Foundation awards first Operation Round Up grants
Clay Electric members enjoy benefits through our cooperative status

There are a number of important characteristics of electric cooperatives that set them apart from other types of utilities.

Ask our members what they like about Clay Electric, and things like excellent service, competitive rates and reliable power are often mentioned. As a co-op, our members also elect the governing board made of trustees living throughout our service territory. Even if you cannot attend our Annual Meeting in person, you have the option to vote by mail. Read on for more details about what makes us more than just your electric utility.

Elected trustees

One important aspect of receiving service from Clay Electric is the fact that the members of the co-op elect their fellow members to represent them on the cooperative’s board of trustees. Our board of trustees consists of members who have been nominated by fellow members residing in their districts and have been voted upon by all members who attend our Annual Meeting in March or vote by mail.

Many of our board members have many years of service on our board, plus several have served on the Florida statewide association board. Others have served at the national level.

Your co-op has a nine-member board of trustees. The duties of the board of trustees include meeting monthly. They review a variety of issues which have an impact on the co-op, including financial and operational reports. The board establishes overall policies and also declares Capital Credits.

We’ve been fortunate to have a board that is dedicated to the co-op and has provided excellent leadership. Its support of management and employees has been extraordinary, and this support has contributed to the success of Clay Electric.

Trustee meetings for Districts 2, 4 and 6 are being held soon. If you live in one of those districts, you are invited to attend the meeting. Registration begins at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Kelley Smith of Bostwick is the incumbent trustee for District 2. The meeting will be held at the Sam Hogg Pavilion north of Palatka on Jan. 31.

Carl Malphurs of Alachua is the incumbent trustee for District 4. The meeting will be held at the New Oak Grove Baptist Church in Bland on Jan. 30.

Jimmy Wilson of Orange Park is the incumbent trustee for District 6. The meeting will be held on Feb. 2 at the Clay County Shrine Club, 2471 County Road 209, in Green Cove Springs.

Capital Credits

Many of our members tell us they really like the fact that we’re a not-for-profit utility and have refunded Capital Credits to our members for 42 consecutive years. Members tell us they look forward to their Capital Credits being posted on their March bills as a credit, which helps lower their power bills for that month. Entitled members who have moved away from our service area receive a refund check. At some utilities, any money left over at the end of the year goes into the city general fund, to be spent on road paving or some other project. At Clay, these funds are set aside and later refunded to the members. Last year, the board of trustees declared a $6 million refund.

Operation Round Up

As a cooperative, we are in a unique position to go beyond providing electricity. Last year we began Operation Round Up, which is another way for us to do just that. If you look inside this issue of the Kilowatt, you’ll see the first recipients of the Operation Round Up funds. These organizations were selected by the Clay Electric Foundation trustees, and each month more funds will be awarded to charitable organizations and groups working to improve the lives of people in our service territory.

In closing, I would like to mention that Clay Electric has had mission and vision statements guiding us for many years. A few years ago, we added a purpose statement that speaks directly to our heritage as a cooperative. We exist “to enrich the lives of our members by delivering electricity and strengthening the communities we serve.”
Happy New Year!

You can start the year right by giving your home an energy efficiency check-up. At Clay Electric, we pride ourselves on being your trusted energy provider and assisting you with your energy needs. Here are some tips for evaluating your residence to make sure it is as energy efficient as possible.

First, inspect areas in the house where proper lighting is critical (outdoor/indoor entrances, the kitchen-area, hallways, near stairs) and replace any old incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs. LED bulbs are now available for a cost between $2 to $5 (per bulb) and have an average lifespan of 25,000 hours compared with incandescent bulbs, which last an average of 1,200 hours. Using these bulbs not only increases your home's safety, but also saves you money by increasing the lifespan of each bulb, while reducing the amount of energy each bulb uses.

In Florida, electricity usage is heavy in both the summer, when air conditioners are running most of the day, and in the winter, when home heating units are used to keep away the morning chills. Heating and cooling your home are usually the largest drivers of how much energy you use each month. Having a well-functioning HVAC system is always critical. Here are some ways to increase the efficiency of your system regardless of its age:

- Have your HVAC system inspected annually by a professional to make sure it is running at its best.
- Make sure to change your system's air filters regularly. In fact, since it's the beginning of 2017, go ahead and start this regular maintenance by changing your filter this week!
- Inside your home there may areas around air ducts or in insulated areas, such as the attic, which require routine maintenance to address problems such as leaky air ducts or possible attic insulation deficiencies.
- There may also be places throughout your home where the strategic use of floor or ceiling fans can result in gains in energy efficiency by affecting how air flows in a room and from one room to another—and in the summer you can raise the temperature on your thermostat a couple of degrees without any reduction in comfort levels.
- Also, check the exterior areas of your home, such as doorframes and windows, which could be improved with new weather-stripping, or with fresh applications of caulk and/or other sealants.

As your electric cooperative, we can assist you with a professional home energy survey to ensure your home is using electricity in an efficient manner. Contact our Energy Services Division for more information.

Additionally, you can do your own quick audit by following this checklist: http://energy.gov/energysaver/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits.

For more information about how you can begin these easy home improvement projects, visit www.energy.gov/energysaver.

At Clay Electric, we are proud to provide you with safe, affordable, and reliable electricity. As part of our mission to serve you—our members—we are always happy to assist you with tips and services that can make your home more comfortable and save you money on your electric bill. More information about energy use and improving energy efficiency in your home is available at ClayElectric.com.
The Clay Electric Foundation Board of Directors approved $71,160 IN GRANTS during its November meeting.

MEMBERS’ DONATIONS AT WORK

In an effort to improve the lives of members, Clay Electric implemented Operation Round Up in October 2016, a program that generates and collects charitable donations that will be used to benefit organizations in the community.

The program “rounds up” a member’s bill to the nearest dollar, and that tax-deductible amount goes directly to the Clay Electric Foundation. This foundation is governed by volunteer directors selected from the 14 counties in Clay’s service area. All funds stay in the community to benefit Clay Electric members. Pictured here are the first grant recipients.

Clay Electric Foundation awards first grants

$12,160

Fort McCoy Little League (Marion)

Jim Beeler, district manager of the co-op’s Salt Springs and Palatka offices, presented the grant funds to one of the Fort McCoy Little League participants. Pictured at far left is Dusty Echols, member relations representative for the Salt Springs District. Funds will be used to purchase new baseball equipment including helmets, catchers’ sets, bats, bases, a moveable pitcher’s mound and a batting cage. Funds will also be used for a new septic tank, a new roof and framing for the bleachers, and new clay to bring the field up to league standards.

$10,000

ACORN Clinic
(Alachua, Bradford, Union counties)

The Clay Electric Foundation presented a check for $10,000 to ACORN Clinic recently. Pictured in the photo (back row) are Clay Electric trustee Carl Malphurs, member relations representative for the Keystone Heights District Pat Mundorff and Clay Electric board of trustees president Dewitt Hersey. In front are ACORN Clinic’s Laurie Jennings, Lynda McCarthy and Candace King. Founded in 1974, the ACORN Clinic uses volunteers to provide high-quality, low-cost healthcare to low-income patients with and without insurance and with little financial resources to pay for their medical needs. The funds from the Clay Electric Foundation will be used toward replacement of the current HVAC system and installation of insulation in the medical clinic.

$10,000

Lake Area Ministries
(Clay, Bradford, Putnam)

Chip Wester, center, accepted the Clay Foundation grant from Clay Electric’s trustees and employees recently. Pictured from left are Dewitt Hersey, president of the co-op’s board of trustees; Dale Furlong, manager of the Keystone Heights District office; Wester; Carl Hagglund, trustee; and Pat Mundorff, Keystone Heights District member relations representative. Lake Area Ministries (LAM), an all-volunteer organization, is primarily a food pantry focusing on feeding needy families. As funds allow, the organization assists with other basic needs. The funds will be used to assist families in need with electric bills, gas to help clients get to medical appointments, gas for home heating and cooking, and non-narcotic prescriptions.
Pictured at right, Clay Electric trustee John Henry Whitehead presents a grant check to Charis Stone, associate director of Happy House in Lake City. Pictured at left are Troy Adams, district manager of the Lake City and Gainesville district offices, and Jordan Wade, Lake City District member relations representative. Happy House serves socio-economically disadvantaged families through a high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood program. Funds will be used to purchase specialized playground equipment to promote the physical development of children by providing a range of outdoor opportunities that build gross motor skills, collaboration and social interaction.

Clay Electric trustee Kelley Smith presents a Foundation check to Krista Purcell, director of development for Rodeheaver Foundation. Also pictured, from left, are Jim Beeler, district manager of the co-op’s Salt Springs and Palatka offices, Ken Johnson, executive director of the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, and Derek Hembree, Palatka District member relations representative. Founded in 1950, the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is a 790-acre sanctuary for boys who need a home, a family, and roots for a brighter future. Funds will be used to run electricity to the Boy Scout camp on the ranch.

Clay Electric trustees Susan Reeves and Jo Ann Smith present Aquay Parks, program director for the Micanopy Library tutoring program, with the Clay Foundation grant recently. The grant funds will be used to support the Micanopy Tutoring program, which provides free, after-school, one-on-one tutoring and mentoring so that at-risk, poorly performing K-12 students can reach their educational potential and increase their self-esteem.

Andy Chaff, Orange Park District manager, presents a Foundation grant to Beth Hughes Clark, CEO of BASCA, Inc., as Steve Hollingsworth, Orange Park District member relations representative, and Clay Electric trustee Jimmy Wilson look on. BASCA, Inc. focuses on helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve a higher quality of life and sense of belonging. Funds will be used to support the BASCA CREATIONS Project. This project is part of a life skills development program and teaches social and communication skills as well as helping individuals to stay on a task and complete it; follow directions; work independently and in teams; develop their creative nature; and be self-reliant.

For more information about the Clay Electric Foundation or to apply for a grant, visit http://www.clayelectric.com/community-education/operation-round
Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling.  
Proverbs 20:3

Scholarships available for high school seniors

The Clay Electric youth scholarship program is funded by unclaimed money that would normally have to be turned over to the state. A 2003 bylaw amendment allows Clay Electric to keep this money in an educational trust to fund the scholarship program.

The annual scholarship program is limited to any public, private or home schooled high school senior whose home (primary residence) is served by Clay Electric and who will be graduating from high school at the end of this school year. Applications are available at ClayElectric.com and at all district offices. The deadline to apply is April 3.

The selections are based on community involvement, extra-curricular and academic achievements.

To provide an equal representation of scholarship winners throughout the Clay Electric service area, no more than one student at a given public school can receive a scholarship, and not every school will have a scholarship recipient.

For those using cash, a new way to pay bills

Beginning next month, the co-op is offering a new way for members to pay their bills.

An account-specific barcode will be printed on the back of each bill beginning in February.

This barcode payment method is called Checkout by PayGo and is offered through the PayGo company. Members can now pay their bills using the barcode at Dollar General Stores. Cash will be accepted at all locations. A convenience fee of $1.95 will be added at checkout.

According to Checkout by PayGo, this payment program should be expanding to add more locations and vendors in the near future.

PayGo is a real-time cash payment solution for co-op members.

Co-op Connections Card saves members money

Clay Electric members have saved $158,000 on prescription drugs with the Co-op Connections Card since we launched the program in 2012.

Members have been enjoying this money-saving tool that connects them with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescriptions.

Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount! Clay Electric encourages its members to visit local businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections program.

More than 200 area businesses are participating in the Co-op Connections discount program.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Clay Electric strives to serve its members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The cooperative’s Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways that Clay lives up to those values.

Electric bill seem high?  
Here some factors to consider

It happens sometimes. You receive your electric bill and it seems higher than normal or higher than you expected.

There are a few things you can check before calling Clay Electric.

First, verify your meter reading. You can find instructions at the co-op’s website or you can request a brochure from your district office. See the examples printed on this page. Keep in mind that the reading on your meter will be a little higher than the reading on your bill statement. Also, bear in mind that when a meter reader is unable to access a property, a bill may be estimated. If estimated, the designation “EST” will show near the top of your bill statement under the column labeled previous. Any difference between estimated and actual use will be taken into account the next month when a good reading is obtained and your bill adjusted. If there are still questions about the reading, please call the co-op.

Second, check the number of days in the billing cycle. In cases of severe weather or holidays, there may be more days in the billing cycle than normal.

Typically, the electric bill will cover 30 or 31 days, but at times the billing cycle may include up to 36 days.

Third, consider the weather conditions that might have caused an increase. You might read one of our brochures for summer and winter tips that provide information about ways to keep seasonal energy usage down. These are available at ClayElectric.com.

Example: 43894 kilowatts

On your electric meter, sometimes it is not easy to tell to which number the dial is pointing. For example, in this illustration, is the dial hand in the dial second from left pointing to the 3 or 4? In this case, read it as a 3 rather than a 4, because the dial immediately to the right has not yet passed 0.

Example: 05049 kilowatts

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PayGo is a real-time cash payment solution for co-op members.
### Mexican Cheese Dip

**Ingredients**
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- Chopped onion
- 3 T chili powder
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cans tomato soup
- 1 lb. Velveeta, cubed
- 1/2 lb. grated longhorn cheese
- 1/2 jar sliced jalapenos, drained

**Make It**
- Brown ground beef with chopped onion.
- Mix cooked beef with remaining ingredients in crockpot and stir.
- Serve with tortilla chips.

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**--- Cheryl Rogers, Keystone Heights**

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<th>January 2017</th>
<th>7</th>
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<tr>
<td>HORSE TRAILER</td>
<td>2, horse, straight load, steel, refurbished, $4,700. 386-546-6381 Butcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>PECAN TREES</td>
<td>fruit trees, berries, grapevines, mulberry. Also: pecans – whole, cracked/shell blown free, shelled complete halves &amp; pieces. Shipping avail. 386-454-7587 Webb</td>
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<td>CEMETERY PLOTS</td>
<td>2, side-by-side w/vaults, in Jacksonville Memory Gardens Orange Park, Sect. 7, Everlasting Life, right by road. Reg. price $6,840, sale price $6,000. 904-282-4963 Cason</td>
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<td>2 mxH</td>
<td>rent to own, roof over panels, 4x8/3x4 paneling, 2-pc shower &amp; tub stall, Call evenings 386-684-9753 Kusa</td>
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<td>ROLLEICORD V CAMERA</td>
<td>Xenar lens 1:3.5/75, flash unit, 9 filters &amp; Weston light meter, $100; Movie film editor, 16mm by Kalar, $50. Astor. 352-759-2707 Fuller</td>
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<td>16 CUFT الوعي</td>
<td>refrigerator, $125 obo. 904-635-0560 Black</td>
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<td>2 BURIAL PLOTS</td>
<td>in Jacksonville Memory Gardens, Orange Park, in beautiful garden of Apostles area, Lot 348, Section 9, spaces 1 &amp; 2. Great price of $1,000 ea. 706-473-0229 or 706-485-4808 Mosley</td>
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<td>BRAND NEW</td>
<td>Tommy Bahama men’s watch, Swiss quartz movement, water resistant, durable K1 mineral crystal glass rose gold round face, 1g numbers, 2-tone Ion black high grade leather calfskin strap, original case &amp; price tag proving authenticity, was $275, asking $250. 352-857-6582 Marra</td>
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<td>BIRDCAVE</td>
<td>21”x 12” x 16” W, incl. toys &amp; feeders for parakeet, $15. Lowry organ, debut model, L-71, 44-note keyboards, w/bench, music sheets &amp; instructions, $425; Hammond, white rope, never used, $20. Camera, 2 extra lenses, comes in case, $45. 352-475-5279 Meyer</td>
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<td>CATTLE EXC QUALITY</td>
<td>Spring calving Simmenthal x Angus, Senepol cross cows, Good framed, great disposition, bred to Angus bull, $1,500 ea.; 4-Angus</td>
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**The Trading Post**

Submit your Trading Post ad by mail to Trading Post, PO Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656

For more Trading Post ads or to submit your ad online, visit ClayElectric.com

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**MODEL 1894 Martin Rifle**, $500. **Skilaw saw, $30**, tile saw $30. 386-538-6906 McCormick

**4 GOODYEAR Wrangler all terrain, 255/65R-17, less than 100 miles, paid $800, take $400. 386-755-3905 Kemp**

**SINGER FEATHERWEIGHT** 1935 black, orig. manual, attachments, box $300. 386-755-3905 Kemp

**CAREX TRANSFERABLE** convulseant shower chair, $125 obo; Antique “winter” model piano w/bench, needs work/remodel, $75 obo; Star Wars sheet of 41c stamps, mint cond, $15; Kodak Easy Share printer dock series 3 w/carry bag, charger & photo paper, $30; 2005 Cadillac DeVille, sale/trade $2,000, as is, 165K miles; Black cover & stylus for Galaxy Tab 3 Lite, $20; 2005 Cadillac DeVille, sale/trade $2,000, as is, 165K miles; Black cover & stylus for Galaxy Tab 3 Lite, $20; 2005 Cadillac DeVille, sale/trade $2,000, as is, 165K miles; Black cover & stylus for Galaxy Tab 3 Lite, $20

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**INGREDIENTS**

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**www.ClayElectric.com**
CLAY ELECTRIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meets January 26 & February 16 in Keystone Heights at 12:30 p.m.

Dewitt Hersey - President
Starke - District 5
Jo Ann Smith - Vice President
Micanopy - District 8
John Whitehead - Secretary
Lake Butler - District 7
Cary Hagglund - Treasurer
Keystone Heights - District 1
Kelley Smith - Trustee
Palatka - District 2
Susan Reeves - Trustee
Hawthorne - District 3
Troy Adam - Trustee
Keystone Heights - District 1
Cheryl Rogers - Trustee
Lake Butler - District 7
Howard Mott - Trustee
Micanopy - District 8
Lee Hicks - Trustee
Gainesville & Lake City

DIRECTORS

General Manager & CEO

Ricky Davis

Managers:

Derek Thomas

Member & Public Relations

Frank Holmes

Engineering

Lee Hicks

Human Resources, Safety & Training

Mark Maxwell

Finance & Administrative Services

Toby Moss

Information & Communication Technology

Howard Mott

Operations

Cheryl Rogers

Internal Audit

District Managers

Troy Adams

Gainesville & Lake City

Dale Furlong

Keystone Heights

Andy Chaff

Orange Park

Jim Beeler

Palatka & Salt Springs

Communications

Wayne Mattor

Manager of Communications

Clayoquot Energy Cooperative, Inc.

CLAY ELECTRIC

Barksdale

Dunnellon

Emerson

Hillsborough

Howell

Jacksonville

Lake Butler

Lake City

Lake Worth

Hawthorne

Keystone Heights

Lawrence

Lithia

Melrose

Ocala

Orange City

Oviedo

Panama City

Pensacola

Pompano Beach

Port Richey

St. Augustine

St. Cloud

St. Petersburg

Sarasota

Seminole

Spring Hill

Stuart

Tampa

Tallahassee

Tampa

Tequesta

Florida

Wakulla

West Palm Beach

Winter Haven

Wyoming

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative