

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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From the Manager

I am writing this letter to all of you in early May. I can only hope and pray that when this issue makes it to you that you are in good health and that the struggles of today are less than yesterday. Clay Electric Co-operative is your trusted energy partner and we work as hard as we can to help our member-owners in good times and hard times. If you are struggling, do not hesitate to call us and let us know. There are organizations and programs available to help in difficult times, and we will do all we can to assist in making arrangements to keep our members in good standing, but we can only

help with what we know about. Please keep us informed of any hardships so that we can help.

In brighter news, I would like to congratulate Brady Clark of Louisville on being selected to receive one of the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. He was selected out of a pool of 256 applicants for this honor and we are proud of his diligence and hard work. The AIEC offers a total of 12 \$2,000.00 scholarships and we are confident the award going to Brady will be well used. You can find an

interview with Brady below.

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!



Luke Johnson
CEO

Rewarding effort: Cooperative scholarships making a difference

By Adam McKnight

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and all its member cooperatives around the state hold dear the seven cooperative principles. The AIEC and Clay Electric Co-operative hold "Concern for Community" to be particularly important. The scholarship programs at the local and statewide level are a way that we can directly help the members of our community.

The AIEC awards 12 \$2,000 scholarships each year. Six scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are children of a member of an Illinois electric cooperative. Four scholarships are reserved for member's children enrolling

full-time at a two-year Illinois community college. One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, goes to a high school senior who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. One scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, is awarded to a student to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the AIEC in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College



in Springfield.

One of the four community college scholarships was awarded to Brady Clark of Louisville. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Brady (digitally) to talk about his future and the small part that Clay Electric Cooperative and the AIEC get to play in his future successes. **13533-001**

Can you tell me a bit about yourself and your community?

My name is Brady Clark and I have lived in Clay County all my life. I attend North Clay High



School and will be graduating in the Class of 2020. My hobbies are hanging out with family and friends, showing cattle and goats, and hunting. Louisville is a great hometown and rural community because of the people within it. The people support each other in times of need and join together in times of joy.

How did you find out about the scholarship?

I found out about this scholarship at the college fair at Flora High School. I remember walking in and seeing the booth for this scholarship. I took the pamphlet and added it to the college scholarships I wanted to pursue. I urge all students to attend college fairs because you never know what opportunities are waiting for you.

What have you learned about the cooperative business model since applying for the scholarship and youth tour opportunities?

Coming from a family that is a member of three different cooperatives, I have always had curiosity about what cooperatives were growing up. I have learned a lot about the cooperative business model. It made me realize and really appreciate the resources we have like electricity,

water, telephone and internet. The cooperative business model allows communities to come together and form a cooperative business for what the community needs.

What are your collegiate plans?

My educational plans and goals are to become a veterinarian. In my county, veterinary care is limited for large animals. I plan to start that path at Lake Land College studying agriculture. Next, transfer to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale to obtain my bachelor's degree in animal science. Once I obtain my bachelor's degree, my goal is to attend the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and receive my doctorate in veterinary medicine.

What are your plans after college?

After I get my doctorate, I plan to work at a veterinary clinic near my hometown to gain experience within the field. After a few years and knowledge gained, I would like to come back home to start my own practice in Clay County.

What is your favorite thing about living in rural Illinois?

My favorite thing about living in rural Illinois is being able to be engaged with the great outdoors

that most people in cities have never had the pleasure to enjoy. Another aspect I love about rural Illinois is the community because everyone around here has hometown values, which I am grateful to have grown up around.

What is the hardest thing about living in rural Illinois?

The hardest thing about living in rural Illinois is the fact that the people in communities like mine and many others are overlooked in political situations and for resources for our local communities.

What advice can you give to students that plan on applying for scholarships and prepare for college next year?

The best advice I can give to students preparing for college and applying for scholarships is to be active and record your invested time in clubs or community service. This advice was given to me by my school counselor as it is the best advice by far. This is great advice because knowing all of what you did and putting it into scholarships and college applications will keep you one step ahead of most people.

I hit a power pole or other electrical equipment. Now what?



We all think it will never happen to us, but it can in an instant. **11486-002**

Drivers veer off the road and run into power poles. Farmers sometimes contact a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump or feed truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.

People can become dangerously close or enter electricity's path. Knowing what to do in that situation can save your life. Incidents with power lines or other utility equipment break the electrical current's usual path. This can make the ground, vehicles and other equipment electrified.

If you hit a utility pole, pad-mounted transformer (green box) or other electrical equipment, **DO NOT** get out of the vehicle. Instead, call 9-1-1 and wait for utility crews to come to de-energize power. Call 9-1-1 in all of these instances:

- Your tractor or car strikes a guy wire (guy wires are the wires staked into the ground that stabilize utility poles). Under normal conditions, the guy

wire is neutral, but if the wire is weakened, pulled out of the ground or otherwise damaged, it could become energized.

- Your car hit a patch of ice, went off the road and hit a utility pole. Or you are in a car accident and one of the vehicles strikes a power pole. Only get out of the car if there is smoke or a fire; otherwise, stay put. If there is a fire, make a clean jump or hop from your car or truck (without touching it), and hop with your feet together or shuffle keeping your feet on the ground at least 30 feet to safety. Think of the downed line sending electrical current across the ground in a ripple-like effect. Each ring of the ripple represents a different voltage. If you step from one ring to another, this is called step potential and it can electrocute you.
- You see an accident that involves a downed power line. **DO NOT** approach the scene.
- You hit a pad-mounted transformer or other type of electrical box.
- Your vehicle hits a substation.

- You ran off the road, hit a pole and it's dark out, but **YOU DON'T KNOW** if lines are down.

Other situations

- You get something stuck in power lines (drone or remote-control device): Do not try to retrieve it.
- You see kids climbing or sitting on pad-mounted transformers: Tell them not to sit or play on it.
- You are carrying a tall ladder or pole: Look up for power line locations and keep at least a 10-foot clearance at all times.
- You see kids climb trees that have power lines above: Warn them not to climb trees near power lines.
- You are using a portable generator: Never plug it into a wall outlet. This can cause backfeeding into the line and kill a line-worker or neighbor.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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

April 27, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by the invocation, given by Kevin Logan.

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 prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 11 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 4 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;
- **APPROVED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account

Summary Report;

- **REVIEWED**, the AIEC Compliance Exchange;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the NRECA Board Report.

REVIEWED the LWG Memorandum regarding the Audit. **APPROVED**, the LWG Audit **REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the Security Lighting Policy 1000-9. **APPROVED**, the Security Lighting Policy 1000-9.

REVIEWED, the NRECA COVID-19 Financial Impact.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting. **7916-001**

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Meeting.

WERE INFORMED, the AIEC Annual Meeting is still being held.

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

- March 2020 Form 7;
- March 2020 Balance Sheet;
- March 2020 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in March 2020 dated April 8, 2020;
- March Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Hardship Agreement.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of April.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet held April 20, 2020.

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

- Operations Report;
- Disposition of Equipment;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

WERE INFORMED, the new truck #3 arrived.

REVIEWED, the Disposition of Equipment, including a pressure washer, 22 KW Generac Generator

and Old Truck #3.

APPROVED, taking sealed bids for the Disposition of Equipment listed above with bids to be submitted by June 22 to be opened at the June 22 board meeting.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE INFORMED, of the application for the Thomas Moore Scholarship.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, May 26, 2020, June 22, 2020, and July 27, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room.

DISCUSSED, the Annual Meeting and contingency plans if COVID-19 distancing guidelines are in effect.


WERE REMINDED, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Bill Croy are up for election. Petitions can be picked up on April 29 and should be returned by July 14.

REVIEWED, a Thank you note from Tyra Cycholl.

HEARD, an update regarding a members' bill.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Clay Electric
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