

# Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## From the Manager

**A**s spring unfolds, let's talk about member safety. As your cooperative, ensuring the safety of both our members and our employees is paramount. With the arrival of spring, our utility crews will be out and about, working diligently alongside the roads to maintain and improve our infrastructure. When encountering these crews, please exercise caution and reduce your speed. Be mindful of the signs and signals they provide as they work tirelessly to keep the lights on for all of us. Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated as we strive to keep everyone safe.

Our crews will not only be out for routine maintenance, but to make repairs during storm outages as well. Our members should be prepared to encounter work crews during storms and be prepared for severe weather

themselves. As we head into the thunderstorm season, it's essential to be prepared. While we cannot prevent storms, we can take proactive steps to mitigate their impact. I urge each of you to review your emergency preparedness plans and ensure that you have supplies on hand in the event of a power outage. Stay informed about weather forecasts and heed any warnings or advisories issued by local authorities. By working together and staying vigilant, we can weather any storm that comes our way.

I want to remind those of you who received bills in February that they included a member satisfaction survey. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to better serve our community. If you have not yet completed the survey, I kindly ask that you take a few moments to do

so. Your input helps us identify areas for improvement and ensures that we are meeting your needs effectively. You can access the survey online at [www.cec.coop/survey](http://www.cec.coop/survey). Thank you in advance for your participation.

Lastly, keep an eye out for your member number in the middle of this magazine. We've hidden three member numbers in the pages. If you find yours and give us a call, you'll get a \$5 discount on your next bill! Happy hunting! **18001-380**



**Matt Conklin**  
CEO

## WHAT DOES A LINeworker DO?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems.

We entrust our lineworkers with your safety, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

## SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves. They spend thousands of hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

## THEY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.





## HAVING A BACKUP PLAN FOR MEDICAL DEVICES CAN BE LIFESAVING

If you depend on electric medical equipment, your power provider will do all they can to assist you during a power outage by giving your residence a priority tag. Examples of lifesaving medical devices include an oxygen concentrator or a ventilator.

If you or someone in your household depends on life-sustaining medical equipment, contact your local electric utility to let them know.

Although the utility will do all they can to help, it is best to have a backup plan in place in case of severe weather events, which can cause prolonged outages.

Backup safety tips include the following:

- Have an emergency plan in place with friends and family that outlines places you can go in the event of a long-term outage.
- Before an outage occurs, find out if the medical equipment safely runs on a backup power source and for how long (see manufacturer's recommendations).

- Keep a full charge on battery-powered devices or have extra batteries available.
- If recommended by the manufacturer, consider purchasing a portable battery pack to power devices.
- Gather related resources that will last for two weeks, including batteries, supplemental equipment and prescriptions.
- Realize that local shelters and hospitals that are also experiencing an outage may be at capacity and have limited resources, including auxiliary power.
- Think about the other special equipment you might need, such as coolers for refrigerated medicine.
- Like any important device, keep up regular maintenance.
- Keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer, serial numbers and photos of the device.

Learn more about preparing for an emergency at:



# Total safety for solar totality

As our members eagerly await the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, it's essential to prioritize safety while enjoying this rare celestial event. Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc., serving our community, encourages everyone to take precautions to protect their eyes and ensure a memorable and safe experience during the eclipse.

## Understanding the solar eclipse

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth, casting a shadow on the Earth's surface. During a total solar eclipse, the moon completely covers the sun, creating a moment of darkness in the middle of the day. Clay County is fortunate to be in the path of totality for the 2024 eclipse, offering residents a front-row seat to this awe-inspiring phenomenon.

## Safety first: protecting your eyes

The excitement of witnessing a solar eclipse can lead some to forget the potential dangers of looking directly at the sun. It's crucial to remember that staring at the sun, even during an eclipse, can cause permanent eye damage or blindness. To safely view the eclipse, use:

- **Certified solar filters.** Only view the eclipse through solar filters specifically designed for this purpose. These filters block harmful ultraviolet and infrared radiation, allowing you to view the eclipse safely.
- **Solar viewing glasses.** Wear eclipse glasses that meet the ISO 12312-2 international safety standard. Check for certification markings to ensure their safety. Regular sunglasses

are not sufficient for viewing a solar eclipse.

- **A pinhole projector.** Create a pinhole projector with a cardboard box or use your hands to project the image of the eclipse onto a surface. This indirect method allows you to view the eclipse without looking directly at the sun. **11933-002**
- **Telescopes and binoculars with solar filters.** If using telescopes or binoculars to view the eclipse, ensure they are equipped with solar filters. Never look through these devices at the sun without proper protection.

## Safety tips for eclipse day

In addition to protecting your eyes, consider these safety tips for eclipse day:

- **Plan ahead:** Arrive at your viewing location early to secure a safe spot. Be mindful of traffic congestion and potential crowds. This rare event is expected to invite a lot of tourist activity into the community, so please plan ahead for unusually busy roadways and stores.
- **Prepare for spring weather:** April weather can vary, so be prepared for the conditions. We are hopeful for pleasant spring weather, but our members should be prepared for anything from clear skies to thunderstorms. If you plan to spend the day outdoors, bring water, sunscreen and a few articles of protective clothing in case the weather turns sour.
- **Be cautious of traffic:** With visitors flocking to Clay County to

witness the eclipse, exercise caution while driving and be aware of increased pedestrian traffic.

- **Follow local guidelines:** Adhere to any local regulations or guidelines regarding eclipse viewing locations and safety protocols. Our members should be prepared for detours or heavy traffic due to the influx of visitors.

As we eagerly anticipate the 2024 solar eclipse, let's prioritize safety and responsible viewing. By following these guidelines, we can ensure a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone in our community. Remember, protecting your eyes is paramount, so don't forget to wear your eclipse glasses or use alternative viewing methods. Let's make the most of this rare celestial event while keeping safety at the forefront of our minds.

Stay safe, Clay County, and enjoy the wonder of the solar eclipse!



Clay Electric  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
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**COMMUNITY  
SPOTLIGHT**

**3RD ANNUAL  
MASONIC LODGE AUCTION  
FOR SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR  
CHILDREN**

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH at 10:00am  
Charlie Brown Park Fairgrounds  
Old Route 50, Flora

To make a donation, call 618-843-3815  
or mail checks or money orders made to  
'Shriners Hospital' to:  
Don Fry  
323 East 4th Street  
Flora, IL 62839



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.

# Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

## February 26, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Ill., beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024.

Trustees present were Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Frank Herman, Frank Czyzewski, Richard Rudolphi and Evan Smith. Also present were Matt Conklin, CEO, and Attorney for the Board Tyra Cycholl. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided, and Neil Gould acted as secretary thereof. Kevin Logan and Josh Schnepfer were present via conference call. Special guest was Brian Stagan of CFC.

The invocation was given by Neil Gould and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. **14797-001**

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**, the 2023 Organizational Minutes;
- **APPROVED**, the Banking Resolution;
- **APPROVED**, the Banking Secretary Certificate;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 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.

**APPROVED**, the retirement of capital credits for the accounts requesting retirement.

**HEARD**, a report from Brian Stagen regarding CFC and financial status of cooperative. At 4 p.m. Brian Stagen left the meeting.

**REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**, new Policy 800-22 regarding Social Media and Policy 800-23 regarding Active Shooter.

**REVIEWED** and **APPROVED**, Policy 1000-3, 1000-21 and 800-8.

**WERE UPDATED**, on Federated Workers compensation MOD.

**DISCUSSED**, rewarding the staff with a luncheon.

**HEARD**, an NRECA Energy Update.

**HEARD**, a report by Bob Pierson regarding SIPC as well as notice of the SIPC Annual Meeting to be held March 28, 2024.

**HEARD**, a report by Matt Conklin and Kevin Logan regarding the AIEC board meeting and House Bill 5021.

**REVIEWED**, the AIEC Director and voting delegate paperwork.

**DISCUSSED**, upcoming Board Training and the NRECA Annual Meeting, Lobby Day and Legislative Conference.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- CFC Quarterly Loan Payment;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in January 2024;
- January 2024 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- January 2024 Form 7;
- January 2024 Balance Sheet;
- Line of Credit.

**HEARD**, the Manager's Report on Safety.

**REVIEWED**, Monday Morning Safety meeting held Feb. 26, 2024.

**REVIEWED**, the Cybersecurity Report.

**HEARD** and **APPROVED**, the Manager's Report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Gold Certification of Directors;
- Listing truck for sale;
- REDLF Loans;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

**RECOGNIZED**, Frank

Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Frank Herman and Richard Rudolphi for obtaining Gold Certification for Directors.

**DISCUSSED**, listing old tree truck with Purple Wave.

**DISCUSSED**, the REDLG Loan with the Fire District and **REVIEWED**, Policy 500-2 regarding REDLG loans.

**REVIEWED**, the Operations Report.


**REVIEWED**, the Communications Report.

**WERE REMINDED**, of upcoming meetings on March 25, 2024 and April 22, 2024 at either 3:30 or 7 p.m. and May 28, 2024 at 7 p.m. (moved to Tuesday due to the holiday) and June 24, 2024 at 7 p.m. and the Annual Meeting at Oil Belt on Aug. 22, 2024.

**REVIEWED**, a thank you card from Karen Forth.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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