

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ [www.ceci.coop](http://www.ceci.coop) ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012

## From the Manager

Over the last seven months, I have been sharing with you the Seven Cooperative Principles. Your electric cooperative uses these principles every day to help us remain good stewards of our member's interests. They are democratic member control, member's economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and information, cooperation among cooperatives, concern for community, and the final principle we will be discussing this month, open and voluntary membership.

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances. We

serve anyone within our territory and anyone who receives service from Clay Electric gets all the rights and benefits of membership. Our members are the cooperative. They give their voice to the directors they elect to the board who set the policies that guide Clay Electric's management in the day-to-day operation of the cooperative.

Being a part of the cooperative family is meaningful to me. It is more than a utility or a provider of a service. The cooperative business model is something I strongly believe in. It's our duty as the management of Clay Electric Co-operative to work in the ways that help our members and that focus on benefiting the membership over stacking profits. **8400-001** We are a not-for-profit electric cooperative

and strive to make the impact of electric purchases on the members of our community as small as possible.

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!



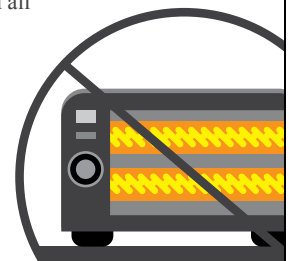
Luke  
Johnson  
CEO



## TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



# Stay safe on the road

**Y**ou did not see it coming. You were driving down the road and you heard a thumping-type noise, or your car handled differently as it rolled down the pavement.

If you are driving along and you notice your car is starting to malfunction, gently take your foot off the accelerator. Do not brake hard or suddenly, according to the National Safety Council. Signal your intention to pull over and monitor traffic before changing lanes.

While no one likes to think about the possibility of getting stranded, here are some common causes of car trouble.

do so. Of teen drivers aged 15–17, 52 percent are clueless when it comes to changing a tire.

## Dead battery

A standard car battery will last for around three years or 50,000 miles before it starts failing (depending on the battery's rating, of course). **7425-001** If you do not stay on top of how long you have had your battery, you may find yourself with a drained battery and no way to start your car.

Keeping jumper cables in your trunk is a wise choice because someone else may be able to give you a jump. However, if no one else is

If roads have become impassable, take the following steps:

- Pull over and try not to panic. Avoid walking away from your car to look for help. Your car will keep you sheltered, and it will also be easier for you to be found.
- On the other hand, if your car is in a hazardous position or in a place where it could be struck by another vehicle, move it off the roadway. If that is not possible, safely get out of the car and off the roadway.



## Flat tire

One in four roadside emergencies are caused by a flat tire. Because of that, it is a good idea to learn how to change a tire. While you can contact a roadside service to take care of your flat, that will not help you if you are out of cell phone service range or your phone is dead.

Although surveys on this subject should be taken with a grain of salt, some surveys estimate that 25 percent of Americans do not know how to change a tire, and another 19 percent are not confident in their ability to

around, this will not help you. If you want to play it safe, keep a portable car jump-starter in your trunk. This nifty device could jump-start your car when the battery is completely dead, as long as the starter is charged.

## Wintry road conditions

Road conditions during winter can be treacherous and may be caused by a blizzard, sleet or black ice. Each year, 24 percent of weather-related crashes occur on snowy, slushy or icy pavement and 15 percent happen during snowfall or sleet, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

- Open or crack a window to get some fresh air.
- Keep your hazard lights on to help other drivers see your car and make it easier for emergency responders to locate you.
- Move your body to keep your blood circulating.

Take steps to prevent car trouble, such as checking your tires and keeping your vehicle well-maintained. When car trouble does happen, take steps to stay safe.

Normal power line

Lines weighed down by ice

Top line melted after bottom line

## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Safe Electricity.org®

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

## STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE

## TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees to stay toasty and warm. However, turning to other (FREE!) ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills.



Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? Adjust your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting to save up to 10% annually.

Source: Department of Energy

## Here are ways to help you stay warm when it is cold outside:



Bundle up by wearing layers and heavy socks

Get your body moving and stay active

Use blankets while sitting still

Caulk windows and door frames that leak air



Replace or update old or ineffective door seals



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside)



Keep a fireplace damper closed when not in use

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer



If you use a portable space heater, use it safely and for short amounts of time. Using one for extended periods can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws a lot of power.

Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org®

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

November 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 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021.

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

The invocation was given by Bob Pierson 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 14 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 11 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service.

**REVIEWED**, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;
- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account

Summary Report;  
■ **REVIEWED**, the CRC in Focus.  
■ **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board.  
**APPROVED**, the Inventory Material Adjustment.  
**DISCUSSED**, then **APPROVED**, revisions to Policy No. 300-3.

**HEARD**, a report by Frank Herman **4622-001** regarding the SIPC Financials and Prairie State update.

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

**WERE UPDATED**, on Board Training events at AIEC.

**DISCUSSED** the 2022 Budget including:

- SIPC Power Costs
- Capital Credits;
- Advertising and Donations;
- Capital Items;
- Rough Draft of the Budget.

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

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in October 2021;
- October 2021 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- October 2021 Form 7;
- October 2021 Balance Sheet.

**REVIEWED** the Safety Committee Report.

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

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

- Operations Report;
- Xenia Substation;
- Communications Report;
- Wabash Ribbon Cutting;
- Miracle Treat Day;
- Upcoming meetings.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.

**WERE UPDATED**, on tree trimming at the Xenia Substation.

**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE INFORMED**, of the Wabash Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

**WERE INFORMED**, about Miracle Treat Day.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on Dec. 27, 2021, Jan. 24, 2022 and Feb. 28, 2022 at 5 p.m., as well as the Safety Committee Meeting on Dec. 7, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. and the Staff Christmas Party on Dec. 16, 2021 at noon.

**REVIEWED**, thank you cards from Farm Bureau.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 6:25 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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Office hours:  
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

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