

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## From the Manager

**S**ummer heat is just around the corner and air conditioners and fans are starting to be switched on. It is a good time to consider how energy efficiency in cooling your home can mean real savings for your wallet.

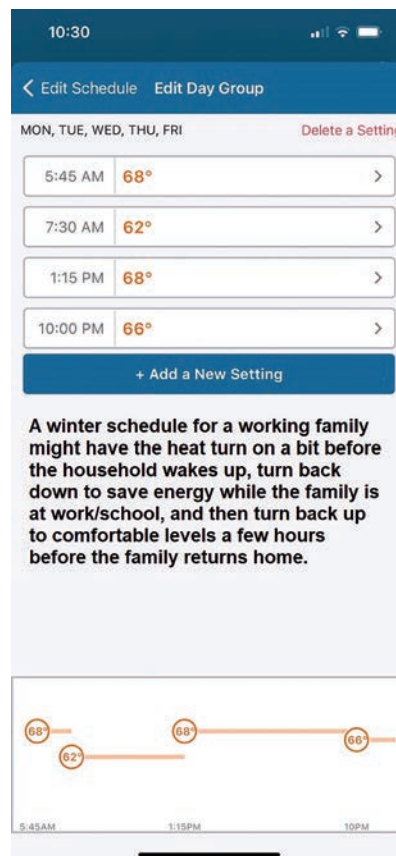
Technology continues to make living in a more and more digital world workable in ways people would not have thought possible in decades past. With all the new electronic devices that populate our homes nowadays, the average kilowatt usage of residences has stayed steady or even decreased. This can be attributed to a focus on energy efficiency in appliances and lighting over the years. A recent cost analysis by the Consumer Federation of America found that changing to all LED lighting can save the average household around \$8.30 a month. 14851-001

It is estimated even greater savings can be had by incorporating technology into the high usage appliances that are part of our daily lives. New and efficient refrigerators, freezers, washers, and driers are big users that can have a big effect on your electric bill. Likely the one big user of kilowatts in your home is the air

conditioner. New smart thermostats can provide you with the tools to track and alter your usage to save money while staying comfortable. Having remote access to set your home to 'away mode' while you are gone gives you options to change your thermostat from anywhere.

I am sure I am not the only person who has forgotten to change the thermostat before leaving on vacation. Smart thermostats can also be programmed to change during the day, and some will learn what the rhythm of the household is and adjust itself on its own. Almost all smart thermostats will provide you with an energy report through its app that gives you detailed information on how much energy you used to cool your home and how much time the system spent running. With more information at your fingertips, your bill is under your control.

As always, keep a lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call you win \$5 off your next bill!



**Luke Johnson**  
CEO

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
*Honoring All Who Served*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Clay's office will be closed May 31st in observance of Memorial Day



## Practice safety when DIY-ing

**T**hese days, many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work. 11767-001

### Select a designated work area

The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.

### Personal protective equipment

Investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction

ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes.

### Work slowly and clean as you go

When you rush through a DIY project, you'll end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.

### Be cautious with power tools

Annually, 8 percent of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:

Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.

Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.

Use caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires

or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.

If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.

Do not use power tools without the proper guards.

When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.





# AVOID LADDER MISSTEPS

At the workplace and at home, many injuries are preventable. A well-thought-out work plan, setting aside enough time for the task at hand, and committing to safety can all play a role in preventing injuries.

Injuries and deaths associated with ladder use are no exception. Thousands of ladder-related injuries and about 100 fall deaths happen each year.

In addition, always look up and look out for power lines before transporting a ladder outdoors. Carry the ladder horizontally instead of vertically.

According to the American Ladder Institute, the **five most common mistakes** people make when **using ladders** are:

- **Overreaching.**
- **Missing the last step** when coming down.
- Not keeping **three points of contact**.
- Using the **wrong type or size** ladder for the job.
- Placing it on **uneven ground**.

Learn more at:

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**



# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Co-operative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 1 o'clock p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Richard Rudolph, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman and Evan Smith. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, attorney for the board. Danny Schnepfer was absent. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Kevin Logan and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes.
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 9 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 9 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;
- **APPROVED**, the Disbursements;
- **APPROVED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board.

**APPROVED**, Frank Herman as the Federated Voting alternate. **4712-002**

**APPROVED**, Bob Pierson as the CRC Alternate Delegate.

**APPROVED**, Policy 100-5 as presented.

**REVIEWED**, the NRECA Annual Meeting held virtually.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting.

**REVIEWED** and **DISCUSSED**, the SIPC PCA Adjustment.

**HEARD**, a report by Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC Meeting.

**DISCUSSED**, the AIEC Annual Meeting.

**WERE REMINDED**, the Legislative Conference will be online April 19-23.

**AT 1:55 p.m. APPROVED**, entering into Executive Session.

**AT 2:15 p.m. APPROVED**, exiting Executive Session.

**ACCEPTED**, the resignation of Danny Schnepfer as a Director.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in

February 2021;

- February 2021 Cash Flow;
- January-February Line Loss;
- February 2021 Form 7;
- February 2021 Balance Sheet;
- Federated Check;
- SEDC Check.

**HEARD**, a Safety Report for the month.

**REVIEWED**, the Monday morning Safety meeting held March 15, 2021.

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

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report. **REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on, April 26, 2021, May 24, 2021, June 28, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. CFC Financial Planning Meeting on June 22 and 23.

**REVIEWED**, a thank you card from Tracy and Neil Gould.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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

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**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.