

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

From the Manager

I am happy to announce more changes at your electric cooperative. The first is yet another change to this column. At the beginning of this year, I was appointed CEO of Clay Electric. Part of my duties is informing you of the goings on of your cooperative through this column. I look forward to serving you as your CEO.

My first announcement is a happy one. I would like to congratulate the newest addition to our management team, Matt Conklin. Matt is a lifelong Flora resident and lives here with his wife, Tera, and three children. He has worked for the cooperative for 17 years, working his way up from apprentice lineman, to line foreman, and now to operations manager. Matt is a knowledgeable and dependable

asset to your cooperative.

This month will see the grand opening of our new office building at 7784 Old Highway 50 in Flora. While the exact date hasn't been set as of the writing of this column, I would like to invite you to keep a lookout for the official announcement. We are excited to provide our members with a modern, efficient headquarters to serve your needs and manage the services we provide to you. 12013-002

Solar installations continue to be a topic that comes up around the office and in my conversations with members. It is important for our members to know that any solar installation must be owned by the member. Please call or stop by if you have any questions about what kind of builds work in our area.



Luke Johnson
CEO



Matt Conklin has joined Clay Electric's team as operations manager.

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.

As you flip through your newsletter, keep your eyes peeled for your member number. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call, you win \$5 off your next bill!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov



You're more than a customer

By Anne Prince, NRECA

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Clay Electric Co-operative's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a co-op, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the community serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1944, CECI was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create CECI. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. Therefore, we hold annual meetings and other events throughout the year to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

CECI members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE

Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.

ZONE IN ON SAFETY
Respect roadside work crews.
Don't drive distracted. Reduce your speed. Change lanes.

- 1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**
- 70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**
- 12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line could **electrocute a utility worker** or neighbor.

DON'T post signs on utility poles.
Foreign objects can **tear utility workers' protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an **electric shock**.

Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Clay Electric Co-operative to open doors to new building in February

This month marks the culmination of Clay Electric Co-operative's efforts to provide the membership with a modern and efficient facility. According to former CEO Edward VanHoose, "The old office building was at the point of spending more money for repairs than it was worth." While the exact date hasn't been set, we encourage our members to keep an eye and an ear open for the announcement of our official reopening.

The design process on the new building began years before breaking ground on the new facility last year. The old office served CECI's membership dutifully for decades, but with the cost of repairs and emerging safety concerns, the board of trustees made

the decision to pursue a building project. The new facility will be outfitted with modern communications equipment and energy efficient heating, cooling and lighting systems.

"It has been exciting to watch this project progress from idea to reality," said CEO Luke Johnson. "There have been ups and downs along the way, but we are glad to be in the home stretch. I'm proud to be able to give our membership a facility this nice without having the cost increase our rates. We will be



announcing the official reopening date very soon and encourage our members to come check us out once the final touches are all made." 12825-001

Executive session of the board of trustees December 17, 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 1:30 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, Interim CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by

Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Bob Pierson, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof. Frank Herman was absent. 13775-002

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, entering into Executive Session at 1:30 p.m.
At 2:10 p.m. Luke Johnson left the

room.

At 2:25 Luke Johnson returned to the room.

APPROVED, exiting Executive Session at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVED, hiring Luke Johnson as Chief Executive Officer, effective Jan. 1, 2019 as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding attached hereto.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

December 17, 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 2:40 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, Interim CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Bob Pierson, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof. Frank Herman was absent.

The invocation was given by Bill Croy.

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, removing the minutes from the Consent Agenda:

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda as amended including the following:

APPROVED, (a) to admit to membership those 21 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 24 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;

APPROVED, the Disbursements;

REVIEWED, the Credit Card Statements;

REVIEWED, the Attorney Retainer;

REVIEWED, the AIEC-Compliance Exchange.

REVIEWED, the CFC Board Report;

REVIEWED, the Account Summary Report;

REVIEWED, the CRC Board Report.

DISCUSSED, then

RESCINDED, motion from the Nov. 26, 2018 board meeting regarding the FEJA position paper.

APPROVED, the minutes of Nov. 26, 2018 as amended.

APPROVED, the write-offs.

APPROVED, Richard Rudolphi as the NRECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Kevin Logan as the alternate.

APPROVED, Luke Johnson as the NRTC Voting Delegate and Bill Croy as the alternate.

APPROVED, the contract with Clay Water. Bob Pierson abstained from the vote.

HEARD, a report by Luke Johnson as to requests for retirement of capital credits for deceased estates;

APPROVED, the retirement of one estate.

APPROVED, the Policy updates on Policy 200-1, 600-1, 600-2 and 600-3.

REVIEWED, the CFC Quarterly Loan Payment.

REVIEWED, a letter from Don Gulley regarding SIPC's position on FEJA.

DISCUSSED, the new building progress.

REVIEWED, the NRECA 2600 board training opportunity.

REVIEWED, the Year-end Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Six Year Actuals for the Budget.

DISCUSSED, the 2019 Capital Items for the Budget.

DISCUSSED, the Landscape Bid for the Budget.

DISCUSSED, the 2019 Advertising for the Budget.

DISCUSSED, the 2019 Capital Credit Retirements for the Budget.

DISCUSSED, the 2019 Budget Sources and Capital Expenditures.

APPROVED, the 2019 Budget as presented.

HEARD, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following: November 2018 Form 7;

November 2018 Cash Flow;

SIPC Power Delivered in November

2018 dated Dec. 7, 2018; November 2018 Power Factor; November Line Loss; Monthly Reconciliation.

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

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Dec. 10, 2018.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, the Manager's Report by Luke Johnson on the following topics.

Fuel Prices; November Operations Report;

Communications Report; Upcoming meetings;

REVIEWED, the Fuel Prices.

REVIEWED, the

Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Jan. 28, 2019 at 1 p.m.


and Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Depot and March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Clay board room.

DISCUSSED, Strategic Planning meetings on April 10, 2019 from 10-4 and April 11, 2019 from 8-12.

REVIEWED, thank you notes from Doris Lusk.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Clay Electric
Co-operative, Inc.

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Flora, Illinois 62839
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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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