

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

I'd like to take a moment to thank our dedicated office staff. Whether it is over the phone, at our drive-through or in our lobby, our office staff is the first point of contact we have with the membership. They are a vital pathway of communication between our members and the management of Clay Electric Co-operative. That pathway must remain open and flow both ways for us to function and we are lucky to have an amazing office staff.

We are fortunate to have almost a half century of experience among our office workers. With that time comes a wealth of knowledge on our service area and the people living in it. They are an invaluable asset to the cooperative, ensuring that information is collected, crews are dispatched, and at the end of the day our members have power.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, our office has combined sanitation and social distancing with alternating schedules of working remotely to keep our office available to our members while staying dedicated to the ideals of safety that are the heart of Clay Electric



Clay Electric Co-operative's office staff Karen Forth, Jamie Myers and Carrie Goldstein.

Co-operative. Thank you, Karen, Carrie and Jamie, for all that you do.

Your cooperative continues to move forward with system upgrades in preparation for the implementation of the new AMI system. We are excited to provide our members with a technological backbone that will allow Clay Electric Co-operative to face the future with the capability to adapt to an ever-changing energy market. **12405-001**

Your cooperative is moving forward into the digital age to better serve you. 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



Got the work-from-home blues?

A few tips to help keep you sane

If you joined the masses who began working from home after COVID-19 hit the U.S., or even if you worked from a home office prior to its arrival, you know working from home has its challenges.

people have noticed that some of the upsides of working from home can spiral into downsides once the honeymoon phase is over: not getting out much, feeling isolated, and missing real, in-person connections.

Working nonstop is noble, but it actually decreases productivity.

Actually leave your house

This should go without saying, but as long as you are feeling well, go do something where you can maintain social distancing. Your body needs fresh air, and we could all use a change of scenery at least once a day.

Have a dedicated office space

It is ideal (but not possible for everyone) if you can have your own office digs in a separate and private area of the house. If that's not possible, try to implement other boundaries, such as covering or moving your workspace after hours, especially if it's in a central hub of the home. Theoretically, this helps to keep work and personal life separate.

Reach out for help if you need it

Talk to your supervisor or utilize your employee assistance program if it gets to be too much. As we all keep hearing, this is uncharted territory, and the pandemic has brought new and different challenges.

Try to create an exercise routine

There probably aren't too many steps from your desk to your couch, and grocery delivery doesn't require much movement either. To boost mood and to care for your body, make daily or weekly exercise goals. Try to find something you enjoy (and likely stick with) for some much-needed endorphin release.

Self-care - what's that?

For overachievers, self-care can seem like a mirage out in the distance or something for other people. According to job guru Monster.com, 69 percent of employees are experiencing symptoms of burnout while working from home; and, despite that fact, 59 percent are taking less time off than they normally would.



As CNBC reported, "It used to be that working remotely was a perk. These days it's about survival."

Although statistics vary, an estimated 30 million people have lost jobs during the pandemic so far. For those who are fortunate enough to still have a job but now work from home, the days can seem to blend together one into the next.

In addition, work seems to beckon more often and more loudly because it's physically right there. (It's kind of like opening your freezer for ice cream versus making a late-night run.) **12832-001**

There are some upsides to working from home: saving money on gas, not getting dressed up, no more traffic or long commutes, less in-person interruptions (at least from your coworkers) and getting a little extra shuteye. On the contrary, many

To keep work and home a little more separate, here are good reminders. Even if you have already tried them, they are worth revisiting.

Try to set a workday schedule and stick to it

A set schedule can help for two extremes: for people who are tempted to work too much (burnout, anyone?) or for those who are tempted by a shortened work day or the compulsion to do laundry or other in-home tasks during work hours.

Schedule and take breaks

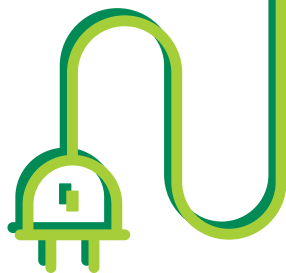
Although it's tempting to sit at your home desk so long that you have to unstick your legs from the chair, try to schedule a few 5- to 15-minute breaks throughout the day. What is your company's break policy? Implement it at home.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer.

Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source:
www.energy.gov



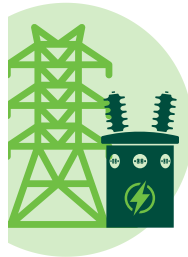
ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:

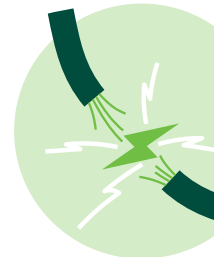


STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

January 25, 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 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Trustees present were Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski and Evan Smith. Also present were Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. Richard Rudolphi was present via conference call. 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 Frank Herman 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.

HEARD, an update regarding the Infrastructure including age of poles, conductor and comparative line loss.

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 12 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, Policy 800-4.

REVIEWED, the IRS Mileage Rate for 2021.

DISCUSSED, Fuel Bids.

APPROVED, authorizing Luke Johnson to take the low bid to lock in the Fuel Bid.

REVIEWED, the Clay Board Trustee's Fee and Expense Report.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Annual Meeting Notice.

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

REVIEWED, the SIPC Patronage Allocation Projected for 2021.

APPROVED, the Annual Meeting Resolution for SIPC.

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

REVIEWED, the AIEC Training Calendar.

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

- December 2020 Form 7;
- December 2020 Balance Sheet;
- 2020 Year End Equity;
- December 2020 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in

December 2020 dated Jan. 8, 2021;

- November Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Auditors Letter of Engagement.

APPROVED, the Auditors Letter of Engagement as presented.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of January.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held Jan. 19, 2021.

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

- a. Operations Report for year end 2020;
- b. Communications Report;
- c. Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on, Feb. 22, 2021 and March 22, 2021 at 1 p.m. and April 26, 2021 at 7 p.m. in the Clay Board Room. **12361-001**


REVIEWED, thank you card from Paige VanDyke.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



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.

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