

Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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From the Manager

August is here, and that means it is time once again for one of the most important events on our cooperative calendar. The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Members of Clay Electric Co-operative will be held Thursday, August 27th, 2026, at Oilbelt Christian Service Camp.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m., along with a pork chop or chicken dinner, Klondike bars and live entertainment by Guy Ash. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. All members who register will receive a \$15 bill credit on their next bill, and additional prize drawings will be held at the end of the night. **18001-773**

the Annual Meeting gives our members an opportunity to be part of the democratic process that guides this cooperative. This year, members will vote in elections for Board Districts 4, 5 and 7.

Your elected board members help set the policies and direction of Clay Electric Co-operative. They represent the membership and work with management to help ensure the cooperative continues providing safe, affordable and reliable electric service. Taking part in these elections is one of the most direct ways members can have a voice in the future of their cooperative.

We encourage all our members to come down, enjoy a meal, visit with neighbors, have a Klondike bar, and hear about what is going on with your electric cooperative. At the end of the evening, we will hold additional prize drawings, including the Annual Meeting Scholarship drawing for eligible applications already submitted. We hope to see you there!

In service to our members, our forestry crew continues its important work clearing rights-of-way to improve reliability and public safety. They will continue to be active in areas connected to the Iola substation this month. Keeping trees and brush away from power lines helps reduce outages, improves access for our crews, and strengthens the system before storms move through. We've had some



impressive storms so far this year and the limited number of long outages is due, in part, to the work our forestry crew puts in every day. Their work area is highlighted on the map included in this section.

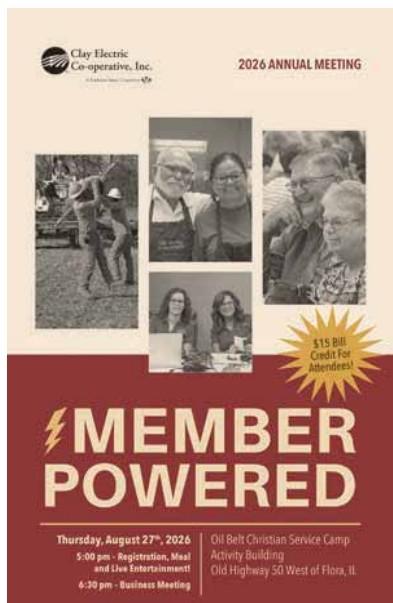
Don't forget to search for your member number in the center section of this magazine. Three lucky numbers are hidden each month in Clay Electric News. If yours is there and you call us, you'll earn a \$5 credit on your next bill.

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.



Matt Conklin
CEO

The Annual Meeting is more than a meal and an evening out with neighbors. It is one of the clearest examples of what makes an electric cooperative different. Clay Electric is owned by the members we serve, and





Hot tub safety tips while traveling

Hot tubs and Jacuzzis recently made headlines due to tragic accidents

To prevent electrocution, experts recommend knowing the location of electrical switches and circuit breakers, staying out of the water during thunderstorms and ensuring pools or hot tubs are properly installed and inspected by a professional.

Relax safely while you travel

- **Inspect the area:** Check nearby outlets, cords and equipment for damage or exposed wires before using a hot tub.
- **Be aware:** Locate power and emergency shut-off switches before entering the water.
- **Keep electronics away:** Don't use phones, radios or other devices near water — keep them elevated and at least 10 feet away — and never handle electrical devices when you are wet.
- **Teach kids:** Make sure children understand that water and electricity don't mix.
- **Check for GFCIs:** Hot tubs should be protected with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shock near water.
- **Mind the weather:** Never use a hot tub during a thunderstorm. Wait 30 minutes after lightning ends before returning outside.
- **Watch the temperature:** Hot tub water should be between 100 and 104° F (37.7-40° C) to avoid burns and overheating.
- **Limit soak time:** Limit use to no more than 15-20 minutes at a time to prevent overheating and dehydration.
- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water before and after soaking.
- **Skip the alcohol:** Alcohol increases the risk of drowsiness, dehydration and drowning.

Tips for homeowners:

- **Label power switches:** Clearly mark power sources for hot tubs, pools and lights.
- **Turn off for maintenance:** Always shut off and unplug the hot tub before doing any work.
- **Stay clear of power lines:** Pools, spas and decks should be built at least 5 feet from underground lines and 25 feet from overhead lines. Know the location of overhead power lines to avoid contact

while using long-handled tools like a pool skimmer.

- **Use safety alarms:** Consider installing a pool alarm to detect stray electrical current in water.
- **Schedule annual inspections:** Have a licensed electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub, including the lights, each year.

If you feel an electric shock

- **Get out immediately** and move away from the source — avoid touching metal or conductive materials such as ladders or railings.
- **Dry off** and warn others about the hazard. Shut off nearby power sources or contact authorities to do so. **18001-754**
- **If someone is being shocked,** do not enter the water. Turn off the power, use a nonmetal tool such as a fiberglass shepherd's hook to help remove the person, and call 911.



Clay Electric Cooperative Community Spotlight

Your 82nd Annual Meeting
will be held on Thursday, August 27th,
with registration, entertainment, and meal
starting at 5:00pm with the business
meeting starting at 6:30pm.

All members attending will
receive a \$15 bill credit and
will be eligible for the prize
drawings at the end of the
night.

We hope to see you there!



Clay Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative





LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY AT HOME

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, laptops, e-bikes, tools and toys. These batteries store a lot of energy in a small space. Learn how to buy, charge, store and recycle batteries safely to help prevent fires at home.

Use lithium-ion batteries safely

- Buy batteries and chargers with a nationally recognized safety certification mark.
- Only use chargers made for your devices and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't leave devices charging for longer than is necessary.
- Charge on hard, flat surfaces. Do not charge on beds, couches or under pillows.
- Store batteries at room temperature and away from anything that can catch fire.
- Have repairs conducted by a qualified professional.

! Stop using a battery if it smells unusual, gets very hot, makes popping sounds or changes in shape or color.

Charge e-bike and e-scooter batteries safely

- Charge your battery outdoors in a flat, dry area away from direct sunlight.
- Do not use a battery or charger that is damaged.
- Store batteries at room temperature, away from hot or cold areas.
- Never charge in areas that may block exits or create tripping hazards.
- Keep batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

What if batteries have been exposed to floodwater?

- Do not charge lithium-ion batteries that have been submerged or show signs of damage.
- Place exposed devices or batteries in noncombustible containers. Store them outside, away from buildings until recycled.

Recycle batteries the right way

- Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or curbside recycling bins. Doing so can start fires.
- Recycle batteries and devices at an approved battery recycling location.
- Contact your local waste department or visit batterynetwork.org to find a recycling site near you.

! The best way to cool a lithium-ion battery that is overheating or on fire is to flood it with water or submerge it in water.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

To learn more, visit:



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

June 22, 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 7 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026.

18001-966

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolph, Evan Smith, Kevin Logan, Frank Herman 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 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]:

Motion by E. Smith seconded by B. Croy to approve the suggested Agenda as presented.

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

HEARD, the Manager's Report on Safety including:

- The Quarterly Safety Committee meeting held June 11, 2026;
- The Monthly Safety Report;
- Monday Morning Safety meeting held May 26, 2026.

Motion by E. Smith seconded by J. Logan to approve the consent Agenda as presented.

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;

■ **REVIEWED**, Federated Report from the Board.

Motion by F. Herman seconded by F. Czyzewski, for CFC Certification of Resolution for renewing line of credit.

APPROVED, the CFC Certification of Resolution for renewing line of credit.

Motion by R. Rudolph seconded by N. Gould to approve the retirement of capital credits for a member estate.

APPROVED, the retirement of capital credits for a member estate.

Motion by F. Czyzewski seconded by B. Croy to approve June Writeoffs.

APPROVED, the June Write-offs as presented.

Motion by R. Rudolph seconded by K. Logan to enter into executive session to discuss SIPC.

APPROVED, entering into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by N. Gould seconded by F. Herman to exit executive session and to return to general session.

APPROVED, exiting Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

WERE UPDATED, on Power Vision Loan Restatement.

SCHEDULED, Strategic Planning for Jan. 6-7, 2027.

WERE UPDATED, on Federated Member issues.

HEARD, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan on the AIEC Board Meeting.

REVIEWED, Events and Training including AIEC Annual Meeting and schedule and Region 5 Registration. Motion by F. Herman seconded by R. Rudolph to approve the financial report by Matt Conklin.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in May 2026;
- May 2026 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- May 2026 Form 7;

■ May 2026 Balance Sheet.

REVIEWED, the Cybersecurity Report by Matt Conklin, CEO.

Motion by E. Smith seconded by J. Schnepfer to approve the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin.

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

- PCA Projections;
- Touchstone Energy ACSI Score;
- America Electric PAC and Illinois Electric PAC;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

DISCUSSED, the PCA projections from SIPC.

DISCUSSED, Touchstone Energy ACSI Score.

WERE INFORMED, of America Electric PAC and Illinois Electric PAC and how to donate.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on July 27, 2026, at 7 p.m., Aug. 24, 2026, at 7 p.m., Sept. 28, 2026, at 7 p.m., Oct. 16, 2026, at 7 p.m., and the Annual Meeting Aug. 27, 2026, starting at 5:30 p.m.

REVIEWED, a thank-you card from Clay County Hospital Endowment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Office hours:

7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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