



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## FORESTS AND TREES

I have come to the conclusion that I am not as wise as I once thought I was. The world we live in has become a complicated place that seems to leave me in a constant state of confusion. Why do I still see so many folks texting on cell phones while they are driving? Why do manufacturers shrink-wrap items so that a machete is required to open the package? Why do young people spend countless hours playing video games when they could be playing outdoors? Why do they make tofu? Why would you eat tofu? Why are bags of potato chips and other snacks only half full when you open them? Why can't I stop eating so many potato chips and snacks? Why did God make ticks? Why, why, why???

Someone once said to me, "Jerry, you can't see the forest for the trees." What he was referring to with this observation was that I was so focused on the details that I was missing the big picture. I understood the meaning of his clever comment, and I was a bit angered by this perceived slap in the face. My response was, "If you ignore the trees, there won't be a forest." I don't think he truly understood my reply, and I doubt that he even cared. My point was that we cannot be so focused on the goal or "big picture" that we ignore what it may take to get us there.

Your cooperative must be focused on long-term goals to assure that we can continue to provide the power you need when you need it. Our employees prepare a work

plan and budget each year and present this to our board of directors for discussion and approval. We prepare long-range construction plans to help guide our decisions regarding improvements to the electric system. Buckeye Power analyzes the future power needs of Ohio's electric cooperatives annually so that we can be sure your lights come on when you flick that switch. Yet, we also realize that we serve our members, and we want to do our best to explain what we are doing and why we are doing it. We don't always agree, and at times, I know we have upset some members. Please understand that we try to treat all members fairly and consistently. Our goal has remained the same over our 80-year history: provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to the members we serve in southeastern Ohio.

I hope that your forests are filled with beautiful trees and you can truly appreciate each and every one of them. God bless!



Jerry Kackley  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO





# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## What is Operation Helping Others?

There are over 5,000 GMEC members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, thank you! If you are not familiar with OHO, here is an overview of the program.

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the next dollar and uses the change as a donation. OHO is not a program to pay Guernsey-Muskingum

WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRIC BILL . . . . . \$73.44  
 WILLIE ROUNDS UP HIS BILL AND PAYS . . . . \$74.00  
 DONATION . . . . . \$ .056

electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities. For example, the OHO committee would put Willie Wiredhand's 56 cents in with all of the spare change donated by other members and decide how best to use those funds in our communities. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO goes toward funding needs in our community. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district. In 2018, your OHO committee granted **\$30,204.09** to be distributed to needy causes in our community. Below is a list of OHO recipients for the year.

OHO grant amount	2018 OHO meeting date	Location of recipient	Need of recipient
\$1,500	Feb. 26	Westland Township, Guernsey County	living expenses
\$2,403.90	Feb. 26	Perry Township, Tuscarawas County	medical expenses
\$500	Feb. 26	Highland Township, Muskingum County	donation
\$1,000	Feb. 26	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	donation
\$1,000	Feb. 26	Guernsey County	donation
\$2,500	May 21	Spencer Township, Guernsey County	living expenses
\$2,500	Aug. 27	Rush Township, Tuscarawas County	medical expenses
\$2,500	Aug. 27	Oxford Township, Guernsey County	home repairs
\$2,538.10	Aug. 27	Cambridge	operating expenses
\$1,500	Aug. 27	Perry Township, Tuscarawas County	operating expenses
\$1,000	Aug. 27	Oxford Township, Tuscarawas County	medical expenses
\$1,520	Aug. 27	Monroe Township, Muskingum County	home repairs
\$4,500	Dec. 3	Highland Township, Muskingum County	donation
\$102.09	Dec. 3	Madison Township, Guernsey County	living expenses
\$500	Dec. 3	Tuscarawas County	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Zanesville	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey County	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey/Muskingum counties	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Zanesville	Christmas donation
\$500	Dec. 3	Muskingum County	Christmas donation
\$140	Dec. 3	Adams Township, Guernsey County	living expenses
\$500	Dec. 3	Guernsey/Muskingum counties	Christmas donation



# Welcome Mindy Geiger

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. welcomes new employee Mindy Geiger. Mindy began employment in November as the credit administrator. She resides in Zanesville and has 10 years of credit and collection experience in the credit card industry. Mindy enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephews and her three dogs — Harley, Benz, and Scarlett. We welcome Mindy to the cooperative crew!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Stop scammers in their tracks

1. Never give out or confirm confidential, personal, account, or financial information over the phone to non-cooperative personnel. GMEC will never demand that type of information over the phone. If in doubt, hang up and call GMEC at the number printed on your bill: 800-521-9879.
2. If you believe you are being scammed, collect as much information about the situation as possible, including the phone number the scammer asks you to call back, and report it to the co-op or local police.
3. If you have any questions about your payment or bill status, please call the number on your bill. Remember that scammers can make their caller ID look like it is GMEC calling, so you must dial 800-521-9879 to ensure safety.
4. Never let anyone claiming to be a GMEC employee into or around your home without asking to see their company-issued ID.
5. Do not meet up with anyone to make an electric bill payment. Payments should only be made by mail, in person at the co-op office, or over the phone via the toll-free number: 844-206-7873.
6. If a caller specifically asks you to pay using a prepaid debit card, cash, or money order, this is a red flag.
7. If you feel pressured to make a payment or decision in a rush, hang up. That is a sure sign of a scam.
8. Be wary of emails or text messages demanding payment or asking for confidential information. If it looks suspicious, contact the office to verify.





# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

*Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?*



## YOUTH TOUR 2019

### What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,800 delegates this year. **Will you be one of them?**

**For more information and to apply, visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) or call Guernsey-Muskingum at 800-521-9879. Deadline is March 1, 2019.**

**All interviews will take place on March 11, 2019.**

# June 14–20, 2019

### 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.

#53-0375-44-00 ....Kim Alan Cunningham	#24-0425-85-00....
#37-0514-45-00 .....James Olden	John C. Schaumleffel
#51-0887-42-01.....Jesse E. Moore	#15-0252-56-01.....
#60-0613-42-02.....Roger B. Bond	Shari L. Paisley



### GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### CONTACT

800-521-9879 | [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)

#### OFFICE

17 S. Liberty St.  
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 — \$22/mo.  
First 500 kWh/month — 12.169¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month — 10.845¢/kWh

#### Seasonal Residential Service rate schedule S-1\*

Service Availability Charge — \$360/yr.  
First 800 kWh/yr. — 19.769¢/kWh  
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — \$10.645¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 10.845¢/kWh  
(Minimum annual charge — \$360/yr. for service between March 1, 2018, and Feb. 28, 2019)

#### Commercial Service rate schedule C-1\*

Service Availability Charge — \$24/mo.  
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.569¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 10.845¢/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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Gray  
Chairman

Brian Hill  
Vice Chairman

Ed Bay  
Secy.-Treasurer

John Enos  
Duane Parks

Jim Rex  
Shirley Stutz  
Directors

Jerry Kackley  
General Manager/CEO

Joseph P. Boeckman  
Counsel

