

Ten 2016 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Clay Electric Co-operative Executive V.P. / General Manager Ed VanHoose has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will again in 2016 award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The nine academic scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2016 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual \$2,000 scholarship, the “LaVern and

Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” was created in 2011 to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), Springfield, Ill. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard; and individuals participating in the LLCC lineworker’s program are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” says Gen. Mgr. VanHoose. “Clay Electric and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and

women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

Clay Electric has been fortunate to have had 3 winners of these scholarships. Those winners include 2011 Morgan Healy North Clay H.S., 2010 Kate Henderson Flora H.S., and 2009 Kaylee McCollum North Clay H.S.

For more information regarding the scholarships, check out the Clay Electric website at www.ceci.coop. All necessary paperwork has also been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative’s website www.ceci.coop or at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives website www.aiec.coop. For any questions please call Member Services Director Doug Hockman at Clay Electric Cooperative at 662-2171, or toll free 1-800-582-9012.



Ed VanHoose
Manager

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Regular meeting August 31, 2015

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 Executive Vice President/General Manager Ed VanHoose, Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce, Member Services Director Doug Hockman, and Youth Day/Youth Tour Participants Lexi Harrison and Parker Moses. The invocation was given by Neil Gould.

Approved the agenda as presented by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose.

Doug Hockman **introduced** Lexi Harrison and Parker Moses, they informed the Board about their Youth Tour experiences, and their summer part time intern positions, and showed their appreciation for the Cooperative's sponsorship of them.

Conducted the Organizational Meeting presented by Attorney Pearce.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held July 27, 2015.

Accepted 12 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Reviewed and **Approved** work orders in the amount of \$40,153.25 for the month of July.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of July 2015.

Reviewed 3rd quarter billing.

Heard an update on the health of NRECA CEO JoAnn Emerson.

Reviewed article "Messaging on the final version of the EPA greenhouse gas regulations (the Clean Power Plan).

Heard a report on the NRECA International Program.

Heard a report on the recent AIEC Board meeting by Trustee Logan, specifically as to Drone Technology, outages, and changes to the AIEC Memorial Scholarship Program.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting specifically financial information, and Reviewed SIPC "Administration and Finance Department Summary" for July 2015.

Approved entering into Executive Session for the purpose of Employee related issues or concerns.

Approved concluding Executive Session.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. VanHoose as to the following;

Reviewed Form 7/Operations Report.

Reviewed cash flow report.

Reviewed financial trend analysis.

Reviewed SIPC power bill.

Reviewed power factor.

Reviewed power cost adder.

Reviewed recent Construction Crew field audits.

Reviewed recent safety meeting, August 24, 2015

Reported efforts of NRECA to contract with various medical providers in the area.

Reviewed efforts to improve communication with membership.

Heard a report concerning CECI Linemen hanging High School football players and cheerleaders signs. Facebook post of the project received 2,573 viewers.

Discussed on-line billing as an option to members.

Discussed reflection and insight as to recently held CECI Annual Meeting and proof of mailing as a matter of record keeping.

Thereafter **approved** Managers report as presented.

Adjournment.

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Clay Electric Cooperative Office will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. The Board of Directors and Employees thank each and every Veteran for their service and sacrifices. We encourage you to attend Veterans Day services in your area and remember to thank a Veteran?



There is a Cooperative Difference

While all electric utilities offer the same product, where it comes from makes a difference.

By Adam Schwartz

In the U.S., the vast majority of people receive their electricity from one of three types of utilities; investor-owned, municipal-owned or through their electric cooperative, which is owned and controlled by the people who use it. Let's take a closer look at these three types of ownership models and see why it matters to you.

In the investor-owned model, the corporation is owned by a great number of stockholders who may or may not be real customers of the utility. Investor-owned utilities tend to be very large corporations such as Ameren, Entergy, Com Edison or Excel. They serve large cities, suburban areas and some rural areas, too. In most cases, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) have few employees in the communities where they operate. This, combined with the fact that they have outside investors whose sole motive is to make a profit on their investment, generally tends to lead to less personalized service. Consumer surveys confirm that IOUs have the lowest customer satisfaction ratings. About

72 percent of the U.S. population is served by investor-owned utilities.

Municipal electric systems, as the name implies, are government owned. They can serve large cities, like Los Angeles, Austin or Orlando, or smaller areas, like Coon Rapids, Iowa, Morgantown, N.C. or Flora, Ill. In municipal systems, the city runs the utility with little to no meaningful oversight from the citizens. About 16 percent of the market is served by municipal utilities.

Rural electric cooperatives serve the smallest number of consumers, about 12 percent of the market, which equals 42 million people. There are more than 800 other electric co-ops in 47 states in addition to Clay Electric Co-operative. While co-ops serve the fewest number of people, our electric lines cover more than 75 percent of the U.S. landmass. This is because we provide power where others once refused to go because of the low population density. Electric co-ops rank highest in member satisfaction among the three types of utilities. We believe this is because we serve

member-owners, not customers.

As the electric utility business continues to evolve, we are committed to being there for you, our member, to provide for your electric energy needs. Unlike large investor-owned utilities, we are rooted right here in Clay County. Over the years, we have answered the call to provide additional benefits and services because it is extremely important to us that our community thrives and prospers.

There is a cooperative difference. You own us, and we are here to serve you!

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop

Appleknocker Festival

On September 26, the Flora Academic Foundation held an educational festival called "Appleknocker" on the grounds of the Flora Schools. The event, held the last Saturday of each September, was well attended by children as well as adults.

Clay Electric Co-operative participated at the recent festival. Clay Electric linemen manned the simulated "Pole Climb," and helped the kids put on a climbing belt, hardhat, and lineman's gloves, and climb onto the pole, while parents took their pictures.

We were glad to participate in the event and hope the children enjoyed it.



Why electric co-ops replace utility poles

By Abby Berry

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Clay Electric Co-operative's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

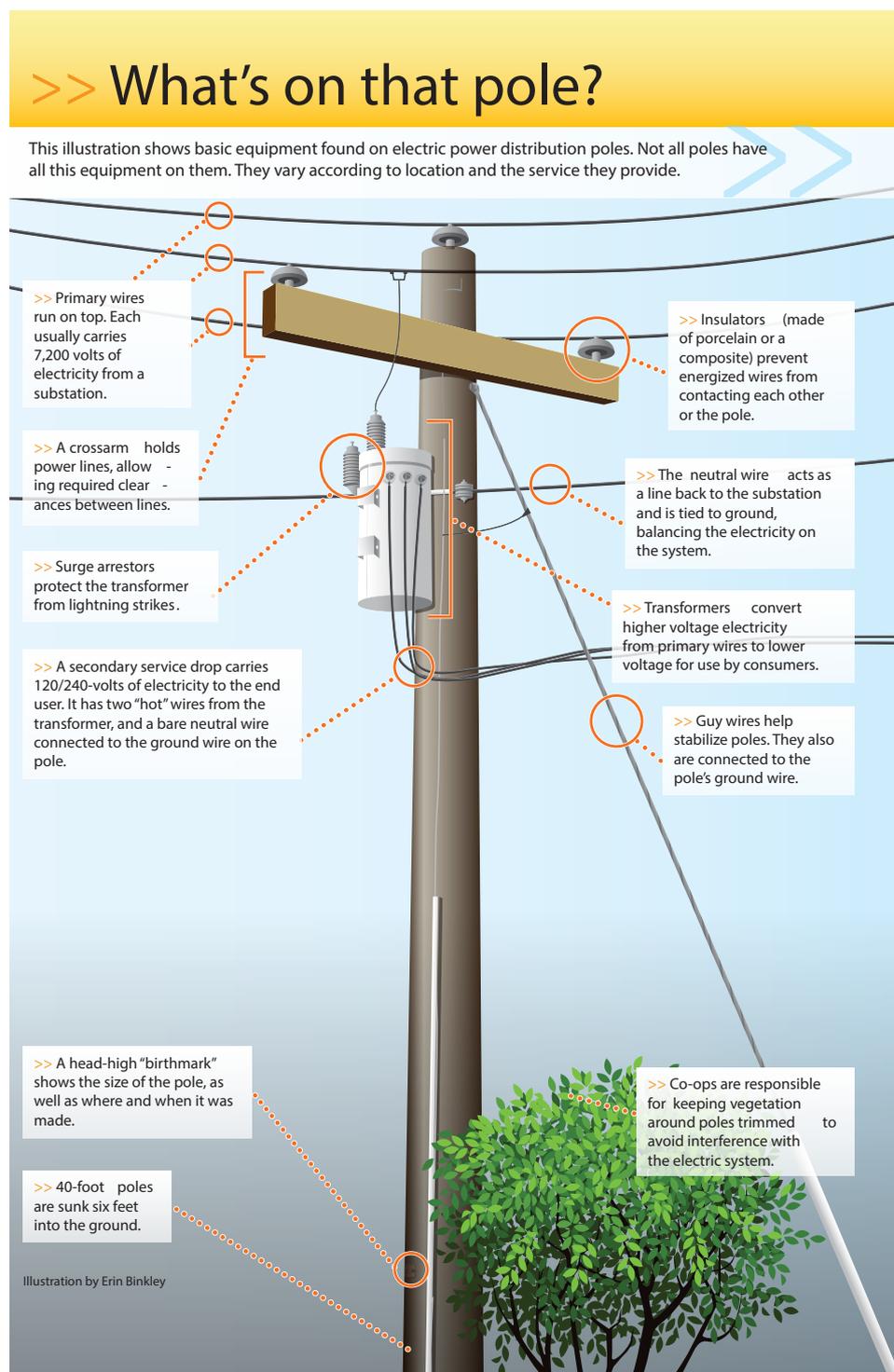
Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, or upgrades and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement. When possible, Clay Electric communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working.

Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Clay Electric line maintenance crew replacing a pole, use caution



and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Abby Berry 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.