

Trustee meetings for 3 districts are this month

Members of the co-op will gather at three trustee district meetings this month for the purpose of selecting candidates for the co-op's board of trustees.

Districts 1, 8 and 9 are up for election. Carl Hagglund is the incumbent trustee for District 1. The District 1 meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 31 at First Baptist Church Keystone Heights, 550 E. Walker Dr., Keystone Heights, FL 32656.



Hagglund

Jo Ann R. Smith is the incumbent for District 8. The District 8 meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 28 at Wacahoota Methodist Church, 10111 NE SR 121, Williston, FL 32696.



Smith

Karen Hastings is the incumbent for District 9. The District 9 meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 29 at Marston Lodge, 11351 E. Highway 316, Fort McCoy, FL 32134.



Hastings

Registration of members begins at 6 p.m. The meetings begin at 7 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 who attend and register to vote at the Annual Meeting in March.

Scholarships available for high school seniors; deadline is 1st of April

Clay Electric will offer at least 25 college scholarships this year.

If you have a son or daughter who is a 12th-grade student and is planning to attend college this fall, he or she may want to apply for a Clay Electric Youth Scholarship.

The scholarship program is limited to any public, private or homeschooled high school senior whose home is served by Clay Electric and who will graduate at the end of the current school year (May/June 2019).

An application is available on Clay Electric's website (ClayElectric.com), at each of the co-op's six district offices and at area high schools. The deadline to have applications submitted is April 1.

Scholastic records, extracurricular activities, employment, community service and recommendations are the primary considerations.

Co-op calendars are still available

Clay Electric's 2019 calendars are available at the co-op's six district offices.

The calendar focuses on the importance of community and the services supported by the members of the co-op. The calendar also has important co-op dates and Dan Barnett's Fish and Game Forecast.

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. Clay Electric's Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, Jan. 24 and Thursday, Feb. 28 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

January 2019

Refrain from using certain third-party payment websites

Members: Be cautious of online bill pay websites that appear to be affiliated with Clay Electric, but are not.

Doxo, PlastiQ and Prism by BillGO are a few third-party websites that allow people to pay their electric bills via their site, but they may charge extra fees and Clay Electric can't control when the payments are received from these companies that are not affiliated with



us. This could result in late payments, or even disconnect due to non-payment.

To make sure you are paying Clay Electric directly when paying online, use ClayElectric.com, the Clay Electric Go app or one of our other official payment options. A list of vendors is available on the "Billing and Payment" section of our website, which is accessible under the "Member Information" tab.

10 quick energy tips that can help you lower your electric bill in 2019

With a new year comes the many resolutions folks make that they hope will help them lose weight, exercise more and save money. If one of your resolutions is to save money, we offer the following 10 energy tips that can help you lower your monthly electricity bill.

1 One of the most effective ways to control the amount of electricity you use is to understand the impact thermostat settings have on your electric bills. How much electricity your cooling and heating system uses monthly is a direct result of your desired level of comfort. Of course, there are other factors, like how energy-efficient your home is, the age and efficiency of your cooling and heating equipment, and the outdoor temperature. But the thermostat setting you choose largely determines how much you'll spend on electricity. Here are some suggestions: During winter, set the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower. During the summer, set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. Every degree below 68 (when heating) and every degree above 78 (when cooling) can save 5 percent on your heating and cooling cost. Energy savings can also be realized by lowering the thermostat several degrees during winter sleeping hours. In the summer, bump the thermostat setting up a couple of degrees if the home will be unoccupied for more than a few hours.

2 Check your heating/air conditioning unit's air filter monthly and clean or replace if needed. Why not check it every time your electric bill arrives? Dirty filters reduce the efficiency of your heating/air conditioning system, and this costs you money.

3 Had your home's heating/air conditioning unit serviced lately? If it's been over a year, it's time to have it done. Units that are properly



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maintained can provide more efficient service and are less likely to break down.

4 When buying a new appliance, look at its energy guide label. This label shows the energy efficiency of the appliance in comparison to other appliances of the same size. Typically, the more energy-efficient an appliance is, the higher its purchase price, but the lower its lifetime operating cost.

5 If your clothes dryer is located inside a portion of your home that is cooled or heated, it will vent a considerable amount of conditioned air outside while operating. To reduce this effect, open a window near the clothes dryer so it can pull in outside air during operation. If the laundry room can be separated from the conditioned area of your home by closing a door, please do so.

6 One way to reduce the operating time of your home's heating and cooling system is to

ensure that its air distribution (duct) system is in good shape. If you notice accumulations of dust in your home when the heating/air conditioning system has operated for a while, it's probably due to leaks in the duct system. A leaky duct system can contribute to higher monthly electric bills by reducing the efficiency of your heating/air conditioning system. If you suspect that your duct system has leaks, it will probably pay to have it inspected.

7 Check the thermostat setting of your water heater. There's no reason to heat water to a temperature higher than 120 degrees. Heating water to a higher temperature only boosts your electricity consumption.

8 Home lighting isn't a major part of your electric bill, but over time, using the proper type of light can help save you money. Consider using fluorescent or LED lighting in areas where lighting is required for extended periods. Keep lamp globes clean to obtain maximum benefit from the bulb's output.

9 Exhaust fans can have a role in helping lower your electric bills by removing high levels of moisture. Run kitchen exhaust fans during cooking and for 20 minutes afterward to remove cooking odors and excess moisture. Run bathroom exhaust fans during baths or showers and 20 minutes afterward to remove excess moisture.

10 Got an older refrigerator in the garage? Eliminate it if possible, because it's probably costing you as much as \$30-\$40 per month, depending on the garage temperature. If you can't part with it, at least unplug it until it's actually needed for extra storage.

For more tips, visit <https://www.clayelectric.com/member-information/energy-information>