

# Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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From the Manager

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Y**our Clay Electric Co-operative family wishes you and yours the best this year. 2020 had more than its fair share of trials and hardships, but with grit and perseverance, we have come to this year with fresh eyes and renewed spirit.

Your cooperative is working hard to ensure that this year will continue a pattern of success in improving our services, our reliability and our value to our members. 2021 will see us finish the implementation of the advanced AMI metering upgrade. This needed upgrade will see us advance from an older system to one that has a technological backbone that will allow us to make use of real-time outage information to better respond to outages even before the member calls in. You should always report any outages, but our overall response times should go down dramatically. It should also nearly eliminate instances where sections of line are reenergized and the linemen return to the cooperative, only to find out there is one member on the line that is still out of power.

Last issue, we published our list of undeliverable capital credits. As a member of a cooperative, one of your benefits is the repayment of capital credits each year. Clay Electric Co-operative is a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

**14504-002** Whenever we bring in more revenue than needed to fund the cooperative's costs of doing business, the rest of the revenue is entered as margins for the year. These margins are repaid to the membership through capital credits. In 2021, Clay Electric Co-operative will repay margins earned from 1976 to 1978. This repayment will continue a pattern of repaying multiple years of capital credits each year to accelerate our repayments toward a 30-year cycle. Clay Electric Co-operative is dedicated to working in the best interest of our membership and ensuring that we use

our member's revenue to the betterment of the whole system.

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

**SHOP LOCALLY, SAVE LOCALLY**

The One Card That Does It All.®  
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# TO MASK OR NOT TO MASK: THAT IS (NOT) THE QUESTION



Most people don't enjoy wearing masks. They are inconvenient and put the kibosh on social interaction. They can give us the sudden urge to take a deep breath and they can make it difficult for others to hear us, to name just some of the downsides.

However, as we all know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed its stance on mask recommendations from when COVID-19 first hit in the U.S. CDC experts first advocated not wearing masks but later changed that recommendation.

Since recommending mask usage, the CDC came up with these specific guidelines for wearing them:

- Wear masks that have two or more layers to help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Masks are recommended for people 2-years-old and up.
- They should not be worn by children younger than age 2, people who have trouble breathing, or people who cannot remove it without help.

- People should not wear masks intended for healthcare workers, for example, N95 respirators.
- Although it might be better than nothing, the CDC does not currently recommend using gaiters or face shields. (A gaiter is like a thick headband you wear around your neck that you can pull up and over your mouth and nose.)

## HOW TO SELECT A MASK

Although mostly common knowledge these days, **14861-001** here are some reminders about selecting types of masks and how to wear them.

## ACCORDING TO THE CDC, CHOOSE MASKS THAT:

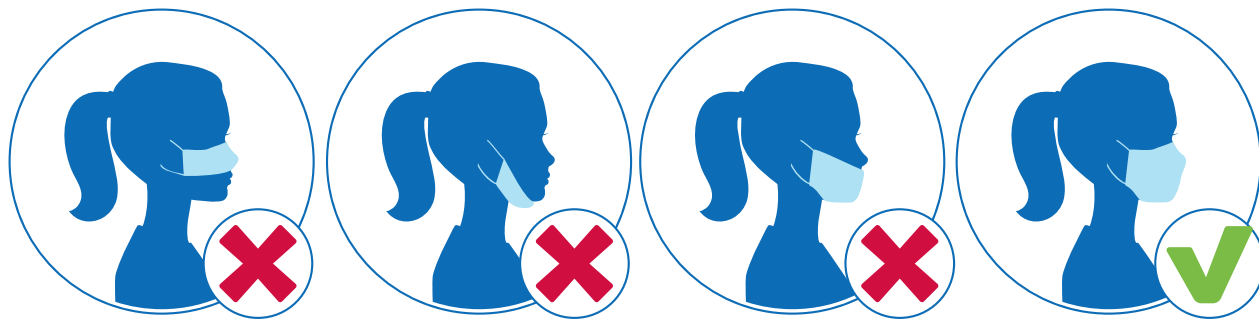
- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric.
- Completely cover your nose and mouth.
- Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps.

## DO NOT BUY OR USE MASKS THAT:

- Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe – for example, made of vinyl.
- Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape (or possibly enter).
- Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks.

If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or one that has a nose wire or reinforcement to help limit fogging.

ALTHOUGH TEMPTING, A MASK CANNOT DO ITS JOB IF IT IS WORN AROUND YOUR NECK, UNDER YOUR NOSE, ON YOUR CHIN, DANGLING FROM ONE EAR OR LEFT IN YOUR CAR.





## Five ways to stay cozy this winter

**B**aby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

- Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.
- One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to **keep your feet warm**. **14081-001** Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
- On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and **harness natural warmth from sunlight**. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in – you'll be able to feel the difference.
- Another way to make your home cozier is to **use a humidifier**. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
- Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR WORKING FROM HOME

TO HELP WITH WORK-LIFE BALANCE



### CREATE A DEDICATED SPACE

Not everyone can do this, but it helps if you can have a separate space to keep your work area (and your workday mindset) separate from other areas of the home.

### SET A SCHEDULE

Try to set a workday schedule and stick to it as much as possible so that work and home do not constantly intertwine.

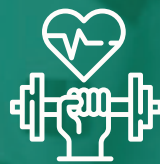


### CREATE BOUNDARIES

Just as a workspace serves as a physical work boundary, try to set other at-work boundaries: discuss work hours, deadlines and interruption ground rules with others under your roof.

### BE REALISTIC

Creating boundaries is more difficult with children and teens around. If you can, try to create a work schedule around their most demanding hours or juggle coverage with another adult.



### TAKE A STAND

Researchers at Columbia University found that adults who sit for one to two hours at a time without moving have a higher risk of early death than those who get up more often. Aim to get up and move every 30 minutes.

### TAKE BREAKS

Working nonstop might make you feel heroic, but it actually decreases productivity. Consider scheduling brief breaks and taking them – outdoors if possible.



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# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## November 23, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Danny Schnepfer, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, 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 Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 16 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 NRECA Board Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board.

**NOMINATED and APPROVED**, Neil Gould as the new secretary.

**NOMINATED and APPROVED**, Bob Pierson as the new SIPC board member.

**APPROVED**, the SIPC Resolution to appoint Bob Pierson as the new SIPC board member.

**REVIEWED and DISCUSSED** per diem for Clay Meetings and AIEC and SIPC meetings.

**APPROVED**, CECI, AIEC and SIPC per diem rates.

**REVIEWED**, the One Card Rebate from CFC.

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

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

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

**REVIEWED**, attendance at the AIEC Training.

**HEARD**, the 2021 Budget preview from Luke Johnson regarding Capital Credit payback, Capital items, Donations and the overall 2021 Budget.

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

- October 2020 Form 7;
- October 2020 Balance Sheet;
- October 2020 Cash Flow;
- Check from Jeff Davis

Cooperative for Hurricane payment;

- SIPC Power Delivered in October 2020 dated Nov. 9, 2020;
  - October Line Loss;
  - Monthly Reconciliation.
- HEARD**, a Safety Report for the month of May.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Nov. 16, 2020.

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

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- ACRE Achievement Award;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications

Report.

**REVIEWED**, the ACRE Achievement Award.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Dec. 28, 2020, Jan. 25, 2020 and Feb. 22, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Clay board room.

**REVIEWED**, thank you cards.


**DISCUSSED**, the open director seat. Will discuss nominations at the next scheduled meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3:22 p.m.



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.

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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