

# Clay Electric News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## From the Manager

**T**here have been a lot of changes taking place at Clay Electric Co-operative recently. I am one of them. My name is Adam McKnight, and I am your member services manager. I've been working with Doug Hockman since August and, with his retirement this month, will be fully taking on his responsibilities. We wish him well in his retirement and I hope that I can bring the same level of exemplary service to you. I will be using this column to keep you all informed of the workings and projects of your electric cooperative.

I'm not the only change in management happening at Clay Electric. Our former CEO, Ed VanHoose, has taken a new position, and the board of directors has appointed Luke Johnson as our interim CEO. Luke has served as your operations manager for the last several years. He has a passion for this community, and there is no one more familiar with the inner workings of Clay Electric's operations. He will

continue in this role until a permanent solution has been found.

We are happy to announce the winners of our Christmas Coloring Contest. We had our employees vote on their favorites and they can be found on Page 13. We would like to congratulate our winners: Sadie



See the winners on page 13

Stortzum, Amity Zuber, Kayla McGuire and Jude Nosek. We love having all the entries brightening up our offices. Thanks to all our participants.

Solar installations continue to be a topic that comes up around the office and in my conversations with members. 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.

8535-001

In my short time working at Clay Electric Co-operative, I can say without hesitation that the employees at Clay are the best kind of people. A crew of volunteers from Clay Electric took the long drive, for a second time, to North Carolina and Florida to help our sister cooperatives on the coast after Hurricane Michael. I invite you to read more about them on page 20C.



Adam McKnight  
Member Services  
Manager

## 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.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Clay Electric Co-operative announces new interim CEO

**T**he board of directors of Clay Electric Co-operative named Luke Johnson as the interim CEO for the cooperative. Johnson assumed the position on Nov. 19, 2018 with the departure of former CEO Edward VanHoose.

“Having been with Clay Electric as an employee for the last 19 years and in the cooperative family for 34 years, it’s fair to say Clay Electric is dear to me and my family,” said Johnson. “Starting as an apprentice and working my way up to operations manager, serving our members as the interim CEO will be a great honor. For that I am very blessed and grateful.”

Johnson has been a lifelong southern Illinois resident and lives in Flora with his wife Jeana and three children. Luke has held many positions in the cooperative world. He was Clay Electric’s operations manager before accepting the position of interim CEO. **12163-005**

Edward VanHoose has guided the cooperative as it’s CEO since 2014 and will be taking an executive position in Ohio on Nov. 16. “I believe the Board has made a great decision



Luke Johnson, Interim CEO of  
Clay Electric Co-operative

in appointing Luke as the interim CEO,” said VanHoose. “There is no one more knowledgeable about the daily operations and current projects at Clay Electric than Luke Johnson. Luke has a singular passion for this community that can’t be disregarded. I have no doubt he will excel in the position and in guiding Clay Electric Co-operative forward.”



**The Clay Electric Co-operative office will be closed  
December 24 and 25 to celebrate Christmas.  
We will also be closed January 1, 2019  
to celebrate New Year’s Day.  
The Clay Electric Co-operative board and employees wish  
everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



## Stormbound: Clay Electric Co-operative linemen volunteer for Hurricane Michael relief

**H**urricane Michael was the strongest storm on record to hit the Florida Panhandle. At least 60 deaths have been attributed to Hurricane Michael, and the damage is estimated at \$11.3 billion. Hurricane Michael hit the Florida Panhandle with the brunt of its force and curved east along the coast, hitting Georgia and the Carolinas with heavy rains and brutal winds.

The hurricane battered regions that had just weathered Hurricane Florence the month before. An estimated 1.2 million households were without power in the wake of Hurricane Michael. Cooperatives and utilities all along the east coast mobilized, and hearing the call for aid, Clay Electric Co-operative mobilized as well.

Clay Electric was one of the multitudes of co-ops across more than a dozen states to send mutual aid to those affected by Hurricane Michael. Clay Electric's crew were asked to retrace the path they had taken a month before to again help South River EMC in North Carolina. They were staged with materiel and workers from all over the map to be ready to respond to

outages as soon as it was safe to do so.

The Carolinas were not as heavily battered by Michael as they were by Hurricane Florence. The crew aided in the restoration efforts of South River EMC before being sent to Piedmont EMC to assist in their efforts. The crew would make a short trip to Florida to work in the restoration efforts there before being sent home.

The idea of mutual aid is tied directly to one of the seven fundamental principles of the cooperative model, cooperation among cooperatives. "Michael, like Florence before, was an opportunity for us to help our sister cooperatives on the coast," said Luke Johnson, interim CEO of Clay Electric. "You can't stop Mother Nature. All you can do is help your neighbor when you can and know they will help you in turn." **14320-001**

Clay Electric's relief crew spent a week in between North Carolina and Florida working 17-hour days to help the members left without power. We are grateful for their willingness to sacrifice time at home with their families to help our co-op

*L-R Clay Electric Co-operative employees Brody Snell, Phillip Durre and Damien Bowling return from helping restore power to North Carolina and Florida residents in the wake of Hurricane Michael.*

family recover from this natural disaster. Clay Electric Co-operative counts itself lucky to have people who truly care, not just for their own community, but for people all around our great nation.

### Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

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# Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

## Regular meeting October 22, 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, Oct. 22, 2018.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, CEO; Luke Johnson, operations manager; Adam McKnight, member services manager and Tyra Cycholl, attorney for the board. Phillip Durre, newly hired tree trimmer, was also present. Danny Schnepfer was absent. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Bob Pierson, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Frank Czyzewski.

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]:

Phillip Durre introduced himself as the new tree trimmer and thanked the board. Thereafter, Durre left the meeting.

**APPROVED**, the Suggested Agenda.

**APPROVED**, the Consent agenda including the following:

1. **APPROVED**, the minutes from September 24, 2018;
2. **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 20 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;
3. **APPROVED**, the Work Orders;
4. **APPROVED**, the disbursements;
5. **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;

6. **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

7. **DISCUSSED** then **APPROVED**, the Insurance Certificates.

8. **REVIEWED**, the AIEC-Compliance Exchange. **DISCUSSED**, a billing issue and **APPROVED** repayment.

**APPROVED**, the new Membership Application.

**DISCUSSED** then **APPROVED**, the Depreciation Report.

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

**APPROVED**, the Policy updates on Policy 100-1, 100-3, 100-4, 100-5, 100-6, 100-7, 100-8, 100-9, 100-10 and 100-11.

**REVIEWED**, the Interest paid to CFC for the New Building

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman on the SIPC Board Meeting held on Sept. 27, 2018.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan on the AIEC meeting held Oct. 18, 2018.

**DISCUSSED**, the new building progress.

**REVIEWED**, the NRECA Board Training on BLC 919.1.

**REVIEWED**, then **APPROVED**, Ed VanHoose's resignation letter effective Nov. 18, 2018.

Luke Johnson and Adam McKnight then left the meeting.

**APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. At 8:40, Ed VanHoose left the meeting. At 9:00, Luke Johnson returned to the meeting.

**APPROVED**, returning to regular session at 9:30 p.m. Adam McKnight and Ed VanHoose returned to the meeting.

**APPROVED**, hiring Luke Johnson as interim CEO effective Nov. 19, 2018 for a minimum of two months.

**DISCUSSED**, the Security Lighting Proposal for the Budget.

**DISCUSSED**, the 2019 Capital Budget Items.

At 10:00 p.m. Tyra Cycholl left the meeting.

**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 Manager VanHoose as to the following:

1. September 2018 Form 7;
2. September 2018 Cash Flow;
3. SIPC Power Delivered in September 2018 dated Oct. 8, 2018;
  - i. September 2018 Power Factor.
  - ii. September 2018 Power Cost Adder.
  - iii. LMR Credits.
4. September Line Loss;
5. Monthly Reconciliation;
6. Account Summary Report.

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

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Sept. 8, 2018.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the September Operations Report by Luke Johnson

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the Communications Report by Adam McKnight.

**WERE INFORMED**, about Truck #6 Repair.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the Darren Bailey Fundraiser.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Nov. 26 at 1 p.m., Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m. upstairs at the Depot and Jan. 28, 2019 at 1 p.m. at the Depot. The Strategic Planning meetings have been cancelled.

**REVIEWED**, a thank you note from Charlie Cox.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 10:45 p.m.