

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



76th Annual Meeting Postponed

From the Manager

August would be the month of our 76th Annual Meeting of the Members for Clay Electric Co-operative. As it stands, we will be postponing our annual meeting. This has been a trying year for all of us. At the time of the writing of this letter, we do not know for certain what form our annual meeting will take this year. With restrictions on large gatherings, it is exceedingly unlikely that we will have an in-person meeting and it saddens me to miss that opportunity for fellowship with our members.

Our board of directors has the safety and wellbeing of the membership always at the forefront of their minds. **11541-002** They do not make the decision to postpone the meeting lightly. Please follow us at Facebook.com/ceci.coop for the latest news and announcements about your cooperative.

We will be announcing the specifics of this year's annual meeting in the next issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for more information as it becomes available.

As always, keep a lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. 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

What's Your Appliance Safety IQ?



Clothes Dryer

Children have been electrocuted when hiding behind dryers; some pets also like to nap there.

Install a childproof lock on the laundry room door, as well as on your washer and dryer—especially front-loading models.

Clean lint screen between loads, and thoroughly clean the vents and duct system at least twice a year.

Make sure hoses, seals and connections do not leak and are secure.



Refrigerator

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance.

Clean the coils every six months to a year.

Keep an eye out for dust or lint under or behind your fridge and remove it to let your refrigerator breathe.

If you have young children in your home, make sure your refrigerator is not a tipping hazard. Consider using an appliance anchor that secures your tall appliance to the wall.



Hot Water Heater

Make sure your hot water heater is well-maintained.

Make sure it does not have excessive pressure buildup by testing the relief valve (or have it tested) at least once a year.

Ensure vents are connected securely and that the correct parts are used to avoid carbon monoxide production.

Have all components of the appliance inspected regularly (at least once a year) by a technician.



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Electricity brings everyday value

Most people still don't think much about the electricity they use. We expect the lights to turn on at the flip the switch and the coffee-maker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. Yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we worry about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Many people have a cell phone

to stay connected and subscribe to cable channels to enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. Where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. Clay Electric Co-operative strives to maintain constant and reliable service to all our members. **14675-001** Our work

crews are out every day to maintain and upgrade our system to the benefit of our membership. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I'm proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

Clay Electric Co-operative provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. As your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save your energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Clay Electric Co-operative is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's everyday value.



Special Meeting of The Board of Trustees

June 11, 2020

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 8:00 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Trustees present were: Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith, Neil Gould and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Adam McKnight, Member Services Manager. Frank Czyzewski, Kevin Logan, and Richard Rudolphi participated via conference/zoom 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 Luke Johnson.

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 Action Items including the following:
- **APPROVED**, a Corporate

Authorization Resolution for the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program.

- **APPROVED**, a Board Resolution authorizing the application for the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 a.m.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov



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.



76th Annual Meeting Postponed

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 22, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2020.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, and Frank Herman. **12467-001** Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Frank Czyzewski participated via conference/zoom 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 Bob Pierson.

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**, the special meeting minutes of June 11, 2020.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 12 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 7 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 CFC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Board Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the NRECA Board Report.
- **APPROVED**, the June 2020 write-offs.
- **OPENED**, the sealed bids for the generator, Truck and Power Washer.
- **APPROVED**, the high bids for the pressure washer, the truck and the generator.
- **REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**, Policy 300-9 Capital Credits Policy.
- **REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**, Policy 1000-5, option 1 for Large Commercial Rate.
- **HEARD**, a report by Luke Johnson regarding the SIPC Meeting.
- **HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Meeting.
- **WERE REMINDED**, the AIEC meeting will be July 23, 2020 via Zoom.
- **HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:
 - May 2020 Form 7;
 - May 2020 Balance Sheet;
 - May 2020 Cash Flow;
 - SIPC Power Delivered in May 2020 dated June 8, 2020;
 - May Line Loss;
 - Monthly Reconciliation;

- **HEARD**, a Safety Report for the month of May.
- **REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet held June 15, 2020.
- **HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Luke Johnson on the following topics:
 - Clay Annual Meeting;
 - Operations Report;
 - Communications Report;
 - Upcoming meetings.
- **REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the Clay Annual Meeting due to COVID-19.
- **REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.
- **WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on, July 27, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020, and Sept. 28, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room.
- **REVIEWED**, a Thank you note from Steve Lewis.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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