

## The power behind your power

By Anne Prince

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Clay Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

### One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, CECI lineworkers are responsible for keeping 900 miles

of lines across parts of 7 counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# Rudolphi earns recertification of Director Gold credential

Recently President of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative Richard Rudolphi completed a series of continuing education classes recertifying him with Director Gold credential status. The Director Gold Credential program certification demonstrates ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge and performing fiduciary duty to the best of a director's ability.

The director education and certification program is managed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). NRECA's director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors at every stage of service to



L-R CECI Executive VP/General Manager Ed VanHoose presents Board President Richard Rudolphi his Director Gold recertification certificate.

understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry, and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a wide variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.

To maintain Director Gold status, directors must earn three credits from the NRECA approved list of continuing education programs within a two-year period, then periodic recertification is required.

## Geothermal Heat Pump federal tax credits reinstated



Federal tax credits for geothermal heat pumps were recently reinstated by the federal government. Residential consumers are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit for installing a geothermal heat pump system in their home. The reinstated tax credits are retroactive to Jan. 1,

2017, meaning that anyone who installed a geothermal system in their home in the past 14 months now qualifies for the tax credit. The tax credits are extended through Jan. 1, 2022, through a phase out plan in which the credit is reduced to 22 percent before ending.

The geothermal tax credit was part of a measure to extend the tax incentives to renewable energy technologies like geothermal heat pumps, combined heat and power systems, microturbines, small wind systems, fuel cells, etc., that were taken out of the legislation passed by Congress two years ago, extending the tax credits for the solar industry.

In addition to the residential tax credits, there is also a 10 percent investment tax credit for commercial

geothermal systems that was also extended.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association joined with a coalition of many national and state organizations to support reinstatement of the tax credits. The cooperatives are appreciative of the efforts of Rep. John Shimkus and several other Illinois Congressmen who sponsored legislation leading to the tax credit reinstatement.

The tax credit extension was part of the Continuing Resolution action by the Congress in early February to fund the federal government.

"We are appreciative of our leaders' support for Geothermal Heat Pump technology, and providing parity with the other renewable energy technologies," said John Freitag, executive director of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois. "Geothermal heating and cooling is by far the most efficient and effective way known today to heat and cool our homes and businesses. The tax credit extension helps to make installation of a geothermal heat pump the obvious best choice for heating and cooling."

Thanks to John Freitag, Executive Director of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois for this article.

# Don't Waste. Insulate!

Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort. R-values measure a material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value rating, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. Below are recommended R-values for areas of the home that should be insulated.

*\*Recommendations on R-values are subject to regional climate conditions.*

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## TYPES OF INSULATION



**Batt**



**Foam**



**Blow-in**

**1**

### DUCTWORK

Whether it's made of metal or plastic (PVC), insulated ductwork protects your investment in conditioned air year-round. Minimal R-values of 4.3 are recommended for blanket-style wraps secured with tape. Insulated ductwork rated at R-6 is also available.

**2**

### EXTERIOR WALLS

There are multiple options for insulating exterior walls. Rock wool or fiberglass batts of R-13 to R-20 value are preferred behind drywall, but each inch of blown-in polyurethane foam insulation provides an R-value of 3.9.

**3**

### BENEATH LIVING SPACE

Whether your home has a full basement, a crawl space or an attached garage, having an insulation value of R-19 under the living space floor will help increase comfort year-round.

**4**

### SLAB FOUNDATION

Properly installed foam boards around the exterior edge of the slab of an existing home can reduce heating bills by 10 percent or more.

# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting January 29, 2018

**T**he regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2018.

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

The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, 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 January suggested agenda as presented.

**Approved** removing the minutes from the consent agenda.

**Approved** the consent agenda as presented including the following:

**Reviewed**, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and admit to membership those eight applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 20 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

**Approved**, the list of work orders in the amount of \$46,461.70.

**Reviewed** the checklist for the month of December 2017.

**Approved** the December Credit Card Statements.

**Reviewed** the December Attorney Retainer.

**Reviewed** the Federated December update.

**Reviewed** the Annual Workers Compensation Premiums.

**Discussed and Approved** the

December 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

**Approved** Kevin Logan as Voting Delegate and Bob Pierson as Alternate for the CFC Annual Meeting.

**Approved** Richard Rudolphi, Greg Smith, and Frank Herman as the SIPC Representatives, and Kevin Logan to nominate Board Members for Clay.

**Approved** one Purchase Power Agreement in the form as presented.

**Approved** the IDOR opt out correspondence.

**Approved** the CFC Forward Rate Lock.

**Discussed** the Depreciable items.

**Approved** entering into executive session.

**Approved** entering back into regular session.

**Approved** writing off in 2017 the depreciable items presented as Existing Building, EPA Compliance and Tools, which we no longer possess.

**Informed** of the NRECA Annual Meeting Notice.

**Heard** a report on the recent SIPC meeting by Trustee Herman.

**Reviewed** the Prairie State Year End Review.

**Heard** a report by Kevin Logan on the recent AIEC meeting. **Discussed** the building project at AIEC and Clay's willingness to help fund the project.

**Reviewed** correspondence from AIEC legal counsel Bradley Rightnowar regarding the objection filed by ComEd.

**Discussed** the AIEC Statewide survey. **Approved** not participating in that survey with one abstention.

**Discussed** CECI doing its own survey on Facebook or with Survey Monkey.

**Discussed** the New Building Design and Logistics.

**Informed** of upcoming NRECA Board Training Opportunities.

**Heard** a financial report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. December 2017 Form 7
  - b. December 2017 Cash Flow;
  - c. SIPC Power Delivered in December 2017 dated January 8, 2018
  - December 2017 Power Factor.
  - December 2017 Power Cost Adder
  - December 2017 Line Loss.
- Heard** a General Safety Report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose for January 2018.

**Reviewed** Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated January 22, 2018.

**Heard and Approved** a report by Manager VanHoose as to the following:

- a. SEDC New Servers
- b. Workers Compensation Premiums
- c. REDLG loan for HSFPD
- d. Auditor Letter of Engagement
- e. 2017 SIPC Capital Credit Allocation
- f. Upcoming meetings

**Heard** a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose regarding the retirement of Capital Credits to the estate of one deceased Member. **Approved** the retirement pursuant to Cooperative Policy.

**Reviewed** one liability insurance certificate.

**Adjourned**

**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)  
[www.facebook.com/ceci.coop](http://www.facebook.com/ceci.coop)

 Like