

## \$1,500 scholarships available for adults

If you are an adult in school or returning to college, you may want to consider applying for a Clay Electric scholarship.

For more than 20 years, the co-op has given scholarships to high school seniors to assist them with their higher education goals. This year, the co-op is also awarding two \$1,500 "Back to Your Future Scholarships."

This scholarship program is limited to any student/applicant, age 22 or older, who meets the following criteria:

- Home/residence must be served by Clay Electric
  - Applicant cannot be a previous winner of a Clay Electric Scholarship
  - Applicant has earned a High School Diploma or GED Completion Certificate prior to the application
  - Applicant must be registered at and/or attending an accredited college or trade school for the Spring 2020 semester
- The scholarships will be awarded based on need; leadership and/or community service; and educational goals and career plans. The application deadline is Sept. 18.

Please visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) or your district office for an application.



## MEMBER SERVICES

### ONLINE ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) to access your account information:

- View current charges & account balance
- View past bill statements/account history
- Make a one-time payment online
- Sign up for Average Billing Plan
- View estimated meter reading dates
- Request emailed bill statements (Clay eBill)
- Sign up for automatic monthly payment plan
- Report your power outage:  
<https://outagereport.clayelectric.com>

**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 water heating system.

**SURGEBLASTER** — High quality surge protection equipment at a low price.

**CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD** — A national discount card program. It offers 10-60 percent discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies, as well as special discounts and deals!

**CAPITAL CREDITS LOOKUP TOOL** — Former members can check for unclaimed Capital Credits at [capitalcredits.clayelectric.com](http://capitalcredits.clayelectric.com). To use the tool, the following must be provided: either the last name the account was in and the last four digits of the person's social security number; the account number; or the full name the account was in and the address where power was received. Current/former members should always provide us with a new address when they move.

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 Power Line, write Editor Justin Caudell at P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656; or email: [Jcaudell@clayelectric.com](mailto:Jcaudell@clayelectric.com). Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26 beginning at noon in Keystone Heights.

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

# Power Line

August 2019

## Switch to eBill for \$75 prize drawing

Sign up to receive your electric bills via email and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 \$75 bill credits!

With eBill you get the convenience of receiving your bill sooner, wherever you are, and without the addition of paper clutter. Clay eBill participants get their electric bill via email each month instead of receiving a printed bill statement in the mail. Less time to wait, less paper to deal with.

To sign up for Clay eBill, follow the directions below, or call us at 1-800-224-4917 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sign up by Sept. 4 to be entered into the drawing.



### Online sign up

To sign up for bill statements by email, visit [ClayElectric.com](http://ClayElectric.com) and enter your account number and either the last four digits of the primary account holder's Social Security Number or your own PIN if you changed it.

After signing into your account, simply select Billing Email Preferences from the menu on the left. Follow the instructions and you're done!

Report from  
the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



## Back to School: We're in the classroom, too

It's a new school year and kids of all ages are getting ready for a fresh year of learning.

From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a broad variety of subjects and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future. In a similar vein, your co-op is continually learning in order to advance technology that improves electric service, reliability, safety, and in turn, enhances the quality of life in our local communities.

Clay Electric keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types are fueling demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods — whether through automatic bill pay, budget billing, online or in person.

We're working to help sift through the options for you, our members, in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of the top priority — providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

### Technology improves operational efficiency

For example, after years of research, we're in the process of installing an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). This is an integrated system of meters, communications networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and consumers.

In the event of an outage, AMI helps to distinguish between events that impact a single home or multiple outages. This is critical because resolving either issue is a very different process. The two-way communication is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the biggest benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather, is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce risk for crews out on the road during severe weather events.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, we analyze AMI data for anomalies, including faults, damaged meters or energy theft. Detecting these problems early helps our cooperative save money and improve reliability for the whole community.

### Energy for the future

Consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high. From community solar projects to battery storage, the increasing use of solar energy is paving the way for new methods of generating and using electricity.

U.S. energy experts say we will not be able to meet national energy goals unless we increase our solar energy capacity. That's why Seminole Electric Cooperative, Clay's wholesale energy provider, continues to research how best to adjust our energy mix.

We are also constantly striving to find new ways to use energy more efficiently, and we are already keeping pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology. In 2018, we installed an 18-kW solar system at our Orange Park and Palatka district offices. We are adding solar panels to two more of our district offices this year.

Whether it's examining green energy options or exploring how emerging technologies can better serve you, for Clay Electric, our "school year" is never over. We will continue to learn what your priorities are, and we will continue to study and research the issues so we can better serve you, now and in the future.

## Stay back, stay safe

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why safety is the number one priority at our co-op. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to you, our members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help.

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineman or worker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while we are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize our employees by their co-op-branded clothing and yellow or white service trucks with our name and logo on them.