

# Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## From the Manager

**V**isiting Springfield with our Youth Day participants is one of my favorite days of the year. This year is no different. Clay Electric Co-operative selected 10 students from among the junior classes of our local area high schools for this year's Youth Day on April 3. On Youth Day, these students get the chance to meet our legislators and tour around our state capital. It is a great opportunity for our young people to absorb some of our state's and nation's history. We will select three students from this excellent group of young people to represent us in Washington, D.C. later this year for Youth Tour.

With the warming weather, we are entering the storm season. We want to remind all our members to be mindful of severe storms in the coming months and how you should react to storm damage. Avoid downed lines and poles and never assume a line is dead. If you experience an outage, call us to

let us know your situation. If you have trouble getting through to our call-out center during a major storm event, just remember there is a large call volume, and they can only handle so much. You can follow us on Facebook to get updated on storm and outage information in our service area. **12510-001**

We talk a lot about solar and other renewable energy options available to our members. It's a new and exciting area of technological advancement and Illinois is a leader in its implementation. Solar installations have been of particular interest to our membership over the last several months. We want to help our membership understand what is available and how it may affect them. 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. With different laws and subsidies in flux at



Luke Johnson  
CEO

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

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**OUR OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED  
APRIL 10 FOR  
GOOD FRIDAY.**



# The commitment of an electric lineworker

## Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.

By Anne Prince, NRECA

**N**ational studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

Clay Electric Co-operative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires

lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

### Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. **13192-001**

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

### Community commitment

In Clay County and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving on local advisory boards.

### Thank you

Monday, April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of Clay Electric Co-operative's lineworkers, both on and off the job, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.



Clay Electric Co-operative lineworkers (L to R): Daniel Henderson, Damien Bowling, Eric Moyer, Brody Snell, Phillip Durre, Brock Henson and Adam Smith

# Safety remains top priority *after* a storm

**T**here may be a mess in your yard and your home has been damaged, but safety remains the top priority in the wake of a severe storm. Make sure you and your family are aware that hazards could be hidden by tree limbs and debris, dangers such as downed power lines or electrical equipment in contact with the wet ground.

Stay away from and report any downed or sagging lines. They should be considered energized and dangerous until utility linemen can assure the lines are de-energized and the area is safe.

A downed power line that's energized can cause other things around it to become hazardous. A fence or guardrail touching a downed line can be energized for several thousand yards and poses a threat to anyone coming into contact with these structures. Also, stay away from puddles that could be in contact with downed lines. Encountering these can be as hazardous as coming into contact with the downed power line itself. **3946-001**

Do not attempt to drive over a downed power line, and if a storm causes your vehicle to be draped in power lines, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and stay inside until utility crews say it's safe to do so.

Be alert to potential hazards from flooding or standing water. If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it's raining or ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and

equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces. Make sure outdoor tools are plugged into outlets with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. If your outdoor outlets don't have GFCIs, use a portable GFCI cord.

Inside your home, never step in to a flooded room or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.


During an outage, Safe Electricity also recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used, or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an extension cord. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "backfeed." Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

Learn more about operating generators safely and safety in the wake of storms at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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## 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 the Board of Trustees Meeting

February 25, 2019

**T**he regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative's headquarters in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, 2019.

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

The invocation was given by Neil Gould.

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. **DISCUSSED**, the April 22, 2019 meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**APPROVED**, the Minutes of Jan. 28, 2019 as amended to reflect the revised time for the April 22, 2019 meeting.

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

- (a) to admit to membership those 11 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 Work Orders;
- **APPROVED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

■ **APPROVED** the following insurance certificates:

■ Henson Clean and Wax

Insurance Certificate

■ **REVIEWED** the Account Summary Report;

■ **REVIEWED**, the Federated Member update;

■ **REVIEWED**, the AIEC Regulatory Compliance.

**APPROVED**, the Resolution for Delegation of Authority.

**DISCUSSED**, a disconnected member bill and determined a policy is needed for renters and deposit amounts.

**DISCUSSED**, the farming contract for property east of the new building. CEO will negotiate this contract.

**APPROVED**, the deceased estates.

**APPROVED**, the Policy updates on:

- Policy 1000-2;
- Policy 1000-3;
- Policy 1000-4;
- Policy 1000-6;
- Policy 1000-16;
- Policy 1000-21;
- Policy 1000-22;
- Policy 1000-31;
- Policy 1000-41.

**WERE REMINDED**, the NRECA Annual Meeting is March 12, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

**REVIEWED**, the CFC Line of Credit.

**APPROVED**, the CFC Building Loan Rate Lock.

**REVIEWED**, the Quarterly CFC Loan Payment.

**HEARD**, a report from Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan of the AIEC Committee Meetings.

**DISCUSSED**, the new building progress and the ribbon cutting will be March 1, 2019 at 10 a.m.

**REVIEWED**, the Fager Substantial Completion certificate.

**WERE INFORMED**, of old Office Furniture. Luke Johnson to dispose of property as he sees fit.

**WERE REMINDED**, the Electric

Cooperative Lobby Day is March 20, 2019 in Springfield.

**WERE REMINDED**, the Aces Conference is in Indianapolis May 30-31, 2019.

**HEARD**, the NRECA Legislative Conference is April 28-May 1, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

**HEARD**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:

- January 2019 Form 7;
- January 2019 Balance Sheet;
- January 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in January 2019 dated Feb. 8, 2019;
- January 2019 Power Factor;
- January Power Cost Adder;
- LMR Credits.
- January Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation.

**HEARD**, a General Safety Report for the month of January 2019.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Feb. 18, 2019.

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

- December Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Moving Announcement;
- Powering Illinois Future;
- Upcoming meetings

**REVIEWED**, the January Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report and the Announcement the Offices are moving.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on April 1, 2019 at 1 p.m. at the Clay board room; April 22, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Clay board room; Tuesday May 28, 2019 at 7 p.m. due to the Memorial Day holiday; Strategic Planning on April 10 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and April 11 from 8 a.m.-noon; and Safety Committee Meeting March 5, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at the Clay break room.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3 p.m.