

Trustee meetings for 4 districts are next month

Co-op members will gather at four trustee district meetings in January for the purpose of selecting candidates for the co-op's board of trustees. Districts 1, 2, 4 and 6 are up for election.

The District 1 trustee meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 5 at the First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights, 550 E. Walker Dr., Keystone Heights, FL 32656. The District 1 seat is currently vacant.

Kelley Smith is the trustee for District 2. The meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 9 at the Sam Hogg Pavilion, 160 S Electric Ave., Palatka, FL 32177.

Carl Malphurs is the trustee for District 4. The meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 12 at New Oak Grove Baptist Church, 18100 NW 262nd Ave., Alachua, FL 32615.

Jimmy Wilson is the trustee for District 6. The meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 10 at the Middleburg Civic Center, 2102 Palmetto Street, Middleburg, FL 32068.

Registration of members begins at 5:30 p.m. The meetings begin at 6 p.m.

Each year, three positions on the co-op's nine-member board of trustees are up for election. Members within the respective districts select one or two members to be candidates for the board of trustees. These candidates are voted upon by all members during the Annual Meeting election period.

MEMBER SERVICES

ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit MyClayElectric.com to access your account information:

- View current charges and account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Report a power outage or view status
- View energy usage and find ways to save
- Add an authorized user to view account
- Request Paperless Billing
- Sign up for automatic monthly payments

OPERATION ROUND UP — Operation Round Up is a program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit organizations in Clay Electric's service area for the purpose of improving the quality of life of our members and their communities. Participating members' electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount. The funds are placed in a separate account to be allocated by the Clay Electric Foundation.

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

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.

METER ACCESS — Clay Electric's AMI meters include technology allowing them to be read remotely. These meters improve meter reading efficiencies and accuracy, but even with remote reading capabilities, the member is responsible for keeping the meter clear of obstructions and providing the co-op with access to the meter. The meter is Clay Electric's property and we require access. Providing access allows staff to conduct maintenance or obtain a manual reading.

Power Line is an informational publication of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. It is distributed monthly with members' statements. If you have questions or comments about Power Line, write Kathy Richardson at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: krichardson@clayelectric.com. Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, Dec. 15 and Thursday, Jan. 26 in Keystone Heights.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

December 2022

Power cost decreases on December bills

Members will be billed less for power in December thanks to a reduction in the Power Cost Adjustment on bills. Members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will now pay \$157.50. The previous cost was \$159.50. The cooperative is able to lower the cost of power due to a slight decrease in the price of natural gas, which Seminole Electric Cooperative (Clay's wholesale power provider) uses to generate a sizable portion of the wholesale electricity it provides.

"We're pleased to be able to lower the PCA a bit in time for the holidays," said General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Clay Electric statement, which reflects the increases/decreases in the co-op's cost of power. The cost of wholesale power is more than 70 percent of Clay's total expenses.

When the cost of power is greater than the amount included in the base rate, the PCA is a charge. When the cost is less, it's a credit.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Clay Electric members receive power at cost.

FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT THE WINTER CHILL & SAVE ENERGY

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Clay Electric is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24 percent to 40 percent of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher



or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 1-800-224-4917 or take advantage of our free home energy surveys. Clay Electric's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

Visit ClayElectric.com for additional energy-saving tips.

Small change can change lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

When you are a member of Clay Electric, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations go to local organizations that help families and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Clay Electric and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling the community that you care.

Over the years, your contributions have built community parks/gardens, supported local education programs, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keep the lights on, and so much more.

Since we began the program in 2017, with your help, we've given \$5.35 million back to 277 local community organizations through this program. Across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.