

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Clay Electric sends students to Youth Day

State Senator Dale Righter and Representative David Reis met with students representing Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 18 in Springfield. More than 210 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti addressed students and chaperones. Sanguinetti discussed her humble beginnings and being encouraged to not allow her background to limit her future. With her passion for volunteerism in local communities, she challenged students, “you never know where life may take you. Volunteer, make a difference. If not you, then who?” Illinois State Fair Manager Luke Sailer, a former

Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, challenged the students to take an interest in the political process and stressed how important their voices and actions are. He encouraged them to “take a leap of faith and work hard, and doors will open for you and your future.”

Faye Yang, the 2017-18 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process. After lunch, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 24 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.



Pictured with Senator Dale Righter and Representative David Reis are students Nicholas Miller, Collin Moseley, Madison Harrell, Reis, Righter, Angel Keller, Cali Wilson, and Vivian Duquaine.

Clay Electric Co-operative office temporary location

Temporary office headquarters is the trailer across the street (North side of Old Hwy 50) during the construction of the new Clay Electric office.



Maintain the safe zone around pad-mounted transformers

By Derrill Holly

Jordan Overbee was driving to work when he saw them. The elementary students were waiting for the school bus, but they were sitting on a big green metal box. Inside was vital electrical equipment, distributing electricity to several homes on the street.

“It was a bad place for a school bus stop,” Overbee recalled. “There were five kids gathered there to wait for a bus, sitting, talking and playing for a few minutes because it was between driveways.”

As manager of operations for Wake Electric Membership Corp., Overbee knows a lot about pad-mounted transformers. They make up about half of the transformers used across the North Carolina-based co-op’s system.

“Transformers change voltage from higher levels to voltages people use in their homes,” said Overbee. “Each of our transformers can be vital to providing electricity to several homes.”

After seeing the kids waiting at that same transformer several days in a row, Overbee pulled over and talked to some parents. He explained that high voltage electricity flowed through the transformer inside the casing and encouraged them to move a safer distance away. “The parents hadn’t thought much about it, so once I explained the risks, they were happy to move to another driveway,” Overbee said.

While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles and substations are protected by security fences, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals are at ground level.

“We have about 5,400 pad mounted transformers on our system,” said Van Crawford, vice president of operations at Peace River Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Florida. “Of that number, 4,800 of them are located in the western district of our service territory.”

In many newer residential areas, overhead lines are no longer an option. Burying power lines also reduces potential system damage from high winds and storms. While consumers seldom see technicians working on the transformers unless there are power outages, they are regularly inspected by co-op crews.

“We can see fault indicators from the road,” said Crawford, adding that one of the biggest concerns is safe access when repairs or adjustments must be made. “That’s why it’s important that landscaping and other barriers be kept clear of co-op equipment.”

Co-op technicians need at least 10-foot clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer.

Approximately four feet of open space is preferable at the rear and sides of the metal housing.

That distance allows for tool use, including hot sticks—typically eight feet in length, used to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that the technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver should they have to back away if problems occur.

Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses. That’s why it’s important to check with **Clay Electric Co-operative** before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems and digging where it might damage underground lines.

“Clay Electric Co-operative recommends that you contact the Illinois One Call, JULIE at 811 for a site assessment and marking before proceeding with projects that might disrupt utility service,” said Luke Johnson, operations manager at Clay Electric. While pad-mounted transformers in developed, suburban or urban areas are regularly inspected for damage from vehicles, many utilities use marking sticks or pennants to alert tractor, snow plow or heavy equipment operators of their locations.

Clay Electric also encourages public works and transportation departments to keep equipment, supplies and road debris at least 15 feet away from pad-mounted transformers.

Derrill Holly writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

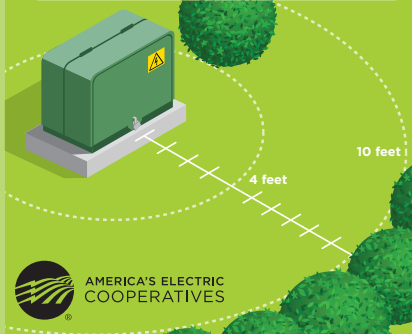
Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.



Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.



Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular Meeting March 27, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the Cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 12:30 o'clock p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose Executive V.P. General Manager, Tyra Cycholl, CECI Attorney, Luke Johnson, and Doug Hockman, CECI Employees, and Darren Bailey.

The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

Darren Bailey addressed the Board regarding his recent election as a candidate for State Representative in the 109th District. Thereafter Bailey left the meeting.

The invocation was given by Frank Herman.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

Approved the Suggested Agenda as presented, with the addition of the IRS allowable mileage change, and adding an employee to a bank account.

Approved the consent agenda as presented including the following:

Approved the February 5, 2018 minutes.

Reviewed, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and admit to membership those 7 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 16 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

Approved, the list of work orders in the amount of \$108,929.20.

Reviewed the February Attorney Retainer.

Approved the February Disbursements.

Reviewed the Federated update.

Reviewed the ACRE newsletter.

Reviewed the CFC Annual Benefits of Ownership.

Reviewed and Discussed the 2017 Financial Audit together with the Audit Recommendations.

Approved the 2017 Financial Audit.

Reviewed the Workers Compensation Audit.

Approved the request to add Jamie Myers to a bank account to do electronic transactions.

Approved the change in the allowable IRS mileage rate. This is defined in Policy 800-4 so it will not need to be approved in the future.

Approved Ed VanHoose as CRC Delegate.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of 2 deceased Members. **Approved** the retirement of those Capital Credits pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

After **Discussion and Visual Inspection** of the back parking, driveway area, and pole yard, **Approved** the low bid as presented for improvements.

Updated on a transformer issue, Tyra Cycholl, Luke Johnson, and Ed VanHoose to follow up.

Reviewed and Discussed the by-law revisions that will be presented to the membership at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Advised of the NRECA Cyber Alert.

Updated on the 2019 NRECA Annual Meeting.

Heard a report on the recent SIPC meeting by Trustee Herman.

Reviewed the Prairie State February Review.

Reviewed the SIPC Annual Meeting Notice.

Heard a report by Kevin Logan on the recent AIEC meeting.

Reviewed the Illinois Legislative Update.

Informed of the 2018 Illinois Primary Results.

Informed and Reviewed the final building plans for the new CECI headquarters.

Approved the final building plans with the discussed changes and taking the new building plans out for bids.

Approved Frontier Communications pole move charges, contingent upon the bids for the new building being acceptable.

REVIEWED and DISCUSSED the Railroad Permit and Invoice.

APPROVED entering into negotiations to purchase property to the west of the building.

REVIEWED the NRECA 2640 class

HEARD a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. February 2017 Form 7
- b. February 2018 Cash Flow
- d. SIPC Power Delivered in February 2018 dated March 7, 2018
- February 2018 Power Factor
- February 2018 Power Cost Adder
- February 2018 Line Loss
- Monthly Reconciliation
- Account Summary Report

Heard a General Safety Report by Luke Johnson for March 2018.

Reviewed Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated March 19, 2018.

Informed of the March 14, 2018 Safety Committee meeting and attendees.

Informed that Luke Johnson attended the recent MYPI class to inform first responders of electrical safety.

Heard and Approved a report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. Clay County Sheriff request.
- b. NRECA Cyber MAG
- c. ICC NextGrid Workgroup
- d. AIEC Manger's Solar Call
- e. Clay County WaterWork Order Review Correction and Engineering Certification
- f. Farm Credit Illinois Newsletter
- g. Telamon Letter
- h. Upcoming meetings

Adjourned



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

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Office hours: 7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.cecicoop.com
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Be a Savvy Senior

© Elder Financial Protection Network

Were you the victim of elder financial abuse?

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

NO-COST TIPS

- Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
- Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.

LOW-COST TIPS

- Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.
- Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.
- Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Don't let it happen again!

- ▶ If someone close to you has taken control of your finances against your will, **TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT!**
- ▶ If someone close to you has used your credit card, checking account or ATM information without your permission, **TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT!**
- ▶ If someone close to you has encouraged you to sign a power of attorney or a document that allows the person to act on your behalf, and you don't understand the actions he or she can take using your name and assets, **TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT!**
- ▶ Always use good financial practices. Use direct deposit. Do not sign blank checks. Never leave money laying around.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of elder financial abuse and want to talk confidentially to someone about it, a Adult Protective Services caseworker can help you take steps to alleviate the situation.

Just call:

Illinois Department on Aging
Adult Protective Services Hotline:
1-866-800-1409
1-888-206-1327 (TTY)
www.illinois.gov/aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior Helpline at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).