

# Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## From the Manager

In these letters, I have been sharing with you the Seven Cooperative Principles. They are the guiding principles that help steer your cooperative in the right direction. The next one I would like to share with you is “Democratic Member Control.” **13063-001**

Back in August, we had our 77th Annual Meeting of the Members of Clay Electric Co-operative. At our meeting, our members exercised their democratic control over the cooperative. In the months leading up to the annual meeting, prospective board members found enough support in their districts to run for the three director positions whose terms were expiring. Each year three or our nine director's terms expire. The board of directors sets the policies which govern the running of the cooperative and they are nominated by their districts and voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. It is in this way that our members direct Clay Electric Co-operative's path forward.

Your cooperative is not a political entity and goes to great lengths to

avoid getting entangled in partisanship. The purpose of the cooperative is summed up by our mission statement, “To provide safe, reliable and

emphasized to our legislators that policy objectives must not get ahead of today's technology, and our voices were heard. Your actions helped make



## Voices for Cooperative Power

*United for Stronger Communities*

exceptional service to our member owners.” Looking out for our membership does occasionally cause us to weigh in on upcoming legislation. This is what happened with Illinois' omnibus energy bill earlier this year. We asked our members to let their voices be heard and you responded loud and clear.

Through the Voices of Cooperative Power campaign, more than 40,000 emails were sent to Governor Pritzker and members of the Senate and House. Your actions helped convey electric cooperative support for a reasoned transition to lower carbon sources of electricity while maintaining grid reliability. Together we

the final omnibus energy bill better as passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. Thank you for making your voices heard.

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

**Our office will be closed  
Thursday, November 25th  
for Thanksgiving Day.**



**FALL BACK!!!  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS  
NOVEMBER 7TH.**

# Is your home's envelope well sealed?

**W**hen you see the word “envelope,” what comes to mind? Usually, we think of the outer covering that our mail comes in. However, you could save money on your energy bill if you focus on your home's envelope, which consists of its outer walls, windows, doors and other openings.

A well-sealed envelope, coupled with the right amount of insulation, can reduce your energy use and your utility bills. **4302-001** According to EnergyStar.gov, nine out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated.



Homeowners can save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors, crawl spaces and basements.

To determine if your home's envelope is in good shape, Clay Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity recommend having a home audit conducted to pinpoint the leaks that allow energy to escape your home. A qualified energy auditor will include an insulation check as part of a whole-house energy assessment and will identify areas of your home that need air sealing or insulation repairs.

## DIY home energy audit

If you would like to complete your own DIY audit, find out the following:

- The type of insulation in your home.
- The R-value (rate of thermal resistance) of your insulation. Typically, the higher the R-value, the more effective the insulating. Depending on where you live, you do not necessarily need the highest value; it depends on your local climate.

- The thickness or depth of the insulation you have.

In a newer home, the builder can identify the type of insulation used and where it is located. In an older home, you will need to perform the inspection yourself. To complete a DIY energy assessment, you will need to check the following items:

## In the attic

- A rule of thumb when inspecting the attic insulation is if the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you need to add more insulation.

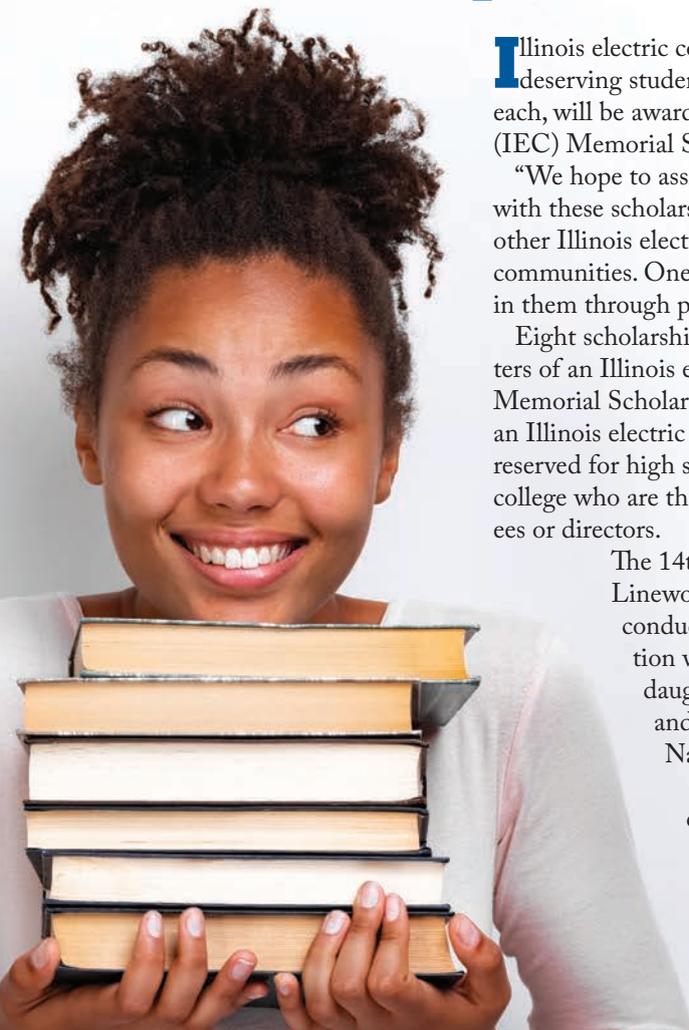
- If you cannot see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you probably have enough, and adding more may not be cost-effective.
- Insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Check throughout the attic to determine if there are any thin spots.
- Make sure the insulation in your attic has the appropriate R-value for where you live. Check the value printed on your existing insulation. If you cannot find the value, measure the depth of the insulation in inches. Multiply the depth by the following insulation type: 3.2 for fiberglass batting, for the loose fibers category, multiply by 2.5 for loose fiberglass, 2.8 for rock wool and 3.7 for cellulose. Then check EnergyStar.gov's recommended R-values. If the calculated value is less than the recommended levels for your region, then you should add more insulation.

## Behind the walls

- Turn off the power to the outlet before beginning this check. Then use a voltmeter or voltage tester to confirm there is no power before beginning work.
- Remove the outlet cover and shine a flashlight into the crack around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
- Pull out a small amount of insulation if needed to help determine the type of insulation.
- Check outlets on all floors. Just because you find insulation in one wall does not mean it is uniform throughout your home.

To learn more about energy efficiency and electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Fourteen 2022 IEC Memorial Scholarships available



Illinois electric cooperatives will award 14 scholarships in 2022 to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 14 scholarships, \$2,000 each, will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Luke Johnson, CEO. “Clay Electric Co-operative 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 and investing in them through programs like this one.”

Eight scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric co-op member. A ninth 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. Four additional scholarships are reserved for high school seniors 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 14th scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. 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 this scholarship.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2021. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2022. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Adam McKnight, Members Services Manager at Clay Electric Co-operative. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at [aiec.coop/iec-scholarship](http://aiec.coop/iec-scholarship).

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## September 27, 2021

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, September 27, 2021

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Richard Rudolphi was 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 Kevin Logan 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, as amended.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 10 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 10 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

**REVIEWED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board ;
- **REVIEWED**, the NRECA Board Update;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Board Update.

**APPROVED**, the Form 990 as amended with Director titles updated.

**APPROVED**, the Deceased Estate Capital Credits

**OPENED**, the sealed bids for the chipper, three bids having been received.

**APPROVED**, bid #3.

**APPROVED**, the SCADA Equipment upgrade.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Financials and Prairie State update.

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

**HEARD**, a report regarding the Regional Meeting.

**WERE UPDATED**, on Board Training events at AIEC.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in August 2021;
- August 2021 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- August 2021 Form 7;
- August 2021 Balance Sheet;
- Capital Credit check from United Utility;
- Capital Credit check from CRC;
- Capital Credit check from CFC.

**APPOINTED**, Josh Schnepfer to the Equipment Committee and Evan Smith to the Building Committee.

**REVIEWED** the Safety Committee Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Aug. 23, 2021. **11660-002**

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

- Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;  
■ Upcoming meetings.  
**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on, Sept. 27, 2021, Oct. 25, 2021 and Nov. 22, 2021 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 27, 2021 at 5 p.m. in the Clay Board Room.

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