

Board candidates nominated at district meetings

Three incumbent trustees for Districts 1, 8 and 9 were unanously nominated by members at their respective district meetings.



Dean



Smith

Two candidates were nominated for the District 4 board seat left vacant by the death of Tommy Malphurs last fall.

Members unanimously nominated incumbent trustees Laura Dean of Keystone Heights (District 1), Cedrick Smith of Wacahoota (District 8) and Angus Hastings of Fort McCoy (District 9).



Hastings

At the District 4 meeting, candidates Carl Malphurs received 39 votes and Jim Emerson received 38 votes.

Carl Malphurs, 48, of Alachua is the son of the late Tommy Malphurs and has been an Alachua farmer for most of his life. He and his wife, Leann, have one son, Logan. They attend New Oak Grove Baptist Church.



Malphurs

Jim Emerson, 61, is president of the Florida Citrus, Business & Industries Fund, a workers compensation insurance company. He and his wife, Gail, live in Alachua and have three sons and six grandchildren. The Emersons attend Spring Hill United Methodist Church in Traxler.



Emerson

These five candidates will have their names placed on the ballot at the co-op's annual meeting on March 25 in Keystone Heights to be voted upon by all members who attend and register to vote at that meeting.

MEMBER SERVICES

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Allows your monthly electric bill payment to be automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Sign up online (clayelectric.com) or call your local district office.

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit the Clay Electric web site (clayelectric.com) and access your account information:

- View your bill statement
- Make a one-time payment online
- View current charges
- View account balance
- View billing history
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)

PROJECT SHARE - Help others by designating a tax-deductible amount to be added to your electric bill or make a one-time donation.

REMOTE METER READING (RMR) - Enables a co-op meter reader to obtain the meter reading without entering the homeowner's property. The monthly charge is \$3.95.

ENERGY SMART REBATE PROGRAM - Offers rebates for members who install additional insulation in their homes, or who install a high efficiency heat pump or solar water heating system.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOANS - Available for the purpose of installing certain energy efficiency measures, including metal roofing and solar water heaters.

SURGEBLASTER - High quality surge protection equipment at a low monthly lease.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' billing statements. If you have questions or comments about the Power Line publication, contact Editor Wayne Mattox at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; e-mail: WMattox@clayelectric.com.

Clay Electric also publishes the Kilowatt six times a year (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Kilowatt is the official voice of Clay Electric and has been published continuously since 1948 as an informational and educational service for co-op members.

Clay Electric's web site (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers lots of online services such as payments, and information about the co-op's programs and services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the web site's Trading Post. To enter your ad on the Trading Post, you must use your Clay Electric customer number which is printed on your electric bill statement.

Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Feb. 25 and March 23 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

February 2010

Electric bills way up due to period of very cold weather

For many Floridians, the Arctic like temperatures that visited the state during the first half of January was the longest period of sustained cold weather many had seen in years. There were reports of snow flurries in Palatka and as far south as Orlando. Near freezing temperatures reached southward to Miami.

That unusually cold weather will mean higher electric bills for many Clay Electric members. Members could see a 30 to 50 percent increase in their electric bills. In some cases, bills might be double what they were in December.

While the state returned to near normal highs and lows toward the end of January, data from the National Weather Service in Jacksonville reveals just how unseasonably cold it was last month. For example, for the first 19 days of January, the low temperature averaged just below freezing (31.4 degrees) with daytime highs averaging 55.4 degrees.

Continued inside

**Board of Trustees declares
\$5 million Capital Credits refund**
See Manager's Report inside

Coverage of the Trustee District meetings - see our web site: clayelectric.com

 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Cold spell meant heating systems worked overtime

From the cover

For 11 days in January, the low temperature was in the 20s. During a 13-day period, the low at night was above freezing (34 degrees) only one time.

This lengthy period of very cold weather also meant an increased demand for electricity by members to keep their homes warm. During the morning of Monday, Jan. 11, Clay Electric's peak power demand reached 970.3 megawatts (MW), a new wintertime peak record. The co-op's wholesale power provider, Seminole Electric Co-op, also recorded a peak demand of 4,779 MW, which was about 150 MW above last year's winter peak of 4,631 MW. A Seminole spokesman said minimum low temperatures in January were about 10 percent colder than what occurred during a period of cold weather in February 2009.

While we're used to having a few days of cold weather during the winter months, the cold snaps are usually brief and then it warms up. But when the cold sticks around, and it doesn't warm up in the afternoons, home heating systems must work around the clock to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. When the cold weather sticks around like it did in January, electricity consumption increases substantially.

Sherman Phillips, manager of the co-op's Energy Services Division, says the weather dictates how often heating systems operate based on the member's desired level of comfort.

"The colder the outdoor temperature, the greater the heat loss from inside the home, and the longer your heating system must operate to maintain your level of comfort. To maintain a basic comfort level of 68 degrees inside the home when the outside temperature is 60 degrees, a heating system's run time is minimal and probably none," Phillips explained.

"But as the temperature outside begins to drop, the heating system will increase its run time proportionately to the heat loss

from the home. The more efficient the home, the slower the heat transfer that occurs and the less run time required to maintain an inside temperature of 68 degrees," Phillips said. "By lowering the thermostat setting, energy savings can be realized. For every degree the thermostat is set below 68, a savings of approximately 5 percent can be realized."

Phillips also said a person's lifestyle changes little just because it's cold outside.

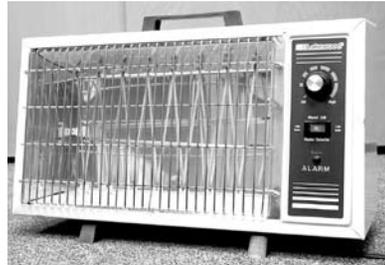
"You still use about the same amount of electricity for cooking, laundry, bathing, lighting and entertainment, no matter what the temperature is outside. What does change is the amount of run time on your home's heating system," Phillips said.

Other things that can contribute to a high bill can include faucets that leak hot water, water-logged pumps, dirty filters in the heating system (which restrict air flow) and duct leakage (this increases run time of heating systems).

Reliance on less energy efficient systems, like electric heat strips and portable electric heaters, boosts your chances of receiving a high bill during prolonged cold spells.

For some co-op members, a higher bill may be related to a longer-than-normal meter reading period caused by recent holidays. It's always a good idea to note the average kilowatt hour usage per day and the number of days billed. This information will help you be aware if more kilowatt hours were used than the amount you normally use or if you were billed for a longer period of time compared to the previous month.

If you should have a question about your electric bill, please contact your local district office.



Reliance on less efficient portable electric heaters can really boost your electric bills.

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Trustees declare \$5 million Capital Credits refund

The co-op's board of trustees declared a \$5 million Capital Credits refund on Jan. 21 for those members (former and present members) who received service from 1986 to 2008.

Before the board decides on the amount to refund, it makes a careful review of the co-op's financial condition. It considered the likelihood the economy will remain slow for awhile longer, the fact that we've not seen much in the way of membership growth the past two years, and the fact that our operating expenses have continued to climb due to higher priced materials and equipment. After carefully considering these factors, the board decided it was prudent to refund \$5 million this year. This will be our 36th consecutive annual refund.

Our Capital Credits refund will provide the majority of our present members with a tangible benefit of their membership in a member-owned cooperative. For those entitled to a refund but who no longer receive service from us, a check will be mailed around mid-March.

Capital Credits is one of the important benefits of receiving service from an electric cooperative. The cooperative way of doing business is much different than investor-owned utilities. Clay Electric is a non-profit cooperative. As a result, at the end of each year, when it's determined how much total revenue exceeds total expenses, the difference is assigned to members as Capital Credits based on the amount each member was billed for electricity during the year. With investor-owned utilities, this margin (profit) goes to stockholders.

If you should have questions about Capital Credits, contact your nearest district office.