

Candidates selected for 3 trustee positions

Members of the co-op gathered at three trustee district meetings on Jan. 27, Jan. 28 and Jan. 30 for the purpose of selecting candidates for the co-op's board of trustees. Districts 2, 4 and 6 were up for election.

Kelley Smith Jr., the incumbent trustee for District 2, was unanimously selected as a candidate to the board. The District 2 meeting was held at the Seminole Pavilion near Palatka on Jan. 27.



Smith

Carl Malphurs, the incumbent trustee for District 4, was unanimously selected as a candidate to the board. The District 4 meeting was held at the New Oak Grove Baptist Church near Alachua on Jan. 28.



Malphurs

Jimmy Wilson and Julia O'Sullivan, both of Middleburg, were selected as the candidates for trustee for District 6 at the meeting held at the Shrine Club in Green Cove Springs on Jan. 30.



Wilson

Each year, three positions of the co-op's nine-member board of trustees are up for election. Members within the respective districts select one or two candidates for the board of trustees. These candidates are voted upon by all members who attend and register to vote at the Annual Meeting on March 20.



O'Sullivan

The notice of the trustee district meetings was included in the January issue of the Kilowatt.

Winning a door prize at the district meetings were Carolyn Williams (District 2), Clint Boone (District 4), and Craig Wilber (District 6). The winners received a \$100 credit toward their electric bill.

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.

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

LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE - TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) offers members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

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 Kathy Richardson at P. O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; email: KRichardson@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 services such as payments and information about the co-op's services. Members can also write their own ads online to be published on the website'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 18 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

3040-23044

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

February 2014

Trustees declare \$5 million Capital Credits refund

The co-op's board of trustees declared a \$5 million Capital Credits refund on Jan. 23 for those members (former and present members) who received service from 1987 to 2012.

Before the board decides whether a refund can be made, it carefully considers a variety of financial data and economic conditions. Following this review, the board decided it was prudent to refund \$5 million. This will be the co-op's 40th consecutive refund of Capital Credits.

Current members of the co-op who are entitled to a refund will receive a credit on their March bills. For those entitled to a refund but who no longer receive service from Clay, a check will be mailed around mid-March. Capital Credits reflect each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid.

Capital Credits are one of the important benefits of receiving service from a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

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

Trustee candidates selected at district meetings last month.

See inside



Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Cold weather will mean higher utility bills

While much of the country saw frigid temperatures caused by a polar vortex, January also brought several periods of Arctic-like temperatures to Florida. There were even reports of snow and snow flurries in several northern counties.

That 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.

Statistics from the University of Florida's Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) reveal just how cold it was in last month. For example, for 10 days in January, the low temperature averaged just below freezing (31.4 degrees), with daytime highs averaging 60 degrees. For six days in January, the low temperature was in the 20s.

These cold snaps meant an increased demand for electricity by members to keep their homes warm. Many co-op members used more than 400 additional kWh during January, which will translate into a bill that will be more than \$50 higher than their previous month's bill.

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," Phillips said.

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

News Notes

Co-op Connections offers cash back

You can now get more from your money from shopping on websites you already frequent. The Co-op Connections Card program has recently revamped its Cash Back Mall feature, making it easier than ever to earn cash back on purchases of more than 300,000,000 products from more than 5,000 leading online merchants. This new benefit costs you nothing, but pays you tax-free income for doing

what you're already doing.

To take advantage of this feature, download and use the new free Shopping Assistant for your browser from www.clay.foryourpeople.com.

The Shopping Assistant will help you shop directly from popular search engines like Yahoo, Google and Bing to access a huge list of retailers, including Bass Pro Shops, Macy's, Target and Walmart. You can earn cash back for your online purchases, which will be stored in an account until you meet the minimum amount for a check to be sent to you.

Report from
the manager

Ricky Davis

General Manager/CEO



Thanks for attending our trustee district meetings

I want to thank our members who attended the three trustee district meetings held last month.

Each year, three trustee district meetings are held to nominate one or two candidates to serve on the cooperative's board of trustees.

One of the advantages of being served by a not-for-profit, democratically organized electric cooperative is the fact that our member-owners select their fellow members to represent them on the board of trustees. We are fortunate to have trustees who are knowledgeable and dedicated to serving the members. The board meets monthly to discuss important issues, review financial budgets and activity reports and establish overall policies.

The trustees ensure your cooperative is operated using sound and established business principles, and that the cooperative's strategic goals of providing excellent service and competitively-priced power while maintaining financial stability are met annually.

At this year's trustee district meetings, the audiences learned that we will refund \$5 million in Capital Credits this March to entitled members.

For those of you who are entitled to a Capital Credits refund and who are currently receiving service, the refund will appear as a credit on your March bill. Entitled members we no longer serve will be mailed a refund check in March. The refund of Capital Credits is a tangible benefit of receiving service from a not-for-profit electric co-op. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be your electricity provider!