

## From the Manager

**N**ovember is the month of Thanksgiving. I am very thankful to have excellent, dedicated staff working for Clay Electric Cooperative. Over the last year, our office staff has trained on and implemented a new billing system that is better able to track usage and pull data that helps to future-proof your cooperative's front office. Like most major changes, it hasn't been seamless. We appreciate the patience the membership has shown us as we learn the new system and work out the bugs. I am also thankful for our linemen, forestry crew and contractors who have worked tirelessly this year to upgrade our lines and maintain our system. We have seen a large part of the backbone of our system rebuilt this year by our contract crews, which has freed up our linemen to focus on pole changeouts and other maintenance. The staff of Clay Electric Cooperative continues to live and work toward the goal of providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all our members. **3033-001**

If a member is considering installing solar generation, a whole-home generator, electric vehicle fast chargers, or if just have questions about their bill, don't hesitate to call us. Your cooperative is a resource. It is our mission to help our members get the safest, most reliable, most affordable power possible. Please give us a call before any major project and we can help you make the most informed decision you can.

Don't forget to be on the 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!



**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

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



# Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

I don't know about you, but I consider my four-legged companion part of the family. I know others feel this way, too. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our *whole* family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big “bite” out of our budget.

This month, I'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be “ruff,” so

we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs—not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.



Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near

the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps *everyone* feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Clay Electric Cooperative, we want to help you save energy and money. We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.



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.

# Empower children to stay safe outdoors

According to the National Institutes of Health, electricity causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries in the United States each year, 20% of which occur in children. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call the electrical utility for help if a lost pet or toy enters one.

Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines and ask them to tell an adult if they see one. The utility company will send a professional to assist.

Children should never play with, climb on or open padmount transformers or outdoor electrical "green"

boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact the utility.

While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.

Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed clap of thunder or lightning 5323-001 bolt to play outside.

If enjoying the outdoors near water, such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.

Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should only be used in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 26, 2022

The organizational meeting of the Board of Directors of Clay Electric Cooperative Inc. was held Sept. 26, 2022 at the Clay Board Room in Flora, Ill., beginning at 1826-001 9:10 p.m.

The following Trustees were present: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were CEO Matt Conklin and Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl.

Tyra S. Cycholl presided throughout said meeting. Attorney Cycholl

also acted as secretary throughout said meeting.

Attorney Cycholl advised that the purpose of the meeting was to organize the Board and elect officers for the ensuing year. The following election was had with 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:

Nominations were taken for a slate of officers including Bob Pierson for President, Bill Croy for

Vice President, and Neil Gould for Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations, nominations were closed.

Upon voting the following were elected:

- Bob Pierson for President,
- Bill Croy for Vice President
- Neil Gould for Secretary/Treasurer

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was declared adjourned.



# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

September 26, 2022

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 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Kevin Logan, Richard Rudolph, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were CEO Matt Conklin and Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Matt Conklin 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**, the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, the 2021 Organizational Meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 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 CRC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, Form 990 for taxes as presented by London Witte Group. **APPROVED**, the Oilbelt Rental Contract for the Annual Meeting for the next 5 years.

**DISCUSSED**, REDLG loan issues. A Motion was made to NOT approve new REDLG Loans for private individuals/companies.

**APPROVED**, a Tower Agreement with the City of Flora for an attachment.

**DISCUSSED**, a policy for sponsorship of Rural Development Loans for members. Tyra Cycholl to draft.

**REVIEWED**, CFC Certificate of Patronage.

**REVIEWED**, CRC Patronage Allocation.

**REVIEWED**, CRC Report.

**REVIEWED**, NRECA News.

**REVIEWED**, Transformer Infographic.

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

**DISCUSSED**, the SIPC managers meeting.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC and Region 5 meeting.

**WERE UPDATED**, on the Board Training.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in August 2022;
- August 2022 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- August 2022 Form 7;
- August 2022 Balance Sheet;

**REVIEWED** the Safety Report for the month of June.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Matt Conklin on the following topics.

- Xenia Substation;
- Contractor Update;
- 2023 Contractor Work;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the picture of the Xenia Substation.

**HEARD** an update on the Contractors progress in changing poles and installing new wire.

**REVIEWED**, the 2023 Contractor Work plan.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Oct. 24, 2022 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 28, 2022, Dec. 27, 2022, and Jan. 23, 2023 at 5 p.m.

**REVIEWED**, a thank you card from the Ava Hout, Diana and Greg Rutland, Kaylee Scarbrough and Kennedy Czyzewski.

**ENTERED**, into the Organizational Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**EXITED**, the Organizational Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Clay Electric  
Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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