

# Medically Essential Service helps those with special needs

Members who are dependent upon electric-powered life-support equipment should consider signing up for our Medically Essential Service because of two important benefits: First, in the event of a planned power outage, the co-op will attempt to provide written or verbal notification of the service interruption. Second, should the participant's bill become delinquent, Clay Electric will notify the member by phone or in the field, personal contact or with written notification at the residence, 24 hours prior to disconnecting the service.

Participation in this service does not exempt members from paying their bill, nor does it guarantee uninterrupted service or advanced warning of unplanned outages.

Participants are reminded to take precautions and have any backup equipment or power supply they might need in the event of a planned or unplanned outage. Clay Electric will restore service as soon as feasible, but cannot assure any preferential treatment in this process.

To participate, a member must call or visit a local district office to receive a letter describing the notification service in detail as well as the Physician's Certification Form to be completed. Upon return of the form, the member will be enrolled in the program for one year. The Physician's Certification Form will need to be completed annually to continue enrollment.



Clay Electric is urging employees and members to take the pledge to become a "Co-op Voter" by signing up at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).

## VOTING

Continued from front

pledge drive. Clay Electric is urging employees and members to take the pledge to become a "Co-op Voter" by signing up at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) to help send the message that candidates will need to put our concerns front and center in order to earn our vote on Nov. 6. The Co-ops Vote website also provides a wealth of voter resources, including information on the candidates, the voter registration process, election locations and background on some of the issues we want our elected leaders to understand. The Co-ops Vote campaign does not endorse or recommend candidates for election.

After you've taken the pledge, stop by one of our offices and pick up a Co-ops Vote sticker, and display it proudly to let your community know you're a Co-op Voter.

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 Oct. 25 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Keystone Heights.

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

# Power Line

October 2018

## Voting helps rural areas get noticed

Clay Electric has once again joined America's Electric Cooperatives in the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan project that was launched in 2016 to reverse a troubling trend: in the 2012 elections, voter turnout in rural areas declined by 18 percent — twice the voter drop-off seen nationally.

After Co-ops Vote got underway, 500,000 more voters in co-op territories went to the polls.

"You helped turn the tide of decreasing voter turnout in rural areas like ours, and our elected officials took notice," said Clay Electric General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis. "Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials."

One of the key elements of the Co-ops Vote campaign is a quick and easy member



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Report from  
the manager

**Ricky Davis**

General Manager/CEO



## Cooperatives can see, prepare for the future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods.

The prevalence of smartphone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles.

There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends.

Luckily, Clay Electric is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

### Co-ops are community-led

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members. Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people we serve.

### Co-ops bring positive change

Electric co-ops like Clay are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 80 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible.

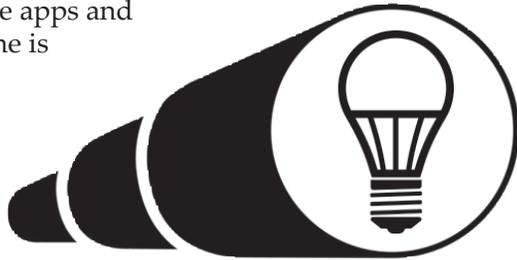
Today, it means improving the lives of members and their communities by funding youth and adult scholarships and generating charitable donations through Operation Round Up. For just pennies a month, local members choosing to have their electric bill rounded up have helped the co-op award \$1.4 million in grants to organizations in the co-op’s 14-county service area. And that’s just since the program began in October 2016 and funds were first dispersed in 2017. The grants

have provided food, clothing, shelter, health care and other vital community services that benefit people in need throughout North Florida. For a complete list of grant recipients, visit <https://www.clayelectric.com/community-education/operation-round>.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet

in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members. Electric cooperatives partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op. By offering meaningful resources and services, co-ops put “energy” into their communities.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members’ best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve — now and in the future.



## Apprentice linemen complete training

A graduation ceremony was recently conducted at Clay Electric’s headquarters in Keystone Heights for six co-op employees who completed the Lineman Development Training Program. Matthew Akins (Palatka District), Joshua Brown (Operations), Ashley Johnson (Lake City District), Leon Ridaught IV (Keystone Heights District), William DeWitt Roberson IV (Salt Springs District) and Micah Vuckovic (Gainesville District) were recognized for successfully completing their lineman apprenticeships.

Clay Electric Safety and Training Manager Justin Williams hosted the ceremony as each apprentice received a Clay Electric and Department of Labor Certificate of Completion. Each apprentice also received a lineman statue in honor of their accomplishment.

Apprentice linemen complete a rigorous 48-month training program to become a lineman and gain journeyman status. For information on current apprentice lineman opportunities, email [hr@clayelectric.com](mailto:hr@clayelectric.com).



Left to right: William Roberson, Matthew Akins, Ashley Johnson, Micah Vuckovic, Leon Ridaught and Joshua Brown.