

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

As the winter continues, we want our members to keep safety in mind. Our crews wrestle high voltage lines and the weather whenever they roll out to restore power in an ice storm. It is dangerous work. We can all do our part to mitigate the risks by moving over and slowing down when we see a utility crew working, especially in poor conditions.

Our crews will be busy this year on more than storm restoration. Our construction crew will be focused on rebuilding line in the Bible Grove and Oskaloosa areas in 2021. They will also be inspecting and changing out poles in the Xenia area. Our servicemen will be working on upgrades to our substations that will increase Clay Electric's technological capabilities and provide

additional security. Our forestry crew will be focusing on the Iola area in addition to maintaining right-of-way and mowing down hotspots over the entire system.

Inside, our office staff will be training and implementing new technology to better serve you. The AMI system that will be completed this summer will allow us to monitor voltages and receive instantaneous alarms in high or low voltage situations. Outages will also be reported to the office in real time which will allow us to deploy crews more quickly and help eliminate instances where outages appear to be restored but a home farther down the line is still out of power. The AMI system will allow us to set alarms to alert us when our members who also receive service from



Luke Johnson
CEO

Clay County Water have high water usage. This will help us find leaks earlier and alert members to high usage before the monthly reads are performed. 14089-001

Your cooperative is moving forward into the digital age to better serve you. 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!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: www.energy.gov



Stay Comfortable.

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.

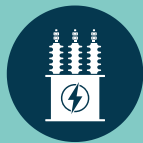
STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing

First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

Safe
Electricity.org®

What happens behind the scenes during a power outage?

2020 was unique, to say the least. Contributing to the chaos was a record-breaking hurricane season, intense heat waves, lightning storms that sparked wildfires, and various other inclement weather concerns.

What do all these weather phenomena have in common? Unfortunately, they all had the potential to result in power outages. **13591-001**

In the U.S., we are fortunate to have an advanced power grid in place. Power transmission and distribution is reliable in our country, and we are proud to deliver the electricity you depend on each day. Excluding outage times attributed to major weather or other catastrophic events, electricity consumers in our country typically experience only about 2 hours of total power interruptions per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). When outages due to major events are taken into consideration, the EIA reports the total outage time at 6 hours a year.

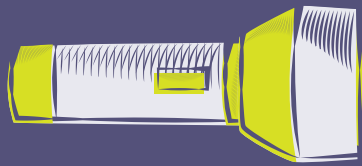
What happens on our end when your power goes out? Rest assured we swing into action in a safe and efficient manner to ensure your power is restored. How long that takes depends on several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access the storm-damaged areas. We are careful to follow standard restoration procedures to ensure safety and to get the job done right by:

- Assessing damage to utility equipment
- Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines
- Ensuring that essential public health and safety facilities are operational
- Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first
- Evaluating power plants for damage and restore them to working order
- Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas
- Assessing and repairing substations, distribution lines and service lines to properties

Thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore it as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

For more information about preparing for outages or storms, or about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

POWER OUT?



22 WAYS TO UNPLUG

If you are trying to keep yourself (or others) entertained during a power outage, save the battery power on your phones and other electronics for emergencies or weather updates, and consider some of these “unplugged” activities instead:

FUN FOR KIDS



Read a book



Play board or card games



Look at old photos



Tell ghost stories



Make shadow figures



Make a fort out of boxes and blankets



Sing your favorite songs



Play Simon Says

GET CREATIVE

- Write a story.
- Make up jokes.
- Draw or paint a picture.
- Set up an indoor bowling alley with plastic cups as pins.
- Fix something around the house.



PRACTICE SELF CARE

- Take a nap.
- Paint your nails.
- Go for a run or hike.
- Check in on your neighbors.
- Practice a skill, such as a second language, sewing, knitting, or tying knots.



AROUND THE HOUSE



Clean and organize your house



Rearrange your furniture



Fold laundry or organize your closet



Plant seeds or tidy up your yard

Safe
Electricity.org®

Be prepared for an outage... just in case

Thankfully, lengthy outages do not happen on a regular basis. That does not mean you should not prepare for them, however.

Safe Electricity and Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. suggest you:

- Have a storm kit ready that includes flashlights, bottled water, non-perishable food, battery-operated radio, batteries, portable cell phone chargers that are fully charged, hand sanitizer and first-aid supplies.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating or accessing medicines and using power-dependent medical devices.
- Find out where your local storm shelters are and have a plan for getting there if needed and it is safe to do so.

During a power outage:

- Call us to report the power outage.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve food. 13566-002
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors; do not use them in a garage.
- Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling.
- If weather conditions allow, check on neighbors. This is especially important since cell phone and internet communications may be disrupted and they may be unable to call for help.

For more information about electrical safety and storm preparation, go to SafeElectricity.org.

CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

December 28, 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 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.

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

The invocation was given by Luke Johnson and was followed by the pledge of allegiance,

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 12 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 14 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 Federated Report from the Board.

APPROVED, the Member Bill credit Resolution as presented.

APPROVED, the deceased estates.

APPROVED, the Delegate and Alternate List.

APPROVED, December write-offs.

REVIEWED chipper bids and recommendation of the committee.

APPROVED, purchasing the Brush Bandit Bobcat Chipper.

REVIEWED, the service truck bids and recommendation of the committee.

APPROVED, purchasing the Altec truck.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the fuel bids. **REJECTED**, all bids.

APPROVED, getting gas cards instead.

REVIEWED, the substation camera bids.

APPROVED, purchasing substation cameras from Wabash Communications.

WERE INFORMED, the NRECA meeting will be held virtually.

HEARD, a report by Luke Johnson regarding the SIPC Meeting.

REVIEWED, the SIPC Rate Reduction.

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

REVIEWED, the AIEC Training Calendar.

At 2:23 p.m. entered Executive Session.

At 2:33 p.m. exited Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

APPROVED, a cost-of-living increase for all non-union employees.

HEARD the 2021 Budget Preview as to the following:

- Capital Credit Payback;
- Capital Items;
- Donations;
- 2021 Budget.

APPROVED, the 2021 budget as presented.

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

- November 2020 Form 7;
- November 2020 Balance Sheet;
- November 2020 Cash Flow;
- Check from Baldwin EMC for Hurricane payment;

■ SIPC Power Delivered in November 2020 dated Dec. 9, 2020;

■ November Line Loss;

■ Monthly Reconciliation.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of December.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Dec. 21, 2020.

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

- Operations Report for year end 2020;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, Jan. 25, 2021, Feb. 22, 2021 and March 22, 2021 at 1 p.m. in the Clay Board Room.

REVIEWED, thank you card from Oil Belt Church Camp.

At 3:15 p.m. entered Executive Session.

At 3:20 p.m. exited Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

DISCUSSED, the open director seat.

APPROVED, appointing Evan Smith to the open Board Seat.


WERE REMINDED, that policy 800-4 needs updated as do some other policies on the iPads.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3:30 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.

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