



Ohio rural broadband expansion

As your local electric cooperative, we've kept a close eye on the developments for broadband expansion in our territory. We live and work in this community, too, and the struggles that many of you have faced with lack of broadband access are our struggles, too. Broadband has long ceased to be a luxury; in fact, it's an unquestionable staple for modern life that fosters economic development, promotes telehealth, advances educational opportunities, affords remote work capability, and provides social connectivity.

Ohio House Bill 2 (HB2), recently signed into law by Gov. DeWine, is an encouraging advancement in the effort to assure that all Ohioans — particularly those served by electric cooperatives — are afforded an on-ramp to the information superhighway. This legislation establishes the BroadbandOhio Office, which will oversee state and federal funds designed to make deployment of rural broadband more affordable. In addition, the federal infrastructure bill passed last year directs billions of dollars to broadband deployment.

Telecommunications organizations now have access to nearly \$400 million in state and federal funding to deploy broadband to the state's unserved and underserved areas. In addition, the recently passed federal infrastructure bill designates an additional \$65 billion for high-speed internet for those areas. Now, with capital cost barriers removed, broadband for all should become a reality.

Ohio's electric cooperatives want to be part of the solution as well and are committed to providing an easier pathway for broadband deployment. For years, telecommunications and cable companies have enjoyed "at cost" access to electric cooperative poles for stringing telecommunications cables. Ohio cooperatives were successful in negotiating easier access to utility easement for broadband deployment as well.

Across the state and across the country, electric cooperatives are actively partnering with telecom and broadband providers to find ways to improve access to broadband for their members. There are also examples

from other parts of the country where cooperatives are being portrayed as impeding this development. Your cooperative is not one of these — we are eager to work with telecommunications providers to bridge this digital divide. Here at Guernsey-Muskingum, we have:



Brian Hill
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

- Offered telecommunications providers lower rates for new pole attachments that brings broadband to members and agreed to expedite these applications.
- Considered entering the business by conducting a feasibility study and participated in the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction, but was unsuccessful. Your co-op has determined that there's too much risk to be a broadband provider.

Ohio's electric cooperatives support broadband for all, and we're primed to work in partnership with cable and telecommunications systems to bring broadband internet to you.

We urge our consumer-members to contact the telecommunications companies that have been awarded funding and have access to new federal and state funds to request deployment of broadband in their respective markets within the mandated implementation period. Find contact information for the company that serves your area, as well as a link to easily contact your elected officials, at www.ohioec.org/broadband.

If you're so inclined, please contact our state representatives to thank them for the creation of the Ohio residential broadband program and to ask legislators to hold providers accountable for broadband deployment to our area of Ohio.



Philo senior earns Kackley award

Established in 2020, the GMEC Scholarship in Honor of Jerry Kackley was created by the Kackley family to give back to the Guernsey-Muskingum members that supported him and his family through the years.



Jerry Kackley

Jerry was employed at the cooperative for 27 years before retiring in 2019 after a cancer diagnosis. After a courageous, hard-fought battle he passed away a few months later.

We are proud to announce that the 2022 GMEC Scholarship in Honor of Jerry Kackley was awarded to Kierston Harper from Philo High School. Kierston's parents are Jeremy and Heidi Parker of Zanesville.

Applicants are judged on community involvement, academics, leadership, letter of reference and a personal essay describing how they hope to make a positive impact in their life through their goals, future plans, and everyday interactions with others.



Kierston Harper



Sheldyn Stewart



Abigail Buchtel



Emily Wheeler



Rex Hankinson



Kyleigh Hatfield



Austin Driggs

Six earn annual GMEC awards

Each year since 1954, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc., has sponsored scholarship awards to high school seniors.

The cooperative awards six scholarships ranging from \$600 to \$1,100.

On Feb. 26, 11 students from nine high schools competed for the scholarships, with points given for scholastic record, personal achievement, school and community activities and a personal interview. Judges for this year were Brian Bennett, Kari Burkey, and Dr. Barb Hansen.

The first-place winner, receiving a \$1,100 scholarship, was Sheldyn Stewart from Indian Valley High School. Sheldyn's parents are Scott and Kimberly Stewart of Newcomerstown.

The second-place winner, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship, was Abigail Buchtel from John Glenn High School. Abby's

parents are Shawn and Heather Buchtel of Cambridge.

The third-place winner, receiving a \$900 scholarship, was Emily Wheeler from Buckeye Trail High School. Emily's parents are David and Staci Wheeler of Port Washington.

The fourth-place winner, receiving an \$800 scholarship, was Rex Hankinson from Bishop Rosecrans High School. Rex's parents are Beau and Lynnell Hankinson of Newark.

The fifth-place winner, receiving an \$700 scholarship, was Kyleigh Hatfield from Tri-Valley High School. Kyleigh's parents are Wade and Amanda Hatfield of Adamsville.

The sixth-place winner, receiving a \$600 scholarship, was Austin Driggs from John Glenn High School. Austin's parents are Dustin and Stephanie Driggs of New Concord.



Shook, Wood earn TSE achievement grants

We are proud to announce that Caglea Shook and Gillian Wood have each been awarded the Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarship for 2022. Caglea attends Philo High School and is the child of Tasha Shook-McQuaide of Blue Rock. Gillian attends John Glenn High School/Mid-East Career and Technology Center – Buffalo and is the child of Matt Wood of New Concord and Alyssa Wood of Byesville.

The Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarship was created to reward those students who have committed themselves to the pursuit of a college education despite unique personal challenges.



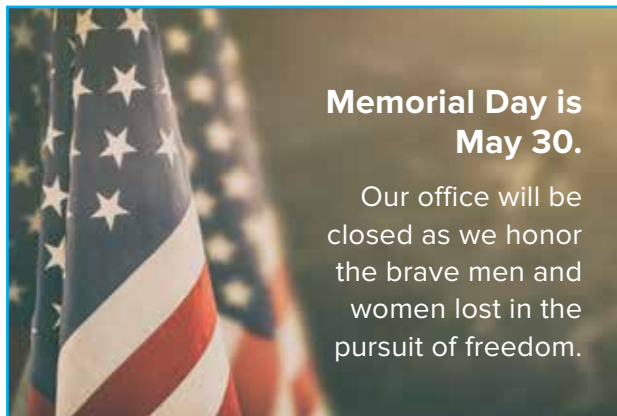
Caglea Shook (left) and Gillian Wood



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



"A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go."
Happy Mother's Day from GMEC!



Memorial Day is May 30.

Our office will be closed as we honor the brave men and women lost in the pursuit of freedom.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists, you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.



Source: www.energy.gov



Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call the cooperative's office and receive a FREE home change-out to LED lightbulbs (limit six bulbs). Thanks for reading the local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

#45-0383-23-04 James C Patrick

#58-0331-24-02 Mark H Enos

#35-0874-08-00 Robert Ditto

#29-0136-23-06 Lawrence Gamble

#15-0008-02-02 John T West

#85-0047-10-01 Shane Gerber

GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

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OFFICE

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New Concord, OH 43762

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ELECTRIC RATES

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.
First 500 kWh/month — 13.169¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month — 11.845¢/kWh

Net Billing Residential R-1 NB* and
Net Metering Residential R-1 NM*
Service Availability Charge — \$42/mo.
First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 11.645¢/kWh
Over 2,000 kWh/mo. — 11.845¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge — \$384/yr.
First 800 kWh/yr. — 20.769¢/kWh
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.645¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.845¢/kWh
(Minimum annual charge — \$384/yr.
for service between March 1, 2021,
and Feb. 28, 2022)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*
Service Availability Charge — \$26/mo.
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 13.569¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 11.845¢/kWh

*Rider T — Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 0.465¢/kWh
Next 13,000 kWh/mo. — 0.419¢/kWh
Over 15,000 kWh/mo. — 0.363¢/kWh

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