

# 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

**W**hen you checked your bills for February, you might have noticed a yellow survey. It's been a while since we last asked for your thoughts. We want to know how we are doing in service to our members or if there are services our membership would be interested in. If you didn't get the survey with your bill or lost it, don't worry. You can take the survey online at [www.ceci.coop/survey](http://www.ceci.coop/survey). It'll only take a few minutes! Your thoughts are important to us. This survey helps us know if we're doing a good job and might help us look for future services our members would be interested in. Knowing what you want is a big part of what we do. We strive to look to the

future needs of our members and want to provide, as our mission statement says, "Safe, Reliable, and Exceptional Service to our Member-Owners."

Also, if you flip to the middle of this month's magazine, you'll see our first Community Spotlight. We're shining a light on the annual auction for Shriners Hospitals coming up in May. You can find all the details in that section. Every month, we want to highlight a different community event. Just a heads up, we need to know about events at least one month before they happen. So, if you've got an event you'd like us to consider, send it our way! You can email us at [Admin@ceci.coop](mailto:Admin@ceci.coop) or mail it to Clay

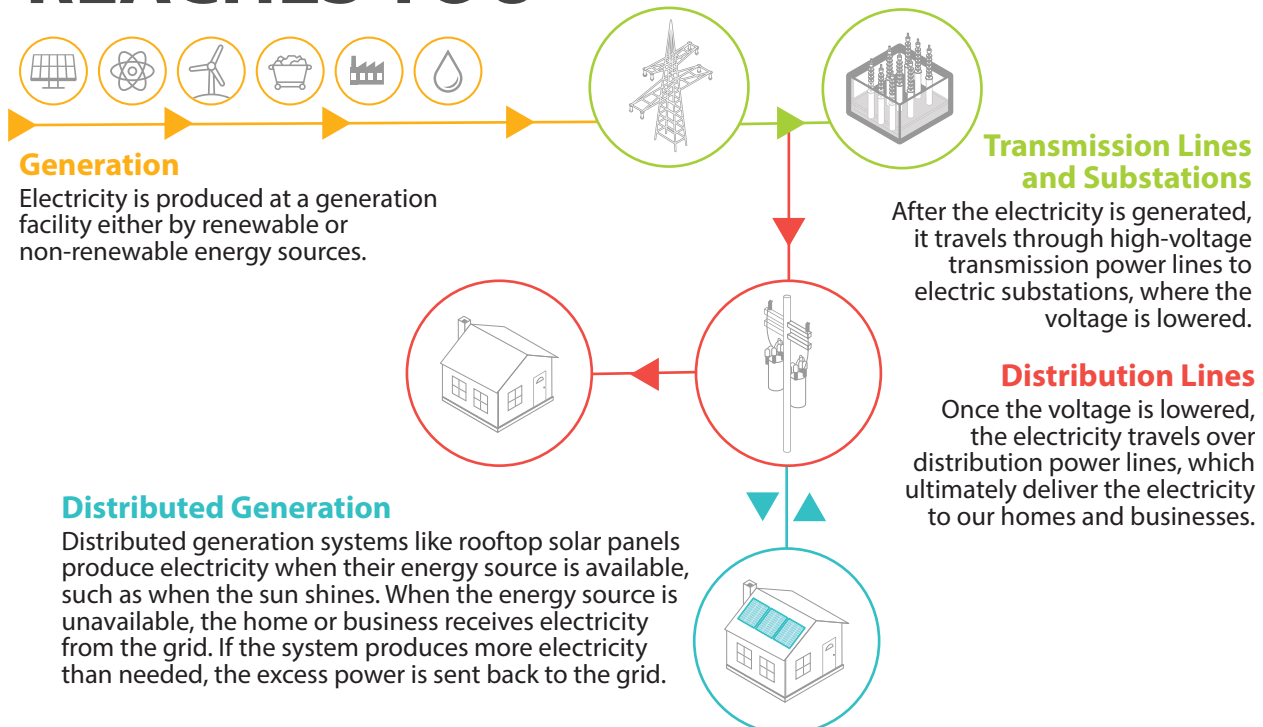
Electric Co-operative — Community Spotlight, P.O. Box 517, Flora, IL 62839.

Lastly, keep an eye out for your member number in the middle of this magazine. We've hidden three member numbers in the pages. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll get a \$5 discount on your next bill! Happy hunting!



**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

## HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



# Only certified workers can trim trees near power lines

Can anyone trim trees near power lines? The answer is no. Specialized tree trimmers, certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance, are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.

OSHA requires this certification because electricity is a serious and widespread hazard to tree workers. According to the Tree Care Industry Association, electricity is the leading cause of death in the tree care industry, causing about 15 percent of all industry fatalities. Tree care industry workers do not have to directly contact a power line to be electrocuted; about half of all electrocution fatalities are the result of indirect contact.

Qualified line-clearance trimmers must be specially trained in how to safely work in proximity to energized lines. They must understand how an electrical grid functions, the effects of tree growth patterns and tree damage and how to implement directional pruning, as required by the American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations' safety standards.

According to OSHA, the duties of line-clearance certified tree trimmers typically include the following:

- Undergoing annual evaluations by licensed professionals to ensure continuous adherence to industry best practices.
- Requesting job briefings from employers and other crew members before starting a job or when environmental conditions change.
- Properly wearing approved personal protective equipment, including fall protection equipment when needed.
- Complying with material handling and mechanical equipment requirements.
- Working with a second line-clearance tree trimmer within voice range.

- Determining the voltages of lines before work begins or assuming that the line is operating at the highest possible voltage if it is not possible to determine voltage.
- Ensuring body parts and any ladders, platforms or aerial devices being used remain outside the minimum approach distance from any energized equipment. **4528-001**
- Using only insulated tools and equipment to remove branches and limbs that are in contact with, or are within the minimum approach distance of, energized lines or equipment.
- Determining if weather conditions are no longer safe to work in, such as the presence of high winds, ice, thunder or lightning that would make the work hazardous.
- Beginning work on storm restoration efforts in the aftermath of a storm if they have been trained in the special hazards involved with this type of work.

Please contact your power provider if you have any questions about line-clearance tree trimmers or tree trimming near power lines.

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

## Chainsaw Safety

- STATISTICS -

**36,000** Each year, 36,000 people are treated in hospital ERs for chainsaw-related injuries.

**36%** Thirty-six percent of chainsaw accidents result in injuries to the legs and knees.

- The average chainsaw injury requires **110 stitches**.
- One in five chainsaw injuries is from **kickback**.
- Kickback is the single greatest cause of injury to **chainsaw users**.
- The two most common places for injuries are the **front left thigh** and the **back of the left hand**.
- Medical costs for chainsaw injuries amount to around **350 million dollars** per year.
- Kickback, binding, and pull-in** cause the most injuries from chainsaws.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- INJURIES -

Source: U.S. Product Safety Commission

Head Injuries <b>3,418</b>	Upper Body Area <b>2,141</b>	Arm and Hand Area <b>17,994</b>	Leg Area <b>16,348</b>	Foot Area <b>2,885</b>

**Safe Electricity.org**



Clay Electric  
Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7784 Old Hwy. 50  
P.O. Box 517  
Flora, Illinois 62839

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## 3RD ANNUAL MASONIC LODGE AUCTION FOR SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH at 10:00am  
Charlie Brown Park Fairgrounds  
Old Route 50, Flora

To make a donation, call 618-843-3815  
or mail checks or money orders made to

'Shriners Hospital' to:

Don Fry  
323 East 4th Street  
Flora, IL 62839



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.

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Jan. 29, 2024

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, Ill., beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi, Evan Smith and Josh Schnepfer. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO, 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 Kevin Loagan 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 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.

**APPROVED**, the retirement of capital credits.

**HEARD**, a legal update on the Dismissal of the Maple Flats litigation.

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**,

Policy 100-10 regarding Conflict of Interest.

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, new policies 800-22 regarding Social Media and 800-23 regarding Active Shooter.

**WERE UPDATED**, on Federated news. **5406-001**

**WERE UPDATED**, on CRC news and Dividend Check.

**HEARD**, an NRECA Update.

**HEARD**, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC as well as notice of the SIPC Annual Meeting to be held March 28, 2024.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC board meeting and an article from the Illinois Sierra Club.

**DISCUSSED**, upcoming Board training and the NRECA Annual Meeting and Legislative Conference.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in December 2023;
- December 2023 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- December 2023 Form 7;
- December 2023 Balance Sheet;
- Line of Credit.

**DISCUSSED**, having Brian Stagen come to the February meeting to discuss Financials.

**APPROVED**, moving the amount in Line of Credit to a 30-year long-term loan so long as the interest rate is favorable.

**HEARD**, the Manager's Report on Safety.

**REVIEWED**, Monday Morning Safety meeting held Jan. 29, 2024.

**REVIEWED**, the Cybersecurity Report.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- CEO Missing Meeting;
- LWG Letter of Engagement;
- UUS Transformer Rebate;
- 3-phase line extension;
- Banking discussion;
- Strategic Planning overview;
- Operations Report;

■ Communications Report;

■ Upcoming meetings.

**DISCUSSED**, how to conduct meetings if the CEO is absent.

**APPROVED**, having the Department Heads fill in for the monthly meeting should the CEO be absent.

**REVIEWED**, the LWG Letter of Engagement.

**REVIEWED**, the UUS Transformer Rebate.

**DISCUSSED**, a 3-phase line extension to a customer. Matt will give a quote for customer to pay for extension.

**DISCUSSED**, Banking issues.

**APPROVED**, switching Banks. Bob Pierson abstained from this vote.

**REVIEWED**, the Strategic Planning overview.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.


**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report. **6193-001**

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Feb. 26, 2024, and March 25, 2024, and April 22, 2024 at either 3:30 or 7 p.m. and May 28, 2024 at 7 p.m. (moved to Tuesday due to the holiday).

**REVIEWED**, a thank-you card from the Flora Chamber of Commerce.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Clay Electric  
Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

7784 Old Hwy. 50,  
P.O. Box 517,  
Flora, Illinois 62839  
618-662-2171  
800-582-9012

Office hours:  
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

[www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop)

[facebook.com/ceci.coop](https://facebook.com/ceci.coop)

