

## 5 ways to save when working from home

More members are working from home than ever before. Extra time at home means more energy being used.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways.

### 1. USE A SMART POWER STRIP.

Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices stay in "always on" mode.

### 2. UNPLUG YOUR LEAST-USED EQUIPMENT.

If your home office includes printers and scanners, you're likely not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug them, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

**3. CHOOSE RIGHT EQUIPMENT.** If you're looking to purchase equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features.

**4. FLIP THE SWITCH.** Take advantage of the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in — and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!

**5. LOWER THE THERMOSTAT.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your electric bill. Turn the thermostat down to reduce energy use. The Department of Energy recommends setting thermostats to 68 degrees or cooler during winter.

## CANDIDATES

Continued from front

or one of 42 statement credits. Election results will be announced on ClayElectric.com March 18 and at the Annual Meeting gathering of the members on Saturday, March 26.

### Meet the candidates

**Carl Hagglund** of Keystone Heights was elected in 2013. He was president of the Board in 2019 and has also held the positions of vice president, treasurer and secretary. Hagglund holds the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Director Gold credential certification, the highest level of achievement in NRECA's Director Certificate Programs. He has been a member of Clay Electric since 1974.

**Jo Ann R. Smith** of Wacahoota was elected in 2012. She was president of the Board in 2017 and has also held the positions of vice president, treasurer and secretary. Smith holds NRECA's Director Gold credential certification, the highest level of achievement in NRECA's Director Certificate Programs. She is a lifelong Clay Electric member and served as assistant secretary for Marketing and Inspection Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1989 to 1993.

**Karen Hastings** of Citra is secretary of the Board and has been a trustee since 2015. She has also held the treasurer position and holds NRECA's Director Gold credential certification, the highest level of achievement in NRECA's Director Certificate Programs. Hastings has been a member of Clay Electric since 1995 and is a retired realtor.

### How to request a ballot?

To request an absentee ballot, you will need to provide your account number associated with your membership. Request one by visiting <https://Ballot.ClayElectric.com> (no www) or calling 1-800-224-4917 toll-free.

The last day to request a ballot is March 8 at 3 p.m. Ballots must be received by 4 p.m. March 14 via U.S. mail in the return envelope provided for the ballots to count.

The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

# Power Line

February 2022

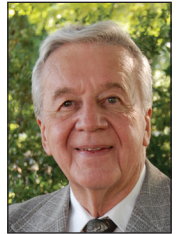
## Members select 3 Board candidates

Members gathered at three trustee district meetings in January to select candidates for the Board of Trustees in Districts 1, 8 and 9.

**Carl Hagglund** (District 1), **Jo Ann R. Smith** (District 8) and **Karen Hastings** (District 9) are all incumbents and were nominated without any qualified opposition.

Each year, three positions on the co-op's nine-member Board of Trustees are up for election. Members within the districts select one or two members to be candidates, and then the entire membership votes. Voting for the seats up for election will take place by absentee ballot only this year. Instructions for requesting a ballot and candidate profiles are below.

Members who vote will be placed in a contest to win a 2016 Ford Fusion from the co-op's fleet



Hagglund



Smith



Hastings

Continued on back panel



Clay Electric Cooperative was rated by our customers

**#1 in Customer Satisfaction  
with Residential Electric Service  
Among Cooperatives**

For J.D. Power 2021 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards)

# Check home for common culprits of electrical fires

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.

**ELECTRICAL OUTLETS:** Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause in home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.

**ELECTRICAL WIRING:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires.

Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.

**OVERLOADED CORDS AND OUTLETS:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.

**OLD APPLIANCES:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.



## PRIVACY POLICY

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

In the course of doing business with you, we collect information about you that is necessary to provide you with our services. At Clay Electric, we recognize the importance of protecting this information and strive to maintain our customer's privacy.

### THE INFORMATION WE COLLECT

At Clay Electric, we routinely collect and maintain nonpublic personal information about you, to provide you with the services you request and to service your account. This information includes:

- Information we receive from you on applications, through ClayElectric.com and other means, including name, address, telephone number, social security number, e-mail address and property information,
- Information regarding your transactions with us, such as electric usage, service history, payment history, billing information and financial account information,
- Information regarding your capital and patronage account and contact information for former members resulting from membership and governance activities,
- Information we receive from credit reporting agencies and other groups regarding credit history and other reports,
- Information obtained through samples or surveys of Clay Electric member-consumers to identify needs or improve services. This information may be compiled in aggregate form for Clay Electric Cooperative management activities.
- Additional information that is collected and maintained when and to the extent appropriate to provide services.

We are committed to maintaining accurate, complete and appropriate information about member-consumers as necessary for the purpose for which the information is to be used. Clay Electric generally permits its member-consumers to access and seek correction of records about themselves that are maintained and used by Clay Electric to provide service, for billing, and to manage capital accounts. Any requests for, or disputes relating to, access, correction, or other matters should be reported to Clay Electric, and we will do our best to resolve any questions or problems that may arise regarding the use of member-consumer information.

### PROTECTING YOUR INFORMATION

We are committed to protecting your nonpublic personal information. Clay Electric collects information solely through lawful and fair means and for appropriate purposes. At Clay Electric, we maintain high standards to ensure the security and confidentiality of our records and our customer's information and we are committed to maintaining appropriate and accurate

information about members for purposes that are suitable to its operations and management. We have designed our business practices so that the personal information of our customers is lawfully and properly gathered, stored and processed, so that customer information is only available to those individuals who may need it to provide you with our services. We have established physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to protect customer information as well. However, no record or computer system can ever be protected against every possible hazard. Clay Electric is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate security to protect against foreseeable hazards. Additionally, should your relationship with us end at some time in the future, your information will remain protected as outlined in this notice.

### SHARING WITH AFFILIATED THIRD PARTIES

We may share the information we collect, as described above, with companies, affiliates and contractors that work with us or provide services on our behalf, so that we may provide you with the services that you have requested. These companies might assist us, for example, in fulfilling your service request, processing your account or assisting us with maintenance on your account. All third parties are contractually obligated and employees are required to keep the information that we provide to them confidential and they must use the information only to provide the services we have asked them to perform.

Membership lists may be disclosed to a member-consumer of the cooperative for proper purposes, such as in connection with Cooperative election activities. Such disclosures will only be made in accordance with a policy adopted by the Board, and further uses of any lists so disclosed will be subject to that policy.

### SHARING WITH NON-AFFILIATED THIRD PARTIES

Clay Electric does not sell, share, rent, loan, exchange or otherwise disclose customer information with marketing firms or other non-affiliated third parties. We may share information with commercial and consumer credit bureaus and similar organizations, and otherwise as required or permitted by law, such as in response to a subpoena. We also may share nonpublic personal information when specifically authorized to do so by you. Further, Clay Electric reserves the right to share member-consumer records with other utilities under shared service agreements or to meet operational requirements.

### MODIFICATIONS TO OUR PRIVACY POLICY

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices in the future, which may include sharing nonpublic personal information about you with non-affiliated third parties. Before we do, we will provide you with a revised privacy policy and give you the opportunity to elect not to participate in that type of information sharing. This policy is not a formal limitation on the ability of Clay Electric to use, manage, and disclose its records as Clay Electric determines to be necessary, appropriate, or required by law.

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 Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: [jcaudell@clayelectric.com](mailto:jcaudell@clayelectric.com). Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at noon Thursday, Feb. 24 and Thursday, March 24 in Keystone Heights.