

Notification of program for those dependent on electric-powered support equipment

Members participating in the co-op's Medically Essential Service Program are granted two important benefits: (1) The co-op will provide the participant a written or verbal notification of a planned power outage; and (2) If a participant's account becomes delinquent, the co-op will attempt to notify the customer by phone or in the field, personal contact or with written notification at the residence 24 hours prior to disconnecting service.

Participants must be aware that Clay Electric does not provide preferential treatment in restoring power for those participating in the program and cannot guarantee uninterrupted service. Participants of the program are responsible for any backup equipment or power supply and a planned course of action during power outages. Also, participants are not exempt from paying their electric bills as established by other policies and procedures.

Requirements for participating in the program include the completion of a physician's certification by a Florida licensed physician. The certification must be renewed annually.

Members interested in this program should contact their local district office.

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; e-mail: 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 website (<http://www.clayelectric.com>) offers 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 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 September 26 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

Rate increase

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will go to \$17. A customer charge is common among electric utilities and it helps utilities recover the fixed costs of the equipment, poles, wire and transformers necessary to get power to customers' accounts. The cost of these items has gone up considerably in recent years.

Davis said he is proud that Clay Electric has been able to offer its members some of the lowest rates in the state in recent years, and that even with the rate increase, Clay will still be very competitive with other utilities.

To hold the line on the co-op's internal expenses, Davis announced a number of cost-saving measures to be implemented.

Cutbacks include laying off a contract crew involved in painting padmount transformers and a contract crew handling ground-line pole treating.

The co-op is also evaluating its Vegetation Management program for possible savings, and a top-to-bottom review of the co-op's construction and maintenance program will be done to ensure proper focus.

Davis said next year's budget will be a bare-bones spending plan, and everything will be closely scrutinized.

A five-year building program that addressed a need to replace aging buildings is also being put on hold.

"These types of capital expenditures don't affect our expenses all that much because the money is borrowed and paid back over a long period, but I think it's wise to put these projects on hold," Davis said.

Clay Electric's toll-free automated outage reporting line
1-888-434-9844

3040-22514

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

September 2013

Rate increase will take effect in October

Due to declining power sales and a decline in revenue the past few years, Clay Electric Cooperative will implement a small increase in its residential electricity rates, effective in October. Clay members use, on average, 1,171 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity per month, and these members will see a 3.5 percent increase in their bill.

General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis announced the rate increase in his July Kilowatt message.

"It's a difficult time to announce a rate increase, because many of our members are already financially strapped due to cost increases for many other essentials, like food and fuel," Davis said.

Davis said the co-op's power sales have been on a decline in recent years. Reasons include a sluggish economy and membership growth that has "flatlined" the past few years. Other negative conditions include persistent unemployment, lagging job growth and a high rate of home foreclosures in Clay's 14-county service area.

The rate increase will appear on members' bills beginning on October 4. The 3.5 percent increase includes the slightly higher energy charge (from .0748 cents/kWh to .0763 cents/kWh) and a \$3 increase in the customer charge. The customer charge, currently \$14,

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 Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____
A Triad Energy Cooperative

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 website (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.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE - Clay has contracted with TransWorld Network Corp. (TWN) to offer members competitively priced long distance phone service. Call (877) 877-CLAY (2529) for more information.

PAYMENT STATIONS - Clay has contracted with Fidelity Express to offer payment stations for paying your electric bill at various businesses in the co-op's service area. Fidelity Express charges \$1.50 for each transaction. A list of payment locations is available online (clayelectric.com) and at your local district office.

24 students awarded scholarships

Clay Electric Cooperative has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 24 high school seniors (Class of 2013) whose primary residences are served by the co-op.

The recipients of the scholarships were determined by academic achievements, an essay, community and school activities, and letters of recommendation. More than 275 scholarship applications were received.

"We're glad we can help these fine young men and women with their college expenses," said Member & Public Relations Department Director Henry Barrow.

The scholarship recipients (pictured if photo was provided) are: Ashley Beckman of Fort White High School; Aswan Hinds of Oakleaf High School; Bailey Gamage of Santa Fe High School; Barbara Ziolkoski of Francis Marion Military Academy; Caroline Cappuccio of Crescent City High School;

Carson Draney of Keystone Heights High School; Charlene Xia of Orange Park High School; Courtney Crump of DeLand High School; Emily Groeb of Newberry High School; Evan Robins of Eastside High School; Hailey Erin Davis of Clay High School; Heather Hamblen of Lake Weir High School; Jacob Jones of Middleburg High School; Jennifer Oberg of Alachua, homeschooled; Kea Parkyn of Buchholz High School; Kia Spitzner of Interlachen High School; Lauren Bracken of Ridgeview High School; Levi Joseph Riley of Gainesville High School; Madison Van Dyke of Fleming Island High School; McKenzie Hollen of Oak Hall School; Taylor Brooke Wilkinson of Palatka High School; Travis Lee Duncan of Bradford High School; Travis Vernon Berry of Columbia High School; and Vanessa Renee Love of Union County High School.



Beckman



Hinds



Gamage



Hamblen



Jones



Oberg



Parkyn



Ziolkoski



Cappuccio



Draney



Spitzner



Bracken



Riley



Hollen



Crump



Robins



Davis



Wilkinson



Duncan



Berry



Love