

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 2, 4 and 6 are up for election.

Kelley Smith is the incumbent trustee for District 2. The District 2 meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Sam Hogg Pavilion, 160 S. Electric Ave., Palatka, FL 32177.



Smith

Carl Malphurs is the incumbent trustee for District 4. The District 4 meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 27 at New Oak Grove Baptist Church, 18100 NW 262nd Ave., Alachua, FL 32615.



Malphurs

Jimmy Wilson is the incumbent trustee for District 6. The District 6 meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Shrine Club, 2471 Russell Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.



Wilson

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 members to be candidates. These candidates are voted upon by all members who vote in-person or by mail at the Annual Meeting in March.

Please keep area around meter clean, give access

Clay Electric's new AMI electric meters include technology allowing them to be read without physical access to the meter. 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 Clay Electric with access to the meter.

When applying for electric service with Clay Electric, each member provided a signed easement granting the cooperative access to the electric meter. The meter is the property of Clay Electric and we require access. Providing access to the meters allows staff to conduct routine maintenance and to access the meters on an as-needed basis to obtain a manual reading. Easy accessibility to the meter at your service location is required in order for our employees to do their job safely and efficiently.

Co-op vehicles to be auctioned in February

Clay Electric will offer a vehicle and equipment auction as an online event in February.

Photos and information on each vehicle are available by searching "Clay Electric" at J.J. Kane Auctioneers' website, www.jjkane.com. Bids will be accepted on Friday, Feb. 14. An inspection day (to be determined) will be held in Ocala prior to the auction date and details will be posted on the auction website.

Successful bidders must pay and arrange for pickup through J.J. Kane Auctioneers. Complete auction details are available at www.jjkane.com.

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 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. 23 and Tuesday, Feb. 25 at noon in Keystone Heights.

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The Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. _____

Power Line

January 2020

Co-op is awarding 25 college scholarships to area 12th-graders

Clay Electric will offer at least 25 \$1,500 college scholarships this year to high school seniors.

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 2020).

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 6.

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



 **Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

3 inexpensive DIY efficiency projects to help you save energy this year

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy — and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient, but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

Trim dryer vent

Level of difficulty: easy. **Supplies needed:** tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape. **Estimated cost:** about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.



Make the most of your dryer by ensuring an appropriate vent hose length. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothes faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create fire hazards.

com for a quick video tutorial.

Seal air leaks

Level of difficulty: moderate. **Supplies needed:** caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. **Estimated cost:** \$25-\$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save about 10 percent on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing

to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

Insulate attic stairs opening

Level of difficulty: moderate. **Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself):** rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. **Estimated cost:** \$50-\$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings if the attic is located inside the house, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$150. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>.

If your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, visit the "Energy Information" section of ClayElectric.com.