extension cord, always plug the appliance into the extension cord first before plugging the extension cord into the outlet.

7. Light Bulbs:

Be sure to replace a burned-out light bulb with one that doesn't exceed the recommended wattage for the lamp socket.

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
January 22, 2007

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/ General Manager John Meng and cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. The invocation was given by Trustee Smith.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2006.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$25,519.21.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of December 2006.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of December 2006 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Approved the implementation of a cost of service study to be performed by the Engineering Department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC).

Reviewed and Approved offering Cooperative Services Long Term Care to Directors, Employees and Members.

Distributed two new policies for review.

Updated on personnel issues including recent CPR and AED training given to 100% of employees, medical issues and travel to other cooperatives

to aid in ice storm clean-up.

Informed of upcoming Health Fair given by the Clay County Health Department and the Clay County Hospital.

Reminded of upcoming Director training.

Reviewed and Discussed 2006 transmission costs.

Reviewed and Discussed the 2002-2006 comparison of kwh sales and revenue.

Reviewed and Approved the 2007 proposed budget as presented.

Informed of CFC note and interest changes as of January 1, 2007.

Adjournment.



Clay County Water, Inc.

Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships.

Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in you area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Health Department urges action against NPDES

New rule could cost more than 1500 homes in Clay County \$500 per year in maintenance and testing

The Clay County Health Department and the Board of Health strongly urge citizens to file comments in opposition to the proposed General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number ILG4.

This permit relates to surface discharges from homeowners' septic systems and compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act. However, data has not been provided to identify these systems as a significant public health or environmental threat.

The permit requires homeowners with a surface discharging private sewage system test the discharge from their systems twice annually. Under the testing guidelines, a discharge sample must be analyzed by a certified lab within six hours of collection. The closest lab to Clay County is located in Mt. Vernon. If test results are not within the normal range, the test must be repeated every 30 days until acceptable results are achieved. All tests and transportation expenses must be paid by the homeowner.

In addition, homeowners will be required to have maintenance agreements (another added expense) and

maintain records of inspections and sampling. Installation of a flow meter may be required and permits are non-transferable, adding to the expense of purchasing a new home. All these expenses combined would have a particularly negative impact on the portion of the population faced with fixed income issues.

Ariane Cummins, Environmental Health Director at the Clay County Health Department, estimates that more than 1,500 homes in Clay County will be affected by the permit. "The soils in Clay County do not absorb water, which makes them incompatible with subsurface seepage systems. Surface discharging systems are the only real alternative for homeowners in our area," states Cummins. The most common types of sewage systems in this category are lagoons, aeration units and buried sand filters with overflow piping to the surface.

The rule does not grandfather or exempt existing systems. It will affect nearly every private septic system in Clay County. If this proposed rule is enacted, it is estimated that the maintenance and testing will cost home-

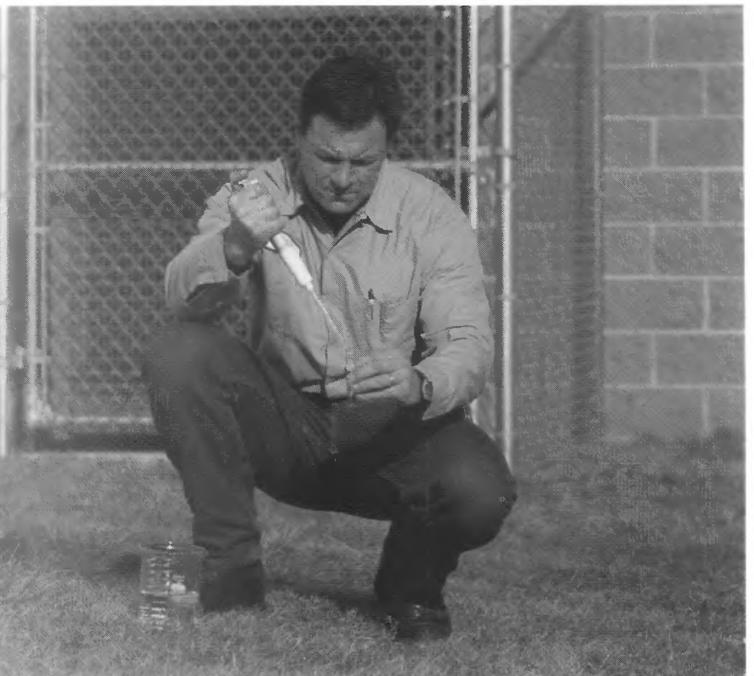
owners \$500 per system, per year for existing systems for a total estimated annual cost to Clay County homeowners of over \$750,000 per year. Also, new systems will have to go through a much longer approval process and their total cost will be much more.

As citizens, please voice your opposition to the implementation of this permit. Comments may be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to:

Hearing Officer Thomas Andryk # 21
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Fax: (217) 782-9807
Email: thomas.andryk@illinois.gov

For more information or a sample letter, contact Ariane Cummins at 662-4406, ext. 118 or visit www.healthdept.org and click on the NPDES box.

"If this proposed rule is enacted, it is estimated that the maintenance and testing will cost homeowners \$500 per system, per year for existing systems for a total estimated annual cost to Clay County homeowners of over \$750,000 per year."



What Does It Mean To You?

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Fact Sheet

► Why is this being proposed?

The USEPA Region 5 has informed the Illinois EPA that the types of surface discharges from homeowner septic systems violate the federal Clean Water Act and threaten contamination to the streams and rivers of the United States. The Illinois EPA has stated that 150,000 septic system surface discharges exist in Illinois.

► Is the health department responsible for meeting these requirements?

No! Homeowners are responsible for everything from record keeping to payment of bi-annual testing and inspection.

► My system is already installed so this has nothing to do with me.

Incorrect, these proposed regulations affect all existing surface discharging systems and systems yet to be installed.

► What test would be required?

A battery of five tests are required by the permit; Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Suspended Solids, pH, fecal coliform, and Chlorine Residual.

► What will the cost be for testing?

The Onsite Wastewater Professionals of Illinois have estimated the cost to be \$500.

► Why so much?

Samples have to be taken twice a year and be analyzed within six hours to be considered valid. Samples cannot be sent overnight, therefore they must be couriered to a lab.

► Will my system pass these tests?

Probably not. The testing is performed with a grab (catch) sample. This is not representative of the average discharge in which your system was analyzed and tested by The National Sanitation Foundation.

► If my system doesn't pass what then?

You will then be required to resample every 30 days until the sample meets satisfactory standards.

► Will I have to pay again for resampling?

Yes.

► Why won't my system pass?

The standards set for sampling by the permit are based on laboratory testing conducted by the National Sanitation Foundation under ideal conditions. Frankly, each household waste differs from family to family residing in the home.

► So, are people getting sick from these discharges?

No. The discharge is a clearwater discharge resembling rainwater or tap water. It is colorless and odorless. It would not be considered safe for drinking because of its bacterial qualities but, as the discharge dries up by percolation and evaporation, bacteria dies off. Therefore, posing very little risk of disease.

► What are the other requirements of the permit?

Homeowners will be required to have maintenance agreements and maintain records of having the system inspected and sampled twice a year. Only approved chlorine tablets labeled for use in disinfection of wastewater shall be used. A flow meter or other devices may be required to be installed. Permits are non-transferable. Therefore, an application must be made to the IEPA upon buying a home with this type of system by the new homeowner.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

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4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

4.9¢

All calls out of state

24 hours a day — 7 days a week
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**Personal
800 NUMBER**
Same low rate

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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

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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
February 26, 2007

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schaeffer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/ General Manager John Meng and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl.

The invocation was given by Trustee Herman.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held January 22, 2007.

Accepted 11 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$21,658.86

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of January 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of January 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning recent AIEC meeting.

Discussed the NRECA Annual Meeting plans.

Approved the date of September 6, 2007, for the Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Appointed John Meng as Delegate and Doug Hockman as Alternate to the Annual Meetings of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group and Rochdale Services, Inc.

Approved the following policies, Board of Trustee's and Employee's Business Ethics, the revised Employment Policy, the policy to make available Long Term Care Insurance, the Conflict of Interest Certification, and the policy regarding relocation or removal of equipment at the members request.

Updated on the Cost of Service Study being conducted by the engineering department of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

Updated on the progress of the replacement service truck.

Informed of the recent health fair where 82 percent of the employees participated.

Discussed the February 16th safety meeting conducted by AIEC

staff regarding personal and truck grounds inspections.

Updated on discussions of wholesale power.

Informed of work order inspections conducted by Powertech on February 1, 2007.

Discussed an upcoming appointment with Cooperative Finance Corporation to discuss a Financial Forecast.

Approved signing an easement for the Flora substation and surrounding property for Clay County Water, Inc. with Trustee Pierson abstaining.

Approved entering into the Supplemental Agreement for Auction Revenue Right/Financial Transmission Right Administrative Services with Ameren.

Approved rescheduling the March meeting to March 29, 2007.

Approved the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of one deceased member pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

Adjournment.

Clay County Water, Inc.

Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships. Easement work and more signups are now underway.

Do not delay, get your resi-

dence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in your area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Jake Klein 662-4144, Bob Pierson 662-7471, Bill Seelman 662-8479, Kye Hemphill 662-4590, Sue Pettit 662-4305, Dwight Edgington 678-2782 or Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.



A Lineman's Life

It's not just a job, it's an adventure. We're your electric cooperative linemen, and we're looking out for you.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50
P.O. Box 517
Flora, Illinois 62839
618-662-2171
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Office hours:
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Q&A



Why Did The Co-op Trim My Trees?

We trim trees in order to provide members with a reliable source of uninterrupted power. Our best defense against power outages is a good right-of-way clearing program. Trees growing near power lines can touch our lines during heavy winds, or branches can break off and fall onto lines during storms. These tree limbs can cause big damage. To prevent outages from tree limbs, your co-op trims trees growing near lines. We also spray vegetation growing under the lines to keep the poles accessible to line crews. If you have a tree growing close to a line on your property, let us know so we can take care of it before it causes a problem for you and your neighbors.

Don't be an Information Slowpoke

New structured wiring system can bring your home up to speed

The information superhighway – it plays such an important part in modern life that after electric, gas and water, it has become known as the “fourth utility.”

Yet, the “pipeline” that carries our information, communication and entertainment services in and throughout our homes consists mostly of plain old-fashioned telephone (POTS) lines and coaxial cable, meandering from room to room along baseboards much like yards of electronic spaghetti.

Fortunately for homeowners that has all begun to change. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), at least half of all new homes being built have some form of structured wiring. This wiring uses Category 5e high-performance Ethernet cable and RG6 coaxial cable that is wired into the house before the walls go up, just like the home's electrical system.

But, according to the Leviton Institute, structured wiring is not just for new construction. Older homes can also be retrofitted to enable homeowners to benefit from the advantages of structured wiring. Anywhere from two rooms to the whole house can be connected, depending on the homeowner's needs, and the degree of remodeling they wish to undertake.

How Structured Wiring Works

Structured wiring connects each room on a “direct run” of high capacity bundled cable to a central distribution box in the house, which manages and distributes voice, data,



video and audio signals throughout the home. Homeowners have the flexibility to plug a computer, phone, fax machine, television or security camera into a wall jack in any room in the house without the messy tangle of wires running from room to room.

Networking Your Home

But that's just the beginning. With structured wiring, home networking becomes a breeze. Here are just some of the possibilities available to you:

- Link all computers in your home into one high-speed network, sharing files, printers, scanners and other hardware.
- Monitor the security system or check on the safety of family members in different parts of the house with remote cameras, accessible from any television or computer in the home.
- Have extra phone and data lines already built in, if future need arises.
- Play music in different rooms,

controlled from a central location.

- Distribute video signals throughout the home.
- Store and distribute all the home's digital files (MP3, data, image and video files) on a home media server and view the output from the home's media player on any connected TV.

What's Next?

Before you decide to retrofit a structured wiring system for your house, consider these facts:

- Retrofitting structured wire into an existing home is not as easy as installing it in new one. Since retrofitting requires drilling holes and fishing wires behind walls, many homeowners only connect the rooms that benefit from it the most: the home office, home theatre or media room and the kitchen.
- Surprisingly, retrofitting is often easier in homes 50-55 years or older because they generally have more space behind walls, ceilings and floors than newer ones. More space makes routing easier.
- The bigger the remodeling job, the easier the retrofit. With other construction and wiring under way, adding structured wiring is both easier and less of a disruption.
- Structured wiring makes an effective “backbone” to combine with a wireless network.
- The value of the home will almost certainly increase.

Source: Leviton Institute

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

AVAILABLE FROM CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

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 term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 number, for \$1 a month, 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 Co-operative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

**Personal
800 NUMBER
Same low rate**

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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

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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
March 29, 2007

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/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. Special guests were Duane Mercer and Joe Allman with the London Witte Group. The invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan.

Heard a presentation by guests Allman and Mercer regarding the 2006 Cooperative audit performed by their company London Witt Group. After the presentation the guests left the meeting.

Reviewed, Discussed and Approved the audit as presented.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held February 26, 2007.

Accepted 8 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$11,131.87.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of February 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of February 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Approved taking bids to sell old service truck chassis and body.

Informed new service truck was delivered and in operation.

Reviewed and Discussed Ameren developments.

Updated on the September 6, 2007, Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. plans and entertainment suggestions.

Reviewed Policy # 600-2 regarding Co-Generation.

Informed that Tisha Thompson of Flora High School attended Cooperative Youth day in Springfield and will be going on the Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington DC.

Informed that Kentucky Data Link has contacted Clay Electric regarding installing fiber optic lines on cooperative poles with a rental fee paid for the use of cooperative poles.

Adjournment.



Clay County Water, Inc. Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships.

Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in your area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.



Most people think that insulation is just for keeping the cold out during the winter, but, it's actually equally important in the summer to keep the cool air inside. Your local electric cooperative can provide home building and remodeling energy savings tips booklets for you.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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Bill Payment Options

1. Budget Billing, pay the same monthly payment, based on an average of your annual electric bill.
2. ACH, the payment is automatically deducted from your checking account on the 24th of each month.
3. Credit Card payments, you may call or stop by to put your electric payment on your Visa or Master Card credit card.

Please call 618-662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012 for information on any of our rates, rebates, water heaters, building tips or payments.

Protect Your Home from Power Surges

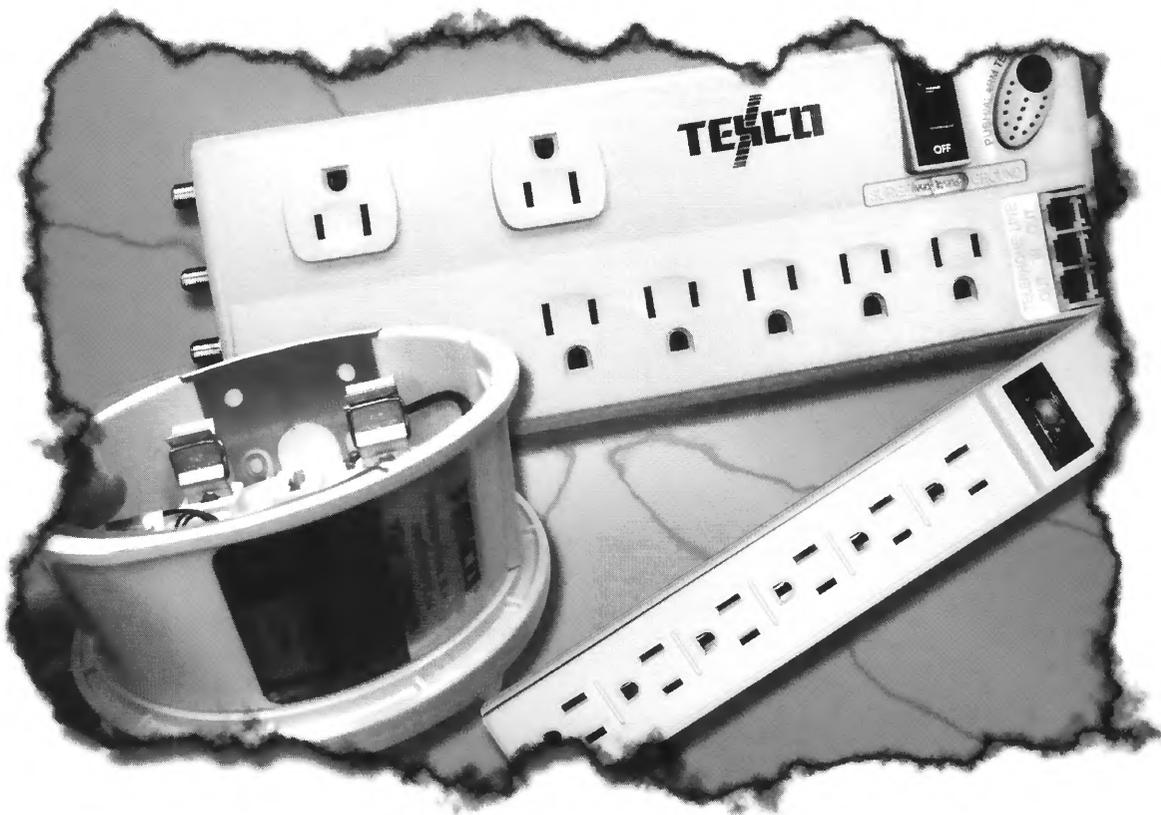
With spring storms all around us, your cooperative can help protect your sensitive and expensive electronic equipment with surge protection. A surge protector is simply a power diverter that directs harmful power spikes and disturbance safely into the outlet's grounding wire, preventing it from flowing through your electronics. Take a quick inventory of your home, and you'll see why power surge protection is more important than ever before.

Small, fast chips used in current technology are easily damaged and very costly to replace. Even small power spikes can scramble data, cause wear on components and affect performance. Surges can enter the home through electrical wiring, the phone lines or through cable TV wiring. Surges and spikes can be caused by lightning, car accidents, animals, the operation of heavy equipment on a circuit, other electrical appliances in your home, or any number of other reasons. Repairing damaged

computers or equipment could take weeks of time.

Your electric cooperative can help you decide which surge suppressors are best for your home. Please be aware that your home must be properly grounded regardless of the type of suppressor you

But beware, not all inside plug-in surge suppressors are created equal! Many people buy them based on price, not quality, and so do not have the protection they think they do. Why protect your \$2,000 plasma TV with a questionable quality \$2.99 "surge" protector? Some mul-



Why protect your \$2,000 plasma TV with a questionable quality \$2.99 "surge" protector?

choose. Check outside by your electric meter – is there a wire leading to a rod in the ground? Are the connections between the meter and the rod secure when you try to wiggle them? If not, contact the cooperative for assistance.

The next important thing to know is that for maximum protection you need both outside and inside devices. The outside, or primary surge protection equipment, is installed at the meter on your house. The secondary device is what you plug your electronic equipment into inside your house. We recommend one inside device for each piece of equipment.

multiple-outlet power strips or plug-in adaptors look very similar to surge suppressors, but have no surge suppression capabilities.

Make sure the product and packaging clearly state that the product is an Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) Listed Transient Voltage Surge Suppressor. UL assesses surge suppressors for fire, electric shock and personal injury hazards and also categorizes the suppressors for how much voltage they can "clamp," which prevents excess voltage from passing through to your electronic equipment.

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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
March 29, 2007

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. Trustee Kevin Logan was absent.

The invocation was given by Trustee Schnepfer.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held March 29, 2007.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 11 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$10,171.35.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of March 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of March 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Opened bids on old service truck chassis and body.

Awarded high bid of old service truck chassis and body to Ted Hughes.

Reminded that the nominating committee will be appointed at the May meeting.

Scheduled the nominating committee meetings for June 26, 2007

Reviewed and Discussed transmission charges with Ameren and Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO).

Approved moving the next regular monthly meeting to Tuesday May 29, 2007, in observance of Memorial Day.

Approved one purchase of pow-

er agreement in the form as presented.

Informed of one employee off work due to an injury.

Reviewed and Informed of a telephone scam that was published in the local papers.

Updated on the cost of service study being performed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) engineering staff.

Informed of a company wanting to install and rent space for overhead fiber optic cable on Clay Electric poles.

Informed of a recent purchase of a used forklift.

Informed of information regarding the rate freeze in the House and Senate.

Reviewed the Financial Trending Analysis.

Adjournment.



Clay County Water, Inc.

Got Water?

Clay County Water, Inc is designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer, and East Xenia Townships. Easement work and more signups are still underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by.

If you are interested in water, when it is available in your area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Jake Klein 662-4144, Bob Pierson 662-7471, Bill Seelman 662-8479, Kye Hemphill 662-4590, Sue Pettit 662-4305, Dwight Edgington 678-2782, or Doug Hockman 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Plan to Attend Your Annual Meeting

The 63rd Annual Meeting of Members of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2007, at Charlie Brown Park, West of Flora. The entertainment this year is "Joyful Noise." The registration and meal begins at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Office Closing



Our office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

7784 Old Hwy. 50
P.O. Box 517
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Office hours:
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A major cause of blinks and outages is branches and limbs that fall on electric lines. With thousands of miles of right of way to maintain we have a lot to trim each year. You can help. Don't plant trees near power lines. We'll all benefit from cleaner and more reliable power.

We're looking out for you at your local electric cooperative.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

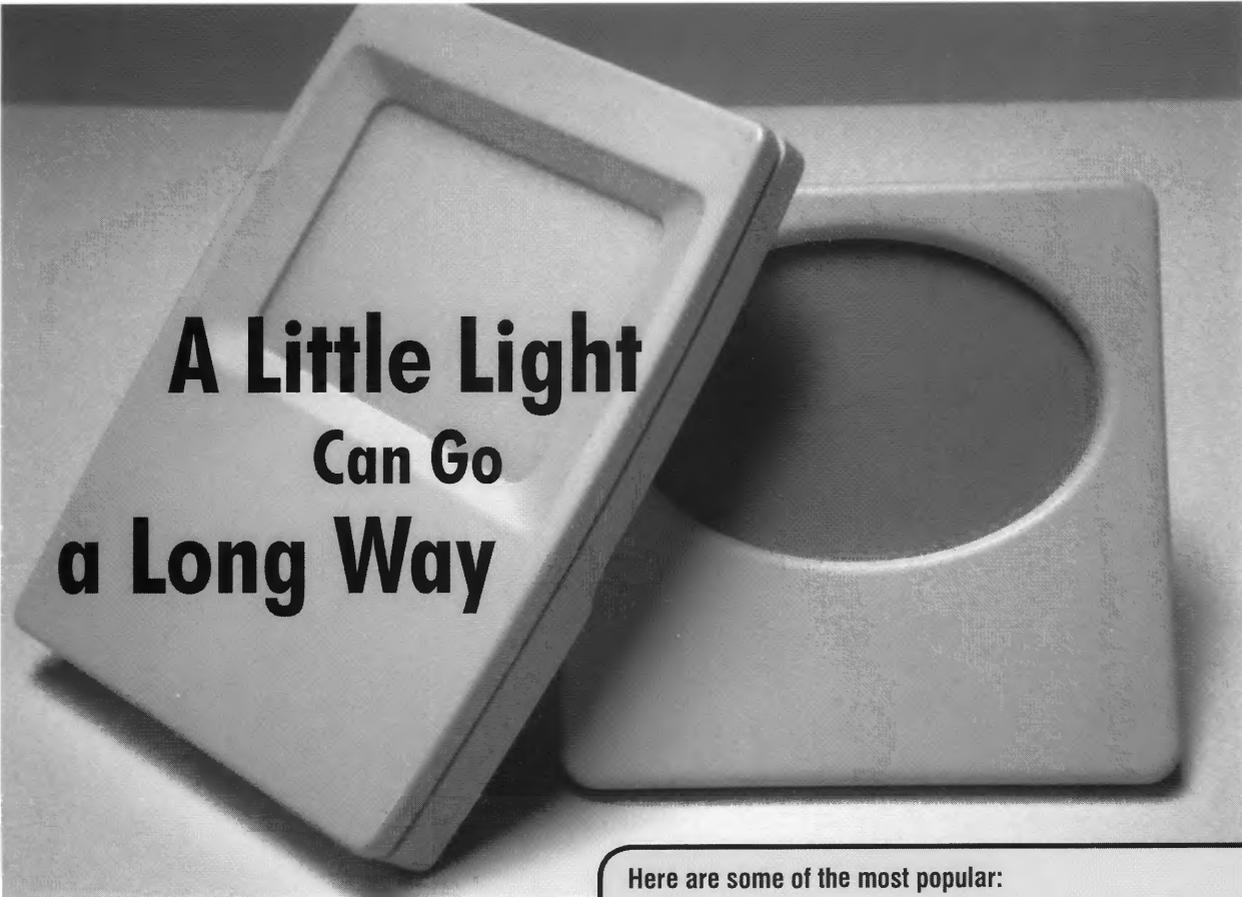


In Memory of

Lewis Pettit

1921 - 2007

Lewis Pettit, 85 of Flora, IL died on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at Clay County Hospital in Flora. He was born December 13, 1921, in Flora. He married Grace Holman on July 14, 1945, in Flora. Lewis was an area farmer and a WWII Army Air Corps Veteran. Lewis served on the Board of Directors of Clay Electric Cooperative from 1985 to 1998. He is survived by his wife, Grace, son, David (Sue) Pettit and daughter, Donna Jean (Dennis) Slankard, all of Flora. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery with military honors. Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.



A Little Light Can Go a Long Way

It's natural to look for ways to make every corner of your home a little more bright and cozy. Yet with the price of electricity as high as it is, you probably don't want to keep your lights on any longer than you have to. So how do you add a warming glow of light to hallways, bedrooms and bathrooms? Simple: night-lights.

Night-lights are a great way to add convenience lighting to your home for just pennies a day. Available in a multitude of different styles, they're inexpensive to purchase and operate and can be used anywhere in your home. They radiate a comforting glow in bedrooms, bathrooms, hallways or any other area of your home where convenience lighting is needed after dark.

Night-lights are ideal for homes with toddlers, small children or seniors. Statistics show that one out of every three people over the age of 65 falls each year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2/3 of them will unfortunately fall again within six months. Children, too, can wake up disoriented or afraid in a dark room.

A night-light can be a reassuring beacon in the dark for young and old alike. That's why the Leviton Institute recommends adding night-lights to your home lighting mix. There are a number of appealing options to consider when choosing night-lights for your home.

Here are some of the most popular:

□ LED night-lights use long-lasting (up to five years) energy-efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) instead of light bulbs. They are available in a rainbow of colors and an almost unlimited number of styles. LED night-lights are cool to the touch and energy efficient. They are suitable for any room in the home and are especially ideal for children's rooms.

□ Incandescent night-lights cast a soft, soothing glow with a small (typically 4-5watt), easy-to-replace bulb. They are economical and great for providing that extra measure of security.

□ Light Sensing night-lights feature an automatic sensor that turns the night-light ON at dusk, OFF at dawn, eliminating the need to manually switch them ON and OFF every day.

□ Sonar-activated night-lights respond to sound, switching ON and OFF again automatically after a short interval in response to sounds such as footsteps, breaking glass, tapping, knocking or worrisome noises.

□ Motion-sensor night-lights detect when you are walking by them and switch on to brighten your way. They create a safe path for family or guests, and then automatically switch off again, saving electricity.

□ Rotating night-lights can be shined up, down or anywhere you need to direct light within 360 degrees. These are ideal for lighting a safe way down hallways or staircases and make custom-tailored light levels easy.

Source: Leviton Institute

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

AVAILABLE FROM CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

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 term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 number, for \$1 a month, 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 Co-operative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. Utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4th largest carrier). This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available.

**Personal
800 NUMBER**
Same low rate

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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 29, 2007

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. Trustee Frank Herman was absent.

The invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan

Heard a report by Carl Dufner, Vice President of Engineering of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) regarding the Cost of Service Study.

Reviewed, Discussed and Approved the recommendations based upon the Cost of Service Study and Rate Design Project, to become effective January 1, 2008.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held April 23, 2007.

Approved 12 new members for service.

Canceled 8 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$38,338.19.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of April 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of April 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC Board meeting.

Reviewed correspondence from Don Wood, Vice President of Government Relations of the AIEC regarding a new generation tax.

Reviewed, Discussed and Acknowledged that the amortization of the Soyland debt should be moved from the Purchase power/other expense category to the Depreciation/Amortization category on the operating report.

Appointed the nominating committee's for District's I, III, & IX that are to meet on June 26, 2007.

Reminded of the upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting July 26 & 27, 2007.

Appointed Trustee Pierson as the voting Representative and Trustee Rudolphi as the alternate for the AIEC Annual Meeting.

Appointed Trustee Logan as the Director and Trustee Rudolphi as the alternate for the AIEC.

Reviewed and Discussed wholesale power suppliers.

Approved the resolution for RS and 401k as recommended by NRECA in the form as presented.

Heard & Approved a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding 1 Purchase of Power Agreement.

Heard & Approved a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estates of two deceased members pursuant to cooperative policy.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the May safety meeting and that all hot sticks were tested. Adjournment.



Clay County Water, Inc. Water now available for five new townships

Clay County Water, Inc is now designing a rural water system for water customers in Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, East Songer and East Xenia Townships. Easement work and more signups are now underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water when it is available in you area you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Jake Klein 662-4144, Bob Pierson 662-7471, Bill Seelman 662-8479, Kye Hemphill 662-4590, Sue Pettit 662-4305, Dwight Edgington 678-2782 or Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.

Introducing Chris & Kendra Beckett & Cooperative Care Planning Services

Dear Clay Electric Co-op Member,

As a community service, Clay Electric Cooperative is providing dependable information on planning for your future and retirement needs.

Many of us don't like to think about getting older, or even think that we will grow old. However, it is important to begin preparing for the probability that as we age, we will need help performing routine tasks such as bathing or dressing¹.

Unfortunately, the truth is that there is a **50/50² chance that you will need to utilize some type of long-term care assistance**, whether it be home health care, assisted living, adult day care, or even a nursing home, in our later years. Although this is a normal part of aging, most people do not plan adequately, or at all. Since the average **Long Term Care stay can cost \$60,000³ a year**, this can create a crisis for many American families today!

The United States government has launched a public awareness campaign called "Own Your Future."³ The goal of this campaign is to inform the public of the extreme importance of pre-need planning before and during retirement, concerning health care and care giving. You may review the government program at www.aoa.gov/LTC/index.asp.

In order to maintain concern for the community, **member/owners are invited to participate in the same voluntary program that Clay Electric Co-operative has made available to its employees, retirees, and directors.** The goal of this program is to educate member/owners about Long Term Care needs, so that they can avoid the devastation of the #1 financial burden facing Middle America today!

As a member/owner of Clay Electric Cooperative **you are offered this coverage at a discounted rate.** Please contact Cooperative Care Planning Services for your free guide or to simply get more information. Long Term Care needs are best met when they are planned for ahead of time¹. Take advantage, today, of this incredible program that is being offered to co-op members across the country.

Sincerely,

Kendra R. Beckett
D. Chris Beckett
Cooperative Care Planning Services
Field Representative

End notes:

1 http://www.aoa.gov/ltc/state_info.asp

2 Wall Street Journal, 27 Dec. 2005.

3 2005 MetLife Market Summary of Nursing Home and Health Care Costs.

 Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.



Kendra Beckett
CCPS Field Representative



Chris Beckett
CCPS Field Representative

Please visit
cooperativecareplanning.com

**Call 1-800-252-9910
For More Information
And
Your Free Guide**



ASSOCIATE MEMBER

*Associate membership in NRECA does not signify an endorsement of products or services.

Please send me my free Paying for Health Care in Retirement Guide.

I would like a Free, No Pressure Consultation from a Cooperative Care Planning Rep.

✂ Name: _____ Age: _____
Spouse: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Telephone: _____

Mail To: 2341 West White Oaks Drive, Springfield, IL 62704

The ABCs of Saving Your Life

Reading the names of electrical safety devices is a lot like looking at an eye chart: GFCI, IDCI, ALCI, AFCI, LCDI – the letters kind of run together.

But don't worry. There's nothing wrong with your eyes, or your glasses. All those letters are just a handy way of shortening the names of various devices that can protect you and your family from dangerous electrical hazards at home. The Leviton Institute recommends you learn about these devices and install them where needed in your home. These devices can save your life, or the life of a loved one.



GFCI

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters prevent shock or electrocution by monitoring the current flowing through a circuit. If an appliance is damaged, current can leak out of it (similar to water leaking from a broken pipe). Unfortunately, it can travel to ground through a person holding the appliance in a wet or damp area. The GFCI-equipped receptacle senses the current imbalance and immediately shuts off the power at the receptacle.

So effective are GFCIs in preventing shock that the National Electric Code (NEC) has required them in new bathrooms since the mid-1970s. Since then, the list has grown longer to include kitchens, crawl spaces, unfinished basements, garages, or any place indoors within six feet of water. Outdoors, GFCIs are required near pools and hot tubs. Remember: water and electricity are a dangerous combination.

GFCIs do need to be checked monthly or after major electrical storms to be sure they still work. It only takes a minute, but you need to read the manufacturer's instructions on how to check them; there are two basic models with small but important differences between them.

IDCI and ALCI

Immersion Detection Circuit Interrupters and Appliance Leakage Circuit Interrupters are those large, boxy plugs found at the end of hair dryers and certain other small appliance cords. They work in slightly different ways, but both safeguard you by shutting off power should an appliance be immersed in water, as in a sink or bathtub.

However, even if it's protected by an IDCI or ALCI, don't assume it's OK to stick your hand in the water to retrieve a submerged appliance. Shut the circuit off first, unplug the appliance, drain the water, and then remove the appliance.

AFCI

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters are designed to shut off a circuit when they detect an arc. AFCIs respond much more quickly than regular circuit breakers or fuses and are useful for preventing fires caused by arcing. Considering that more than 40,000 fires claiming over 350 lives a year are caused by problems in home wiring, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), it's no mystery why AFCIs are required in bedrooms for new residential construction. AFCIs can be mounted in breaker panels or receptacles, or sometimes in the plug cap itself.

LCDI

Leakage Current Detection Interrupters sense when arcing is imminent in a room air conditioner power cord, and automatically shut the unit off before a fire can get started. The LCDI monitors whether any current is leaking from one of the conductors onto a wire mesh shield that's built into the cord. LCDIs are required by the NEC on new room air conditioners, where they are built right into the plug cap on the power cord.

Apart from the names, there's nothing all that difficult to understand about these electrical safety devices. Just remember to install them where needed, check them periodically, and they'll do the rest, protecting your home and loved ones from electrical hazards.

Source: the Leviton Institute

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

LOW RATES!

AVAILABLE FROM CLAY ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE

4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

4.9¢

All calls out of state

24 hours a day — 7 days a week
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- Free to join
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 number, for \$1 a month, same low rate
- Free calling cards 12.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
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**Personal
800 NUMBER
Same low rate**

**For Additional Information Call: Toll Free - 1-877-796-2333 or
Mail Application to: Clay Electric Co-operative, 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

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

Customer Signature _____ Date _____

Referred By: _____ Phone # or Acct. # _____

Flora Academic Foundation Annual Appleknocker Festival

Flora, Illinois

Saturday, Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In-and-around Flora High School and Washington School

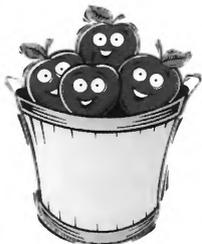
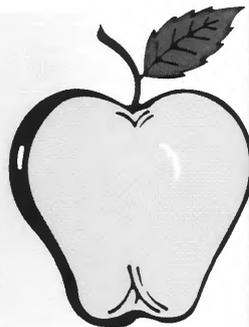
The day kicks off with the annual Jerry Jennings Memorial 5K and 1 Mile run at 8:30 a.m. Trophies are awarded onstage at 9:50 a.m. (Additional information and registration forms may be accessed online at www.floraschools.com/faf.htm.)

Festival activities begin at 10 a.m.

All entertainment is free to the public

Featured entertainment includes:

- 🍏 Jesse White Tumbling Team from Chicago
- 🍏 US Air Force Band of Mid-America's Lincolnland Brass Quintet
- 🍏 Kahok Dancers from the Metro-east area
- 🍏 Jonie Pollard's Tumble and Twisters Cheer Squad
- 🍏 Dave Hepler, a creative piano player from Indianapolis, IN
- 🍏 Mickey's Arena featuring displays and activities
- 🍏 DAS-zle Dance Team



Other outstanding entertainment includes the following:

- 🍏 Flora High School Performance Band
- 🍏 Crawford County Crazy Clowns
- 🍏 Balloon Creations
- 🍏 Stilt Walker
- 🍏 Mime
- 🍏 One-Man Band
- 🍏 Woodcarver

The entertainment is enhanced with numerous exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities sponsored by local clubs, businesses, churches and other community organizations. Those attending will also enjoy trips to Food Alley, which features a wide variety of special treats to enjoy throughout the day.

FAF Appleknocker Chairperson:
Jan Phillips
PO Box 478
Flora, IL 62839

FAF President:
Sandy Thomas
55 Natchez Trace
Flora, IL 62839



The stilt walker and magician make an odd couple as they stand side-by-side ready to entertain the festival crowd.



The Apple Dumplin' gang begins preparation of the approximately 700 apple dumplin's that are made and sold on Festival Day. This group has been a part of Appleknocker since its beginning some 18 years ago, and their stand is always a popular attraction with festival-goers.

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
June 25, 2007

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepper and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/ General Manager John Meng and cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. Special guest was Tisha Thompson, Student Youth Tour Representative, her mother Juli Thompson and Doug Hockman, Member Services Director.

The invocation was given by Trustee Herman.

Heard a report by Tisha Thompson regarding the cooperative-sponsored Youth Day in Springfield, IL and the Youth to Washington, DC Tour. Her mother also offered her gratitude to the cooperative for making this trip possible.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held May 29, 2007.

Accepted 25 new members for service.

Canceled 22 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$21,698.83.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of May 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of May 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

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

Reviewed and Discussed the Midwest Independent Systems Operator (MISO) transmission charges. Reminded of upcoming Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) Annual Meeting.

Appointed President Czyzewski as National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) voting delegate and Trustee Pierson as alternate.

Reminded of upcoming Region V meeting.

Approved write-offs in the

amount of \$1,019.38.

Discussed hiring a collection agency to assist in collecting delinquent accounts.

Heard & Approved a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the retirement of capital credits to the estate of one deceased member pursuant to cooperative policy.

Updated on wholesale power supplier discussions.

Reviewed the Megawatt Daily graph provided by Ameren Marketing. Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the most recent safety meeting on Forklift Training and Safety and recent safety updates.

Reminded of upcoming nominating committee meetings.

Updated on recent construction projects.

Adjournment.



John heard a powerful voice at the electric co-op meeting. His own.

Only Clay Electric co-operative makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, Clay Electric is always there with you, reinvesting in your community. That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.

Easements Needed!

Call Clay County Water, Inc. to give your easement

The ongoing Phase II water project for parts of Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, SE Xenia, and SW Songer Townships is underway and needs your help. We are in the process of obtaining easements to place the water line just outside of the road right of way (ROW) on the property owner.

The reason we do not want to use the road ROW is in case

the road is ever widened, Clay County Water (CCW) will not have to bear the expense of moving the line out of the ROW onto the property owner at that time. Even if you are fortunate enough to have a good water well at your residence, your neighbor may not, and they desperately need the water, so please grant us an easement.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) requires CCW to obtain at least 80 percent of the easements for the entire project before we can go back to them for the construction funding application.

Please call to find out if the water line is projected to cross any of your property

so that we may get with you and obtain an easement.

Signups for memberships is still underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in you area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now, and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Jake Klein 662-4144, Bob Pierson 662-7471, Bill Seelman 662-8479, Kye Hemphill 662-4590, Sue Pettit 662-4305, Dwight Edgington 678-2782, or Doug Hockman 662-6666 for any questions, to grant your easement, or to be placed on the map.

“Even if you are fortunate enough to have a good water well at your residence, your neighbor may not, and they desperately need the water, so please grant us an easement.”

Office Closing



Our office will be closed Monday, September 3rd, for Labor Day.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

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4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

4.9¢

All calls out of state

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- No term agreements • Major carrier
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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 • 800-582-9012
FLORA, ILLINOIS

48

63rd Annual Meeting of Members

Clay Electric Co-operative members learned about a 2008 rate increase during the co-op's 63rd annual meeting, held Thursday, September 6, at Charley Brown Park in Flora.

Manager John Meng told members that the co-op must pass a 4.1 percent rate increase beginning January 1, 2008. Meng said that the majority of members are on Rate 1, which should see no more than a \$5 per month increase. Members on electric heat rates will see increases similar to Rate 1. Meng had warned members last year that an increase was on the horizon, though the actual increase is less than anticipated.

The increase comes about after an agreement was entered into between the co-op and Ameren Energy Marketing for the supply of wholesale power for 2007, 2008 and 2009. Meng reminded members that wholesale power costs are the single largest expense item for the co-op and makes up .50 of every dollar that comes into the cooperative. He said the reasons for increases in wholesale power costs include the increased price of natural gas, coal, and transmission expenses, compliance with new environmental regulations including new carbon regulations now being considered, and the increasing demand for



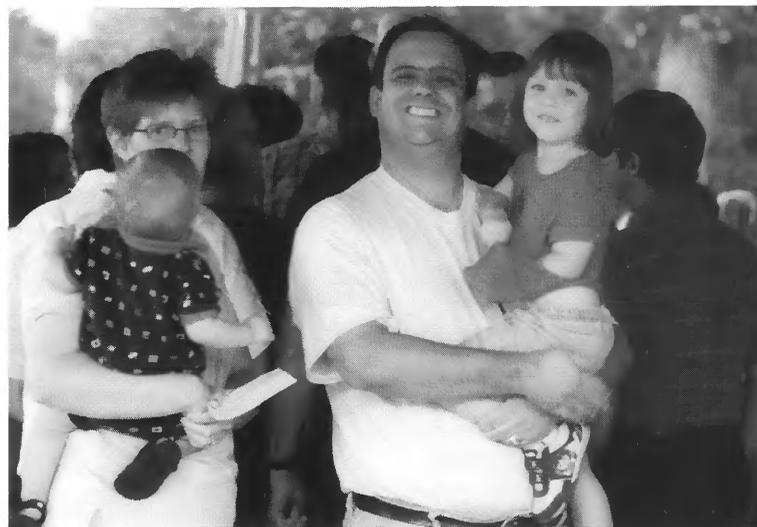
During the meeting the more than 266 registered members re-elected three men to the co-op's board of directors. Shown with General Manager John Meng, far left, are Howard Poehler of Ingraham, Frank Herman of Xenia and Kevin Logan of Edgewood.

energy both domestically and globally.

The co-op has estimated that the cost for wholesale power and transmission for 2007 and 2008 will have increased by \$535,000. The 4.1 percent increase will generate approximately \$220,000 of that

increase. "This means that the board has made a decision not to pass the

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

other \$315,000 increase on to the members," said Meng. "This opportunity does not present itself every time there is the need for a rate adjustment but here is an example of when it did the board took the opportunity to help the members of Clay Electric Co-operative."

"Looking ahead to 2009, at this time, it appears there could be the need for as much as a 7 percent increase in rates," said Meng. The co-op will conduct another rate study to determine the increase. "It is the intent of the board to minimize this adjustment if at all possible." The co-op is already working to secure wholesale

power costs beyond 2009.

Additional information about the rate increase will be provided through Illinois Country Living magazine and a letter to be sent to members prior to receiving the February 2008 bill.



Meeting with Clay management, employees and directors is one advantage of attending the annual meeting. Here, Manager John Meng talks to members.



Blood Pressure Checks were offered throughout the day.



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

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

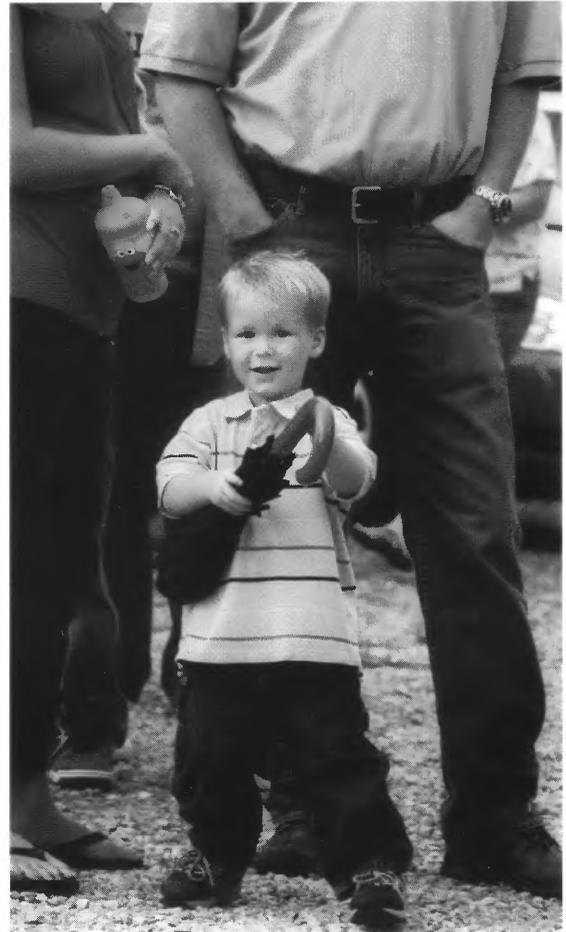
Office hours:
8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.



Air Evac LifeTeam was on hand once again this year to talk to members. See the cover feature story about this amazing team on page 10.



Musical Trio Joyful Noise consisting of Dan Kuhlig, Jay Keele and David Koontz entertained guests during the meeting with their southern and contemporary gospel sound.



Many members come prepared with lawn chairs, this little guy went one step further and brought his umbrella, which he thankfully never needed.

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
July 23, 2007

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/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl.

The invocation was given by Trustee Dunigan.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 25, 2007.

Accepted 15 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$81,854.44.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June, 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of June 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Reminded of upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting.

Discussed plans for the upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members.

Approved a lease agreement with the City of Flora on the fairgrounds buildings for the Clay Electric Annual Meeting.

Approved a donation to the Louisville American Legion war memorial.

Appointed Trustee Logan as Region

V NRECA voting delegate and Trustee Herman as alternate.

Appointed Trustee Logan as the Region V CFC voting delegate and Trustee Herman as alternate.

Authorized the replacement of a Cooperative lawnmower.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr Meng regarding a Region Plan for Clay County and Approved a donation if the project materializes.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning NRECA Medical Insurance.

Updated on wholesale power supplier discussions.

Adjournment.

Clay County Water, Inc.

The ongoing Phase II water project for parts of Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, SE Xenia, and SW Songer Townships is underway and needs your help. We are in the process of obtaining easements to place the water line just outside of the Road Right of Way (ROW) on the property owner.

The reason we do not want to use the Road ROW is in case the road is ever widened, Clay County Water (CCW) will not have to bear the expense of moving the line out of the ROW onto the property owner at that time.

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Please call to find out if the water line is projected to cross any of your property so that we may get with you and obtain an easement.

Signups for memberships is still underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by.

If you are interested in water, when it is available in your area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now, and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

Contact Jake Klein 662-4144, Bob Pierson 662-7471, Bill Seelman 662-8479, Kye Hemphill 662-4590, Sue Pettit 662-4305, Dwight Edgington 678-2782, or Doug Hockman at 662-6666 for any questions or to be placed on the map.



Seven 2008 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng has announced that for the thirteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2008 to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

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



lege who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship,” says Manager John Meng “Clay Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one.”

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

For more information contact Doug Hockman at Clay Electric at 618-662-2171 or ask your high school guidance counselor.



Office Closing

Our office will be closed Monday, Nov. 12 for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving.

A TIME TO *Give Thanks*



Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
August 27, 2007

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/ General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl.

The invocation was given by Trustee Schnepfer.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 23, 2007.

Accepted 17 new members for service.

Canceled 18 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$39,117.62.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July, 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of July 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent AIEC meeting.

Discussed plans for the upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting of Members.

Were Reminded of upcoming Region V Meeting.

Updated on wholesale power supplier discussions.

Reviewed and Discussed revisions to Policy 200-3.

Received information from Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning NRECA Medical Insurance.

Reviewed summaries of work orders for 2005, 2006 & 2007.

Updated on the mapping project.

Updated on various safety maintenance issues including on the job audits and the servicing of fire extinguishers.

Informed of a copper theft incident.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning the retirement of capital credits to the estates of 2 deceased members, and Approved those retirements pursuant to Cooperative policy.

Discussed the ongoing Phase II Clay County Water project.

Reviewed the Financial Trending Analysis Adjournment.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

We Need Easements - You Can Help

Clay County Water, Inc. must receive
easement for project to continue

The ongoing Phase II water project for parts of Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, SE Xenia and SW Songer Townships is underway and needs your help. We are in the process of obtaining easements to place the water line just outside of the Road Right of Way (ROW) on the property owner.

Even if you are fortunate enough to have a good water well at your residence, your neighbor may not, and they desperately need the water, so please grant us an easement.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) requires CCW to obtain at least 80 percent of the easements for the entire project before we can go back to them for the construction funding application.

Please call to find out if the water line is projected to cross any of your property so that we may get with you and obtain an easement.

Signups for memberships are also still underway. Do not delay, get your residence signed up so that your area is not passed by. If you are interested in water, when it is available in your area, you must sign an agreement and make a \$50 deposit now, and then when water is available in your area we ask for the remaining \$250 for a total of \$300 tap fee.

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At your co-op, we belong to a family. It's a family of more than 600 cooperatives—
who all work together to provide a reliable source of electricity for you.
Together, we'll always be looking out for you, your family and your community.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Prepare Now for a Power Outage

Your electric cooperative strives to keep your power on 24 hours a day. And we do what we can to ensure reliable power, but we can't prevent winter ice and snow storms that can cause damage to our lines.

We will work to get your power on as quickly as possible, but sometimes that can take awhile. Follow the tips below to stay comfortable and safe during an extended outage. And remember, if you're ever out of power, please call the cooperative and remain patient if you receive a busy signal due to a large number of calls.

Prepare Now

Keep the following on hand this winter to be sure you're ready if a power outage occurs.

- If you have a generator, make sure it is correctly hooked up with a transfer switch to avoid it sending power back through electric lines.
- Flashlights or candles
- Battery powered radio
- Manual can opener and non-perishable foods that don't need cooking (like canned fruit, peanut butter, crackers, cereal bars, etc.)
- Keep charcoal or propane for your outdoor grill so you can prepare food outdoors.
- Store extra water in jugs or even your bathtub if you know a storm is on the way. You can melt snow later if it's a snow storm. You can use the water to flush your toilet by pouring the water into the tank.
- Keep enough medications to last a few days.
- Keep diapers, formula or other special items on hand if needed.
- Keep your gas tank full and cash on hand in case you need to make trips to the store or for an emergency.
- Make sure you have a corded phone, a cordless phone will not work when the power is out. Cell phones can't be recharged unless you have an automobile charger.
- If you have a wood stove, make sure you have wood available. If not, keep extra blankets easily accessible.
- Know what to do if your pipes begin to freeze, ask your plumber now.
- If you or a family member rely on life support equipment, have a generator or know where you will go in case of an outage.

During the Outage

- Turn off all your appliances. When power is restored, turn on appliances one at a time. Leave one light on to tell you when power comes back on.
- Leave your refrigerator or freezer closed.

Stay Safe

Never, ever, touch downed power lines on your property. They may be energized even if you are without power. Call your co-op immediately if you see any hazardous conditions.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Board meeting report

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
September 24, 2007

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Loren Dunigan, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Howard Poehler, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schaeffer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng and cooperative Attorney Tyra Cycholl. Bob Pierson was absent. The invocation was given by Trustee Logan.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held August 27, 2007.

Approved the minutes of the organizational meeting held September 6, 2007.

Accepted 20 new members for service.

Canceled 13 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$11,522.65.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of August 2007.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of August 2007 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the AIEC financials as no meeting was held this month.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the recent Region V Meeting.

Reviewed and Discussed policy # 100-10 regarding business ethics after discussion all board members signed the policy.

Discussed the recent Clay Electric

Annual Meeting of Members.

Informed of upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

Updated on wholesale power supplier discussions, and an upcoming informational meeting.

Approved policy # 200-3 regarding cash deposits as presented.

Discussed changing the December board meeting date to December 17, 2007.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng concerning the retirement of capital credits to the estate of one deceased member, and **Approved** those retirements pursuant to cooperative policy.

Presented copies of the cooperative by-laws to each board member.

Adjournment.

Your Neighbors May Need Your Help

Water line easements needed to continue with water project

The ongoing Phase II water project for parts of Stanford, South Clay City, Harter, SE Xenia and SW Songer Townships is underway and needs your help. We are in the process of obtaining easements to place the water line just outside of the Road Right of Way (ROW) on the property owner.

Even if you are fortunate enough to have a good water well at your residence, your neighbor may not, and they desperately need the water, so please grant us an easement.

Please call to find out if the water line is projected to cross any of your property so that we may get with you and obtain an easement.

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Bill Payment Options

Budget Billing

Pay the same monthly payment, based on an average of your annual electric bill.

ACH

The payment is automatically deducted from your checking account on the 24th of each month, and you still get your bill card around the 15th of the month showing you what will be deducted from your checking account.

Credit Card payments

You may call or stop by to put your electric payment on your Visa or Master Card credit card.

Please call 618-662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012 for information on any of our rates, rebates, water heaters, building tips or payments.

Don't Want To Pay Those High Gas Prices?

Check with your local Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) dealers about installing very efficient (in some cases 400 percent efficient) Geo-Thermal ground source and air-to-air heat pumps to replace those less efficient gas furnaces.

Call us about our electric heat rate (21) and our total electric rate (31).

If you have electric heat and also have gas appliances, you may qualify for our rate 21.

If your home is total electric with no gas appliances, you may qualify for our total electric rate 31.

Building New or Upgrading Old?

If you are considering upgrading your existing HVAC system or building a new home and installing high efficiency air to air or geo-thermal heat pumps check with us about our energy efficiency building tips, rebates and water heater incentives. We have lifetime warranted Marathon Water Heaters in stock.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Q&A

Why Do I Receive This Magazine?



The board of directors of this cooperative has voted to provide you with Illinois Country Living magazine every month. Why? Because as a member, you need to be kept informed of what is happening at the co-op. Through this publication, we try to keep you up-to-date on what is new at the co-op, how to conserve energy, ways to stay safe around electricity, and what is happening on the legislative front concerning energy issues, all while also providing information we feel rural Illinoisans will enjoy, like recipes, a calendar of events and gardening sections.



Few things are a given anymore, but one thing is for sure, your local electric cooperative is right here, giving you the service you've come to expect.



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

Operation Decoration

Tips for Keeping the Home Safe This Holiday Season

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics show that, on average, live and artificial Christmas trees are the ignition sources of 300 reported U.S. home structure fires each year resulting in 14 fatalities, 21 injuries and \$16.8 million in property damage.

“The last thing you want during the holidays is a blazing Christmas tree,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s Assistant Vice President of Communications. “Following simple safety measures like making sure your tree is well watered, and keeping open flames, such as burning candles, away from the tree will help keep you and your home safe.”

During this holiday season, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) and the NFPA offer these additional safety tips for seasonal decorating:

Christmas Trees

- Regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks burn faster than fresher, well-watered trees. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times.
- Make sure your tree stand holds at least 1 gallon of water. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of trunk diameter. The average 6-foot tree has a 4-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as 4 quarts or 1 gallon of water per day.
- Keep your tree at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don’t place the tree where it blocks an exit.

Lighting

- Look for the UL Mark on light strings, electrical decorations and



extension cords. The UL Mark means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards such as fire and electric shock.

- Ensure outside lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use. Lights intended for indoor-only use bear green holographic UL Marks. Light strings intended for indoor and outdoor use bear red holographic UL Marks.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration — new or old — before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, bare or loose wires can cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- Don’t use staples or nails to hang light strings. Instead, purchase plastic hooks or clips designed for hanging light strings.
- Check packaging to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected or use this rule of thumb: Connect a maximum of three midget (push-in bulbs) light strings or up to 50 bulbs of

light strings with the screw-in bulbs (C7s and C9s).

- Don’t overload extension cords by plugging in too many decorations.
- Turn off all electrical lights and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for electrical decorations.

Candles

- Keep candles away from combustible materials, such as decorations, paper, wreaths and boughs.
- Place candles away from places that could be knocked over by a person or pet.
- Use sturdy, non-combustible candleholders that can collect dripping wax and won’t tip over.

For more holiday decorating tips regarding tree fire prevention, electrical safety, ladder safety and candle safety, please log on to the Web at www.ul.com/newsroom or www.nfpa.org.