

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

First, thank you for attending your annual meeting in August. We were excited to play host to 268 members and their families. Your annual meeting was a success, and we look forward to next year's 75th annual meeting.

This year's meeting saw us include more child friendly activities, and we plan on having more at future meetings. I enjoyed hearing the laughter from the bounce house as I made my rounds around the gymnasium and visited with all of you. Many of you expressed gratitude for our friends and neighbors with the Clay County Health Department, Clay County Hospital, local 4-H chapter and the myriad of other local companies present.

I was proud to have the opportunity to introduce the membership to Collin Moseley. Collin is a bright and motivated young man we are happy to have representing us nationally on the Youth Leadership Council. The youth program is near and dear to my heart. Seeing young adults from our high schools find success through the program makes the effort to support the Youth Tour and Youth to Washington worthwhile. They give

me hope for our future.

One of the most visible changes going on in the cooperative right now is our building project. We are happy to report that we have "broken sky." Walls and supports are finally going up at our new building. There's still a lot of work to do, but we still expect construction to conclude around the end of February. As I told you at the annual meeting, I am especially proud that your board and staff found enough costs savings to build the new building without incurring an increase in electric rates.

Switching gears, I want to address some of the questions brought to us about solar installations. With different laws and subsidies in flux at the state level, there are lots of questions floating around. We encourage any of our members interested in a solar build, or information on ways to improve their home's efficiency to lower cost, to contact us before starting any building project. With so many moving parts, it's always best to make sure you understand the full impact and potential pitfalls of any major construction project.

Taking a moment to shift more to business, you may have noticed

this issue has minutes from the Clay Electric Co-operative's board meetings from both July and August. The reason is a simple one. We want to get information to our members as quickly as possible, and we have streamlined the process to allow us to publish the minutes with less of a delay. This month we are doubling up, so our future publications will have the most current minutes available.

We would like to take a moment to thank our newly elected board officers. Richard Rudolphi will be reprising his role as Board President for the coming year. Kevin Logan was elected to serve as Vice President of the board and Bob Pierson will be serving as your new Secretary/Treasurer. We are very fortunate to have a board that works as hard for you, the membership, as the men and women I've worked with in my time at Clay Electric.



Ed VanHoose
Manager



Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting July 23, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Depot in Flora, Ill. beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, July 23, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, Neil Gould and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, Executive V.P. General Manager, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Also present was Adam McKnight.

The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided, and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Ed VanHoose.

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]:

Adam McKnight introduced himself. He is the new Member Services Manager. Thereafter, Adam McKnight left the meeting.

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda as presented.

APPROVED, the Consent agenda as amended including the following:

APPROVED, the minutes from June 25, 2018 with the change of location,

APPROVED, (a) to admit to membership those 17 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;

APPROVED, the disbursements;

REVIEWED, the June Credit Card Statements;

REVIEWED, the June Attorney Retainer;

REVIEWED, the CFC Notice regarding floating rate demand;

REVIEWED, the Federated June Member Update;

REVIEWED, the NRCA newsletter.

APPROVED, the CFC Loan renewal and Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency as presented.

WERE UPDATED, by Tyra Cycholl about the payment from Bud Welch regarding the transformer.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Regional Meeting to be held on September 18-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

REVIEWED, the 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 Key Ratio Trend Analysis from CFC.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman on the SIPC Board Meeting held on June 28, 2018.

WERE INFORMED, about the SIPC Strategic Planning Sessions held July 18-19, 2018.

WERE INFORMED, of the AIEC Annual meeting to be held July 25-27, 2018.

REVIEWED, the 2018 IL General Assembly Spring Session Summary.

WERE INFORMED, of the 2019 IEC Public Service Award Recipients.

WERE INFORMED, the AIEC dues were paid.

REVIEWED, the progress on the new building.

HEARD, a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. June 2018 Form 7;
- b. June 2018 Cash Flow;
- c. SIPC Power Delivered in June 2018 dated July 9, 2018;
- i. June 2018 Power Factor.
- ii. June 2018 Power Cost Adder.
- d. June Line Loss;
- e. Monthly Reconciliation;
- f. Account Summary Report.

HEARD, a General Safety Report for the month of July 2018.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated July 2, 2018.

REVIEWED, the Federated Litigation report.

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

- a) July Operations Report;
 - b) State of Illinois bill;
 - c) Critical accounts news article;
 - d) Budget item for capital credit training;
 - e) Vacation;
 - f) Upcoming meetings;
- WERE INFORMED**, of the State of Illinois' power bill.

REVIEWED, the Critical accounts news article.

WERE INFORMED, a new budget item will be added for capital credit allocation training.

REVIEWED, Ed VanHoose's vacation.

REVIEWED, Thank you cards from Angel Keller, Nick Miller, Collin Moseley, Cali Wilson and Vivian Duquaine.

REVIEWED, the Insurance Certificate from Windstream Services.

HEARD, a report by Greg Smith and Richard Rudolphi regarding their visit to the coal mine.

DISCUSSED, business opportunities between Clay Water and Clay Electric to better serve our customers.

ADJOURNED

**Clay Electric
Co-operative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting August 27, 2018

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Depot in Flora, Ill. beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, August 27, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, Neil Gould and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Also present was Sydney Rudolphi. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided, and Bob Pierson, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Ed VanHoose.

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]:

Sydney Rudolphi introduced herself and thanked the Board for sponsoring her in the Clay County Queen pageant. Thereafter, Sydney Rudolphi left the meeting.

APPROVED, suspending the regular meeting to hold the Organizational Meeting.

APPROVED, entering back into the regular meeting.

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda as amended by adding recognition of Safety Achievement Award for 2018 and one item to the Executive Session.

RECOGNIZED, the staff's Safety Achievement Award for 2018.

APPROVED, the Consent agenda including the following:

APPROVED, the minutes from July 23, 2018;

APPROVED, (a) to admit to membership those 10 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 15 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said

members no longer taking service;

APPROVED, the Work Orders; **DISCUSSED** then **APPROVED**, the disbursements;

REVIEWED, the July Credit Card Statements;

REVIEWED, the July Attorney Retainer;

REVIEWED, the ICWCG and RSI Minutes;

REVIEWED, the Federated July Member Update;

REVIEWED, the Illinois ACRE Spotlight;

DISCUSSED then **APPROVED**, the Insurance Certificates of Harrison and Oil Field Electric and MVMA, Inc.

APPROVED, Ed VanHoose as the Federated Delegate.

APPROVED, Kevin Logan as the CFC Delegate and Ed VanHoose as the alternate.

HEARD, a report by Manager VanHoose as to requests for retirement of capital credits for deceased estates; **APPROVED**, two deceased estates.

APPROVED, the Purchase Power Agreement of Kenny Bergfeld.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Letter of Concern to the Electric Cooperative Governance Task Force Report from the Texas Cooperatives and NRECA's response.

APPROVED, the Policy updates on Policy 900-1, 900-2, 900-3, 900-4, 900-5, 900-6, with the caveat that all customers with pending agreements will be grandfathered in under the previous policies as of the date of their agreement.

WERE UPDATED, by Tyra Cycholl about the final payment from Bud Welch regarding the transformer.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Regional Meeting to be held on September 18-19 in Minneapolis, Minn.

REVIEWED, CFC 2018 Capital Credits Disbursement.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman on the SIPC Board Meeting held on July 30, 2018.

WERE INFORMED, about the Tour of Prairie State to be held October 9, 2018.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan on the AIEC Annual meeting held August 16, 2018.

DISCUSSED, the new building concrete issues.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Board Training on BLC 977.1.

APPROVED, entering Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

APPROVED, returning to regular session at 8:40 p.m.

HEARD, a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. July 2018 Form 7;
 - b. July 2018 Cash Flow;
 - c. SIPC Power Delivered in July 2018 dated August 8, 2018;
 - i. July 2018 Power Factor.
 - ii. July 2018 Power Cost Adder.
 - d. July Line Loss;
 - e. Monthly Reconciliation;
 - f. Account Summary Report.
- HEARD**, a General Safety Report for the month of July 2018.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated August 13, 2018.

REVIEWED, the Federated Litigation report.

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

- a) August Operations Report;
- b) 2019 Annual Renewal Rates;
- c) AIEC August Manager's Meeting;
- d) South Carolina controversy;
- e) USDA Rural Broadband;
- f) Upcoming meetings;

WERE INFORMED, of 2019 Renewal Rates for insurance.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the AIEC August Manager's Meeting.

WERE INFORMED, about the South Carolina board members controversy.

REVIEWED, the UDSA Rural Broadband.

ADJOURNED

Clay Electric receives safety award

Clay Electric Co-operative participates in a Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP) administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Policies, personnel procedures and work habits, equipment maintenance, and several other vital roles of the cooperative business are examined. Every three years, auditors inspect the operations and business practices of the cooperative.

Recently, such an audit was conducted by Jim Miles, Manager of Safety and Loss Control at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and personnel from other Illinois electric cooperatives. Areas of improvements, as well as positive and negative items, were pointed out and discussed. CEO Ed VanHoose said, "Safety is number one at Clay Electric. We want everyone to return home to their families at the end of the day."



L-R Operations Manager Luke Johnson and CEO Ed VanHoose accepts the Safety Achievement Certificate from Jim Miles, AIEC Safety and Loss Manager.

Beware of dangers when decorating for Halloween

Halloween has become a time to string up lights, plug in fog machines and create a yard that is scare-worthy to any trick-or-treater. But beware of the hidden electrical dangers that could spoil your holiday.

"We often store our annual decorations away in the garage, basement or storage shed, and cords can become damaged in storage from extreme weather or even by a mouse," says Molly Hall, Energy Education Council director. Replace any damaged decorations.

Safe Electricity offers these tips to make your Halloween safe and fun:

- Inspect each electrical decoration. Check for cracking, fraying or

bare wires; they may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

- Replace damaged decorations.
- Make sure lights, animated displays or other electrical outdoor products are Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved and marked for outdoor use.
- Follow the instructions that come with electrical decorations.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into outlets protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If your outlets don't have them, contact a qualified electrician to install them or use

portable GFCIs instead.

- Keep cords out of walkways to avoid tripping hazards.
- Turn off electrical decorations and lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Consider using a timer.
- When decorating outside, make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Avoid any dangerous tricks this Halloween by enjoying your treats and decorating safely. Get more safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.

Organizational Meeting

August 27, 2018

The organizational meeting of the Board of Directors of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. was held August 27, 2018 at the Depot, in Flora, Ill. beginning at 7:10 p.m.

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

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 Secretary/Treasurer, in which Greg Smith and Bob Pierson were

both nominated. Thereafter, Greg Smith withdrew his nomination. Nominations were taken for Vice President and Kevin Logan was nominated. Nominations were taken for President and Richard Rudolphi was nominated. Upon voting the following were elected:

Bob Pierson was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Kevin Logan was elected Vice President.

Richard Rudolphi was elected President.

ADJOURNED