

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012

## From the Manager

**H**ow many of us remember dropping into Clay Electric's office with our parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? Whether you do that in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players, and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Clay Electric Co-operative.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker, toaster, microwave and electric skillet, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your household wiring to Clay Electric.

You use electricity to run all these devices, and we still keep the lights on, use the stove, heating and air conditioning, and get hot water from tap. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have been up by more than one to two percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why we urge energy efficiency, encourage you to look for ENERGY STAR® appliances, and promote technology, designed to give members more control over their electricity use. **13760-001**

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to

become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon Clay Electric Co-operative for more than the power that keeps the lights on.



That's why we're always working to provide service that's reliable, keep it affordable, and make it even more valuable to our member— you, your family and your neighbors.



**Adam McKnight**  
*Member Services  
Manager*

# KEEP SAFE **AND WARM** THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:**



**Have your furnace inspected** annually.

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.



**Inspect electric blankets** for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.

For more **tips on fire prevention**, visit



## MEMBER PRIZES

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.

# Be ready when Mother Nature strikes

**W**hen Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready. Hundreds of Americans are injured or killed in the winter months due to car accidents on slippery roads and in home fires caused by improper use of heaters. In addition, winter storms create a higher risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks due to overexertion.

Because winter brings its own set of challenges, Safe Electricity reminds you to prepare for extreme weather and to stay home during and after storms whenever possible.



## Be ready

Prepare ahead of time for massive snowfall, blizzards or ice storms that could last for days at a time. Tune in to local radio or TV stations for the latest winter storm updates. In addition, use a cell phone to stay informed by signing up for weather alerts. Have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. Also, have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) to listen for updates.

In preparing for a storm, be sure to:

- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have a supply of medications.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food as well as plenty of drinking water and a first-aid kit.
- Prepare for weather events year round by keeping a checklist of items to have on hand. Have as many of these essentials at the ready and in one place in case a storm event happens without warning.
- As the winter months approach, prepare your home with proper insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

## Stay inside

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are cleared. This may sound obvious, but some think whatever they had planned is too important to miss. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident or getting stranded. **11620-004**

If you do drive in extreme conditions, do not leave your car to look for help. Your car should also be equipped with several items during cold months, such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger and batteries, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, extra warm clothing, tire chains, canned and compressed air with sealant for tire repair, booster cables, emergency flares, and road salt and sand for traction.

If you're at home during an outage, please know we will restore power as fast as possible without compromising safety. Do not turn on the stove for heat. It's not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and warm coats. You can also use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heaters when used correctly.

When it comes to portable heaters, follow all instructions for use and:


- Don't place clothing on or near a portable heater
- Don't put a portable heater on the counter or other surface

- Don't leave it unattended
- Don't place on rugs, near paper or anything else that could ignite. Make sure there is 3 feet of unobstructed area

When using a portable generator, never use it indoors and make sure it is not close to windows, doorways or air-intake vents. Do not use it in an attached garage, even with the doors up. Never touch it with wet hands or use in areas with rain, snow or standing water.

For additional safety tips, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## November 26, 2018

**T**he regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Depot in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Nov. 26, 2018.

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

The invocation was given by Bob Pierson.

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**, removing the minutes and the disbursements from the Consent Agenda.

**APPROVED**, the Consent Agenda as amended including the following:

**APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 14 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 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;  
**REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;

**REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

**APPROVED**, the Insurance Certificates;

**REVIEWED**, the AIEC-Compliance Exchange;

**REVIEWED**, the CFC Integrity Fund;

**REVIEWED** the Account Summary Report.

**DISCUSSED**, then **APPROVED**, the minutes of Oct. 22, 2018 as amended and the Disbursements.

**APPROVED**, the SIPC Resolution naming Luke Johnson as Director.

**APPROVED**, the CECI Delegation of Authority for Luke Johnson. **7828-001**

**APPROVED**, the CFC Resolution for Luke Johnson

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

**APPROVED**, the Policy updates on Policy 200-1, 200-2, 200-3, 200-4, 200-5, 200-6, 200-7, 200-8, 200-9, 200-11 and 200-12.

**APPROVED**, suspending Policy 200-10.

**REVIEWED**, NRECA Annual Meeting attendees.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the CFC interest check.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the CFC credit card rebate.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman on the SIPC Board Meeting held on Oct. 25, 2018.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan on the AIEC meeting held Nov. 15, 2018.

**APPROVED**, supporting the AIEC FEJA position paper.

**DISCUSSED**, the new building progress.

**REVIEWED**, the Mid American Cooperative Education opportunities and determined Kevin Logan and Richard Rudolphi could attend.

**APPROVED**, entering Executive Session at 2:05 p.m. Luke Johnson left the meeting.

**APPROVED**, returning to regular session at 2:50 p.m. Luke Johnson returned to the meeting.

**APPROVED**, a bonus to Luke Johnson as Interim CEO for November and December.

**DISCUSSED**, the Fuel Bid and Landscape Bid for the Budget.

**DISCUSSED**, the 2019 Advertising for the Budget.

**DISCUSSED**, the 2019 Capital Credit Retirements for the Budget.

**DISCUSSED**, the 2019 Budget Forecast.

**DISCUSSED**, the 2019 Budget Sources and Capital Expenditures.

**HEARD**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:

1. October 2018 Form 7;
2. October 2018 Cash Flow;
3. SIPC Power Delivered in October 2018 dated Nov. 8, 2018;
  - October 2018 Power Factor.
  - LMR Credits.
4. October Line Loss;
5. Monthly Reconciliation.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Nov. 5, 2018.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Luke Johnson on the following topics:

1. October Operations Report;
2. Social Media Communications Report;
3. Upcoming meetings;

**REVIEWED**, the Social Media Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. upstairs at the Depot and Jan. 28, 2019 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Depot.

**REVIEWED**, thank you notes from John Forth, Full Armor Academy, Clay County Farm Bureau, Clay City High School and South River EMC.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 3:45 p.m.