

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

At your annual meeting in August, you heard me announce that your CECI Board of Directors had decided to return capital credits, in accordance with our bylaws, to those who were members from 1958 through 1961. I am happy to write this month that will be happening. Returning capital credits to members is one of the fundamental practices a cooperative should perform.

I was proud to announce the return of these capital credits to you, the members, but more than that I am proud to work for a board that values the membership in such a manner as to make the choice to follow through with that decision. They work hard for you, because you are more than just a customer. You are a member! And, with membership of the cooperative comes ownership.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative.

Every member of Clay Electric can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take the provision of electricity for granted, we are working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the member-owners of the co-op, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally-based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. CECI understands that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people that have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our future challenges.

You are owners of your co-op, and in a real sense, owners of this community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively

to tackle our future challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and

we will look locally for solutions. Finding local solutions can help keep money – and people – right here in our community.



Ed VanHoose
Manager

Clay Electric will be closed November 24 and 25, 2016 for Thanksgiving.

CCECI board re-organization

A re-organizational meeting of the Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. Board of Directors was held prior to its September 26 regular board meeting. During the meeting, Frank Czyzewski stepped down as president after serving in that capacity since 2002. Czyzewski has served on the board for the past 25 years and will continue as a director.

The newly elected officers are Richard Rudolphi of Noble, President; Kevin Logan of Edgewood, Vice President; and Greg Smith of Xenia, Secretary-Treasurer.

The cooperative wishes to thank Czyzewski for his continued service and leadership, and looks forward to the new officer's commitment to member's needs.

During the meeting, outgoing President Czyzewski presented

Kevin Logan with his NRECA Director Gold Certificate. The NRECA created the credential program to recognize directors committed to continuing their education. To earn the credential, a director must already hold the Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certificates and earn three additional credits from the Board Leadership curriculum.



Frank
Czyzewski



Greg Smith



Kevin Logan



Richard
Rudolphi

Ten 2017 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Clay Electric has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2017 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the "electric cooperative family." In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2017 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a

two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the "LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship," was awarded for the first time in 2011. This \$2,000 scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

"We hope to assist electric

cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships," says Exec. V.P./Gen. Mgr. Ed VanHoose. Clay Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker's scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker."

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Doug Hockman at 662-2171, or 800-582-9012. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website at www.ceci.coop, or at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives website at www.aiec.coop.

This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline – with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout. In Illinois, we saw a voter turnout percentage of 38.9 percent, but that still leaves a large number of voters that aren't making their voices heard.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. And who can blame us really? Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

Here at Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI), we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Coops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep



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up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season.

Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at

home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make major health decisions. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and

businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting August 22, 2016

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager Ed VanHoose, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by Richard Rudolphi.

Approved the agenda as presented and amended by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 25, 2016.

Accepted 10 new members for service.

Canceled 10 members no longer receiving service.

Approved a list of work orders in the amount of \$26,527.03.

Approved the disbursement list for July, 2016.

Reviewed and Approved Attorney standard billing, and NRECA Legal Seminar participation fees.

Reviewed Payment receipt as to Gen. Mgr. VanHoose Education Billing.

Reviewed 2017 Group Benefit Renewal Rates.

Reviewed 2017 NRECA 2017 Retirement Security Plan Rates.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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Reviewed CFC Loan Portfolio, and **Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to repricing strategies.

Informed that he intends to keep information posted for Trustee's review.

Appointed as CFC District 5 Meeting Delegate Bob Pierson, and as Alternate Kevin Logan.

Approved voting in favor of the 2016 District 5 Proposed Nomination Committee per the Official Mail Ballot; said Ballot so executed and directed to be mailed to CFC Headquarters.

Reviewed SIPC Monthly Highlights dated 8/19/2016.

Heard a report from Trustee Herman as to the same. Were

Informed by Trustee Rudolphi that SIPC and AMEREN have settled MISO dispute.

Reviewed Prairie State Energy Campus July 2016 Review.

Reviewed and **Heard** a report by Trustee Logan regarding recent AIEC Board Meeting, including Conflict of Interest disclosures, impact of MISO on Illinois Power Plants, DOL overtime rules, Net Metering, and Continuing Education. **Reviewed** AIEC policy on Active Shooter.

Reviewed Thank you from AIEC concerning the donated auction item to benefit the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Heard a financial report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to the following;

- a. **Reviewed** Form 7/Operations Report
- b. **Reviewed** July cash flow report.
- c. **Reviewed** SIPC July power bill.
- d. **Reviewed** July power factor.
- e. **Reviewed** July power cost adder.
- f. **Reviewed** US Bank July Credit Card statements.

Approved entering into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel.

Approved entering into Open Session.

Heard Managers report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as follows:

- a. **Heard** a safety report

discussing all items of topic through the month of August 2016.

- b. **Heard** a report on recent weekly and monthly Safety Meeting, development of a written, formalized vegetation management program and various inspections.
- c. **Informed** State of Illinois has been issuing payments towards balances accrued during budget impasse.
- d. **Heard** a report as to efforts to address certain spray damage.
- e. **Reviewed** a template of proposed letter to CECI Members informing them of recent retirement of Capital Credits for the years 1958 through 1962.
- f. **Heard** a report as to CECI hosting of an After Hours event with the Flora Chamber of Commerce.

Thereafter said Managers Report was Approved.

Reviewed a Thank You card from Clay County Hospice and the Family of William L. Schnepfer.

Adjournment.

