

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 we head into June, summer is upon us and many of our families are celebrating graduations and the bright futures that lie ahead for our young people. At Clay Electric Cooperative, we believe in investing in the next generation. This month we are especially proud to congratulate one of our own, Haven Cash, for being selected as a recipient of a \$3,000 Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship.



Each year the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) awards 16 Thomas H. Moore scholarships along with the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship. Haven's award recognizes outstanding academic achievement, community involvement, and a thoughtful understanding of the vital role electric cooperatives play in rural

America. These scholarships help deserving students from cooperative families pursue full-time studies at colleges, universities, and vocational/technical schools. We are thrilled to see Haven's hard work rewarded and look forward to watching the positive impact she will make in the years ahead.

Our commitment to a strong energy future was also reinforced recently when members of Clay Electric's management team toured the Prairie State Energy Campus. Southern Illinois Power Cooperative, our power supplier, is a part owner of this important facility. The tour included both the adjacent underground coal mine and the power plant. This gave us a firsthand look at the engineering, safety protocols, and operational excellence that make dispatchable, baseload generation possible.

In a state that continues to push aggressive renewable targets while retiring reliable generating plants, facilities like Prairie State remind us why steady, on-demand power from Illinois coal remains essential. With growing electricity demand from electric vehicles, home electrification, data centers, and everyday rural and agricultural needs, we must continue to look at both reliable baseload generation along with renewable energy working together. Supporting

policies that value a dependable mixture of generation assets is more important than ever. **9249-003**

We encourage our members to stay informed and make their voices heard by visiting voicesforcooperativepower.com. This site offers a platform for cooperative members across the state to share their perspectives with legislators and decision-makers while staying informed on important upcoming legislation.

In service to our members, our forestry crew continues its important work clearing right-of-ways to improve reliability and public safety. They will continue to be active in areas connected to the Iola substation this month. Their work area is highlighted on the map included in this section.



Matt Conklin
CEO



Don't forget to search for your member number in the center section of this magazine. Three lucky numbers are hidden each month in Clay Electric News. If yours is there and you call us, you'll earn a \$5 credit on your next bill.

We are grateful for the continued trust you place in your cooperative and remain committed to delivering safe, affordable, and reliable electric service you can count on, today and for generations to come.

Driving Safety on the Job

- ▶ Know and follow your workplace's safe-driving guidelines.

Policies should include:

- Wear a seatbelt — every trip.
- Don't drive distracted.
- Pull over to a safe location for calls, texts and emails.
- Secure tools and equipment before departing.
- Slow down in work zones.
- Don't engage in aggressive driving situations.
- Pull over and take breaks when needed.
- Know medication side effects, including drowsiness.
- Never drive under the influence.

Large equipment safety around power lines:

- **Look up — every time.** Scan the route and work area for overhead lines, including service drops to buildings.
- **Know your tallest point.** Account for raised booms, truck beds, antennas, extensions and loads. Lower equipment before moving.
- **Plan the route.** Choose travel paths, entrances and staging areas that avoid overhead lines.
- **Use a spotter.** Assign one person to watch clearances and give signals.
- **Mark hazards.** Identify overhead lines and establish a “no-go” area.
- **Watch for movement.** Wind can blow lines, loads can sway and equipment can bounce on uneven ground.
- **Avoid parking under lines.** Stage and perform maintenance away from overhead hazards.



If you make contact with a power line: ◀

- **DO NOT exit the cab.** Wait for the utility crew to de-energize power.
- **Call 911.**
- **Warn others to stay away.**

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Welcome home: Electrical safety for new homeowners

A new homeowner's electrical safety checklist

Moving into a new house is an exciting time. From unpacking boxes to decorating, there's a lot to do. During this busy time, don't overlook a vital aspect of your new home: its electrical system.

Get to know your electrical panel

Knowing your breaker box means understanding its parts, like the main breaker for the whole house, individual switches for circuit breakers and their functions.

- Familiarize yourself with your electrical panel and label each breaker and panel by appliance or room.
- Test how to reset a tripped breaker.
- Find the main shut-off switch in case of an emergency.

Avoid electrical hazards

Knowing what to look for around your home and identifying potential hazards can ensure your family's safety, prevent fires and reduce costly repairs.

- Have only one heat-producing appliance, such as a coffee maker, microwave or space heater, plugged into an outlet at a time. **12857-002**
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extensions cords and outlet strips should not be used.

- Inspect cords for signs of fraying or damage and replace or repair them immediately.
- Only use extension cords temporarily. Don't run cords under rugs, carpets, doorways or windows. Have a qualified electrician add more outlets if needed.
- Use surge protectors to safeguard devices such as computers, televisions and appliances from sudden power spikes.
- Always keep electrical devices away from water sources such as sinks, tubs and pools. Unplug items like hair dryers after use.
- Reduce risk of shock by using ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) around water sources such as kitchens, bathrooms, garages, basements and outdoors.
- Use outlet covers to prevent children (and pets) from inserting objects into unused outlets.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage — lamps and fixtures have a sticker to indicate the maximum wattage.
- Have a working smoke and carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home and ensure there are units installed near your sleeping area.

- Keep outdoor ladders away from overhead power lines, including the electrical service into your home.
- Schedule an electrical inspection with a qualified electrician for peace of mind and to catch issues early.

Call a professional if you notice these signs of an electrical problem:

- Frequently blown fuses, tripped circuit breakers and unexplained power outages.
- A tingling feeling when touching an appliance.
- Discolored or warm outlets or switch plates.
- A burning or rubbery smell, or a buzzing or sizzling sound.
- Flickering or dimming lights.
- Sparks from an outlet.

As you settle in, keep electrical safety on your new-home checklist. Pair these habits with energy-smart steps like turning off lights and unplugging unused devices, and you'll reduce risk while lowering your utility bill. The little choices you make every day add up to a safer, more efficient household. Welcome home.



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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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Unleashing the Power of OUR Community!
Clay Electric Cooperative's Community Spotlight is featured in each issue of Illinois Country Living Magazine and on our Facebook page each Thursday.

If you have a community event you would like to see spotlighted, send your submissions to us by email at Admin@ceci.coop or by mail to Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.—Community Spotlight, PO Box 517, Flora, IL 62839

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

April 27, 2026

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 6:50 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2026.

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

The invocation was given by Evan Smith and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. 18001-675

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.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held April 21, 2026;

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.

WERE UPDATED, on Federated Member issues.

WERE UPDATED, on NRECA issues from Jim Matheson.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

REVIEWED, lobby day pictures, as there was no AIEC meeting this month.

REVIEWED, Events and Training including ACES Conference, CFC Forum and AIEC Annual Meeting.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in March 2026;
- March 2026 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- March 2026 Form 7;
- March 2026 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report.

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

- New Build in unmapped territory;
- BLC Director Credential for Matt Conklin;
- PCA Projections;
- 2026 Board Relections;
- Youth to Springfield;
- Thomas H. Moore Scholarship Recipient;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, building to a new potential member in unmapped territory.

APPROVED, waiving service to the potential member and letting Norris serve this account in unmapped territory.

WERE INFORMED, Matt Conklin received the BLC Director Credential.

REVIEWED, the PCA Projections.

WERE UPDATED, on 2026 Board Relections.

UPDATED, on Youth to Springfield.

WERE INFORMED, Haven Cash was awarded a Thomas H. Moore Scholarship.


REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 7 p.m., June 22, 2026, at 7 p.m., July 27, 2026, at 7 p.m. and Aug. 24, 2026, at 7 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
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