

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## From the Manager

**W**e have decided to have a little fun in our center section and give our members a chance to get a little bonus for reading. We will be hiding some numbers in our center section that you may be familiar with. If you look at your bill, your member number is listed in the upper right corner by the bill amount. It will look something like this: 13314-002. If you find your member number in the center section, you win! Congratulations! Give us a call and let us know you found your member number in the center section and we'll take \$5 off your bill.

Just so you know, that number up there counts. There are still two more numbers somewhere around here to find. Good luck!

Speaking of prizes, you may have noticed the coloring contest printed on page 13 of this issue. I assure you, we are aware this is only the November issue and it does indeed say "Merry Christmas" at the top. We will be accepting entries at our offices until Nov. 8, and the winners will receive some tasty treats and will be published in

the December issue. Clay Electric Co-operative is proud to help our local community's schools with our Classroom Empowerment Grants. We are happy to announce that we have awarded grants to programs submitted by Full Armor Christian Academy and Clay City High School. We are hopeful in coming years that we will receive grant applications from all four schools within our service area. Our children are our most valuable resource.

Switching gears, I want to address some of the questions brought to us about solar installations. With different laws and subsidies in flux at the state level, there are lots of questions floating around. We encourage any of our members interested in a solar build, or information on ways to improve their home's efficiency to lower cost, to contact us before starting any building project. With so many moving parts, it's always best to make sure you understand the full impact and potential pitfalls of any major construction project.

If you've come by our offices this month, you may have noticed the

progress that has been made on our new office. The exterior has been mostly sheeted and interior walls are being framed. Each day our building gets closer to completion, and we are excited to see the daily progress. The forecasted completion date still falls at the beginning of March next year.

I would like to take a moment to express how thankful I am to be working with the best people around. In the wake of Hurricane Florence, a crew of volunteers from Clay Electric took the long drive to North Carolina to help our sister cooperatives on the coast. I invite you to read more about them later in the center section. I am just grateful to be working with such quality human beings.



Ed VanHoose  
Manager

## Clay Electric board member awarded education certificate

**C**lay Electric Co-operative board member Danny Schnepfer was awarded the Director Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This certificate acknowledges Schnepfer's efforts in pursuing further education in

administration, strategic planning and the ever-evolving legal landscape cooperatives must navigate. Photographed (l-r) Board Member Danny Schnepfer receives the Director Leadership Certificate from Board President Richard Rudolphi. 8161-002



# Clay Electric linemen help restore power after Hurricane Florence

*Cooperative linemen work in flooded conditions to restore member's power.*

**H**urricane Florence flooded the eastern seaboard in mid-September, causing major flooding and wind damage to huge areas of the East Coast. Damage is estimated at over \$38 billion, making Florence the sixth most costly hurricane to affect the United States. North and South Carolina faced the brunt of the storm, suffering the worst damage and most casualties. Hurricane Florence has inflicted a death toll



*L-R Clay Electric Co-operative employees Brody Snell, Matt Conklin, Damien Bowling and Eric Moyer return from helping restore power to North Carolina residents in the wake of Hurricane Florence.*



*Cooperative workers and their equipment await dispatch to outages.*

*All Photos by Matt Conklin*

of 48 people and left towns and neighborhoods reeling even as the flood waters start to recede. Hundreds of thousands of people across the affected states sat without power after Florence battered them. In the immediate aftermath, cooperatives mobilized to restore power to their members.

Clay Electric Co-operative was one of the many cooperatives across more than a dozen states to send mutual aid to those affected by Hurricane Florence. Clay Electric's crew made the long drive to South River Electric Membership Cooperative in North Carolina as Florence was forecast to make land-fall. They were staged with materiel and workers from all over the map to be ready to respond to outages as soon as it was safe to do so.

The idea of mutual aid is tied directly to one of the seven fundamental principles of the cooperative model, cooperation among cooperatives. "Facing hardships like this together gives us more resources than we could ever come up with alone," said Edward VanHoose, CEO of Clay Electric Co-operative. "We are all co-op members, and helping our sister cooperatives is just the right thing to do. We know if we needed help, they would be here for us."

Hurricane Florence left a third of a million members without power in the Carolinas' cooperative territories. Clay Electric's relief crew spent more than a week in North Carolina working 17-hour days to help the members left without power. We are grateful for their willingness



*Wind damage fells trees and poles, cooperative linemen work hard to restore service and clear the lines.*

to sacrifice time at home with their families to help our co-op family recover from this natural disaster.

**11044-001**

Ultimately, recovering from disasters like these require the dedication and tireless effort of good people. Clay Electric Co-operative is blessed to have the best working with us.

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting September 24, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Depot in Flora, Ill. beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, Neil Gould and Greg Smith. Absent were Bill Croy and Tyra Cycholl, attorney for the board. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, CEO, and Adam McKnight, member services manager acting as recorder.

The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Bob Pierson, secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Danny Schnepfer.

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.

**APPROVED**, the Consent agenda including the following:

**APPROVED**, the minutes from Aug. 27, 2018;

**APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 19 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

**APPROVED**, the Work Orders;

**DISCUSSED** then

**APPROVED**, the disbursements;

**REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;

**REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

**REVIEWED**, the Flora Chamber of Commerce September Newsletter;

**DISCUSSED** then

**APPROVED**, one Insurance Certificate.

**REVIEWED**, Four sealed bids for purchase of one retired line truck **ACCEPTED**, Frost Farms LLC's bid.

**REVIEWED**, NRECA's financial audit for 2016 and 2017.

**REVIEWED**, the NRECA Regional Meeting held on Sept. 18-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

**REVIEWED**, CFC quarterly loan payment and board report.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman on the SIPC Board Meeting held on Aug. 30, 2018.

**HEARD**, a report on SIPC's Fitch rating holding at "BBB," outlook Stable.

**DISCUSSED**, the new building concrete issues and framing and sheeting progress.

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

August 2018 Form 7;

August 2018 Cash Flow;

SIPC Power Delivered in August 2018 dated September 10, 2018;

August 2018 Power Factor.

August 2018 Power Cost Adder.

August Line Loss;

Monthly Reconciliation;

Account Summary Report.

**HEARD**, a General Safety Report for the month of August 2018.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Sept. 17, 2018.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Manager VanHoose on the following topics.

September Operations Report; September Communications

Report;

Upcoming meetings;

**APPROVED**, moving the meeting scheduled for Oct. 29, 2018 to Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Depot.


**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Oct. 22 at the Depot at 7 p.m. and Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. upstairs at the Depot. The Strategic Planning on Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. – noon upstairs at the Depot.

**COMPLETED** and **RETURNED**, CFC's survey for the upcoming strategic planning session to be held on Nov. 13 – 14, 2018.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m.




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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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.  
[www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop)  
[www.facebook.com/ceci.coop](http://www.facebook.com/ceci.coop)

 Like