

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

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI), is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative. When the co-op was founded back in 1942, members of the community knew that we are a locally-owned business – likely because they or someone they knew played a part in helping found the cooperative. Over time, as the novelty of receiving electricity waned, the founders passed on and new people moved into the community, viewing the electric co-op like any other energy provider.

But we are different, and the key to that difference is you, the member-owner of our cooperative. Without your support and commitment, we would not exist.

When people own something, they treat it differently, which is why we encourage CECI members to act as an owner rather than a customer. As an owner, you play a critical role in our success. Each year, if our revenue exceeds our expenses (which is always our goal), a certain percentage is allocated back to you

– because you are a member of the co-op. Then, when the cooperative board decides the co-op is in a good financial state, those margins are returned to the membership.

With that ownership comes certain rights, like the opportunity to seek election to serve on the board of directors. If that seems like too big a commitment, we still want and need you to participate in the annual elections, such as the recent CECI Annual Meeting of the Members. We thank all of you that took the time to attend and support your Cooperative.

We welcome your advice and counsel as we continually look for innovative ways to help you use energy efficiently and in a more cost-effective manner. CECI offers such things to help out our Members such as a balance budget billing, online bill pay, ACH and credit card payments, a special all electric rate, and an electric heat rate and grain drying rates.

As a local business, we have a

real stake in the community, just as you do. That is why we seek opportunities to engage with local organizations like schools and civic organizations, to help when we can.

While electric power is the commodity that your co-op sells, the real power is that together, we empower this local community. When people feel empowered, they accomplish great things.

True, the world is different today than it was in 1942 when Clay Electric Co-operative was founded, but our mission of serving you and our community is constant. Working together with your active, inspired engagement, we can continue to accomplish great things.



Ed VanHoose
Manager

Unclaimed capital credits

In order to process refunds for capital credit accounts, Clay Electric Cooperative is attempting to contact members, or their heirs, that received electric service during the years 1958–1961.

Please go to this link <http://www.ceci.coop/content/unclaimed-capital-credits> to view the entire list of unclaimed refunds. If you recognize a name on the list, please let the person know they are due a refund.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system *before* the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Czyzewski earns Director Gold Credential

Recently Frank Czyzewski, Trustee of Clay Electric Cooperative, completed a series of continuing education classes earning him Director Gold Credential. This credential has been created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the first two levels, the Credentialed Cooperative Director and the Board Leadership Certification. The Director Gold Program Certification demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their 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 their service,

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.

Understanding energy demand and purchasing

By Meghaan Evans

You may not think you need to understand energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to that question is “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI), can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by our power supplier, Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), a Generation and Transmission cooperative (G&T). Once the electricity has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a safer level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines and finds its way into your home. So, while you pay your bill to CECI, your electric distribution cooperative, we don't actually generate the electricity you

use. That is the job of SIPC.

CECI does help to determine how much electricity our members need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in determining how much electricity SIPC needs to create in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where these terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb “consumes” a certain number of watts, let's say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it “demands” a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from SIPC that is producing the electricity. Now, if you turn on 10, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kW. However, you are placing a demand on the utility to have those kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of 10. This requires SIPC to produce more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

CECI purchases kilowatt hours from SIPC based on the average demand of our members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more to both CECI and to our members.

Demand is the reason your electricity bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured Clay Electric Cooperative will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your family.

Meghaan Evans 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.

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting June 26, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the principal office of the Cooperative, R.F.D., in Flora, Illinois beginning at 7:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2017.

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer, and Greg Smith. Also present were: Ed VanHoose, Executive V.P. General Manager, Tyra Cycholl, CECI Attorney, Luke Johnson Operations Manager/Youth Tour Chaperone, and Youth Tour Participants Lucas Rauch, Madison Healy, and Lily Burkett. The meeting was opened by Richard Rudolphi, who presided and Greg Smith, Secretary, acted as secretary thereof.

The Board heard from Luke, Lucas, Madison, and Lily regarding the Clay Electric sponsored Youth to Washington Tour, which they previously attended. The students all told of what a worthwhile and exiting trip that it was. Thereafter the group left the meeting.

The invocation was given by Frank Herman.

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 consent agenda, with the addition of line 21 regarding the SIPC President's report, as presented.

Approved, the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on May 24, 2017.

Reviewed, that the Board of Trustees hereby: (a) approve and admit to membership those 11 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, a list of work orders in the amount of \$40,504.41.

Approved the checklist for the month of May 2017.

Approved the Credit Card Statements.

Reviewed the June Attorney Retainer.

Nominated and Approved Richard Rudolphi as AIEC Voting Delegate, and Kevin Logan as Alternate.

Nominated and Approved Kevin Logan as NRECA Voting Delegate, and Frank Czyzewski as Alternate.

Discussed the upcoming NRECA Region 5 meeting.

Reviewed, the NRECA updates including the new FEMA Administrator.

Advised of the CFC quarterly loan payment.

Discussed the CFC financial workshop as recapped by Kevin Logan.

Reviewed the May Federated report.

Advised of Federated's Safety and Loss Assessment. **Discussed** drafting a remote Disconnect/Reconnect Policy. Ed VanHoose and Tyra Cycholl to follow-up.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman on the recent SIPC Committee meeting and President's report.

Heard a report by Trustee Bob Pierson regarding the ACES Member Conference.

Heard a report by Trustee Kevin Logan on the recent AIEC meeting.

Reviewed the AIEC Legislative Updates and dues.

Updated on the Building Committee concerning adjoining property and the possible purchase. Gen. Mgr. VanHoose will investigate further.

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

a. May 2017 Form 7

b. May 2017 Cash Flow;
c. SIPC Power Delivered in May 2017 dated June 8, 2017

May 2017 Power Factor.
May 2017 Power Cost Adder
May Line Loss.

Heard a General Safety Report for May 2017.

Reviewed Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated June 12, 2017.

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

a. CECI June storm
b. 2017 CFC Forum
c. 2017 unclaimed capital credits
d. 2017 National Benefits survey
e. Dusty's Tire disaster
f. Upcoming meetings

Trustee Czyzewski then left the meeting.

Reviewed thank you cards from McKenzie Wheeler, WIU Youth Conference participant, and Clay County Hospital Endowment Foundation.

Reviewed 2 Liability Insurance Certificates.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared **Adjourned**

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Office hours:

7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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 Like

Clay Electric employee Mike Winka, coordinator for JAKES event, announces upcoming event for area youth

The Ray Winka Farm owned by Ray and Irene Winka located just north of Flora has been the site of the Clay County Cutters and Strutters chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation's J.A.K.E.S. event for nearly 10 years. JAKES stands for Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics and Sportsmanship.



Each September, youth from the area gather to enjoy a day filled with hands-on outdoor activities as well as a wide range of displays and demonstrations from individuals and various agencies.

The event includes but is not limited to fishing, archery, clay and still target shotgun stations, BB gun and air rifle range, turkey calling,

tree stand safety, and a face painting station was added last year for some of the younger participants to enjoy.

Agencies and individuals that have been involved in the past include Illinois State Police K-9 unit, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Clay County Sheriff's office, Illinois Trappers Association, Illinois Raptor Center, Local Boy Scout Troop, and champion call

maker Don Bald from Lebanon, Ill. A retriever demonstration, frontier reenactment, live snake display, birds of prey display and seminar, and IDNR trailer have also been attractions at past events.

Attendance has been averaging between 80 and 100 participants, and parents may attend or come

and go at their convenience. The event is still free with lunch and usually some door prizes provided. It is made possible from funds from the annual NWTF banquet, donations from local businesses and individuals, and sponsors make it possible to provide all attendees with a t-shirt.

The event is mainly targeted to get some younger people involved and interested in the outdoors and the activities that are provided.

In following one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, "Commitment to Community," Clay Electric employee Mike Winka has been coordinator of the event for the past 10 years.

"A lot of phone calls, planning and hard work go into organizing this event, and it wouldn't be possible without local donations and the help of our NWTF committee members and volunteers who work the stations during the day and Ray and Irene for letting us use the farm.

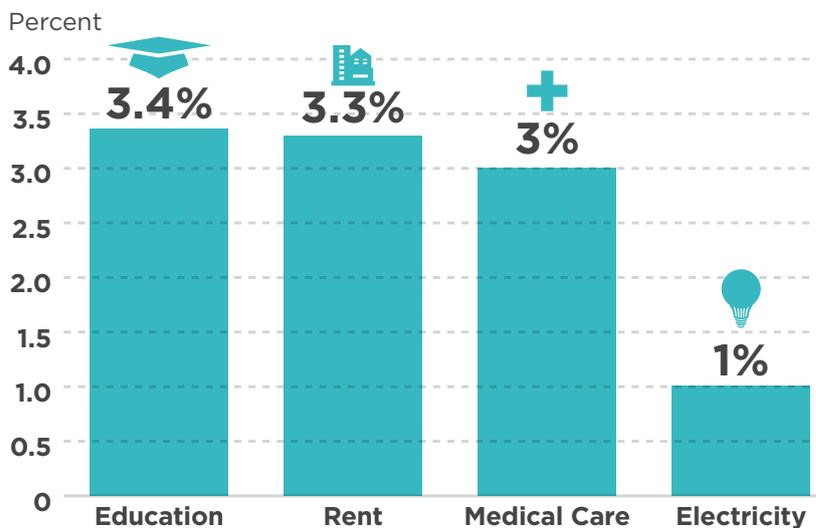
"After talking with the kids, so many tell me 'this is my first-time fishing or first-time shooting.' This is our objective of what we are trying to accomplish."

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, September 16.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

