



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

STORIES

I love to tell stories and always enjoy hearing a good yarn. The problem is that most stories require a bit of embellishment in order to make them interesting enough to keep the attention of the listener. As a father, I was able to captivate my young girls with creative bedtime stories about white tigers and talking acorns. Each of my babies would softly mumble “tell another one, Daddy” as they gradually drifted off to sleep. The real trick was slipping quietly from the room without waking them. It amazes me that each of my daughters still remembers bits and pieces of those stories even though it has been decades since they last heard them. What astonishes me more is that those same bedtime tales are etched permanently in my mind. I guess, like reciting the national anthem, the Lord’s Prayer or the FFA Creed ... if you say the words enough, they become part of you.

Over the years, we have told you the story of your cooperative. From its humble beginnings in 1938, GMEC has grown to become a corporation with more than \$90 million in assets and 2,800 miles of electric lines. But we are still your cooperative, and our mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members in southeastern Ohio has never changed. But

unlike my bedtime tales, the story of your cooperative changes constantly. Just when we think we have the ending figured out, Mother Nature reminds us that we should not get complacent or lazy. Weather is only one challenge that we face as aging infrastructure, government regulation, dead ash trees, and rising costs are always adding new chapters to the co-op book.

There is another Good Book that we should endeavor to read, full of adventure and hope. If, like me, you struggle to sit down and read the Bible for more than a few minutes at a time, that is not a problem. Follow your heart and use words of compassion, kindness, grace, and love. Like those old bedtime stories, if you say the words enough, they will become part of you.

God bless!



Jerry Kackley
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

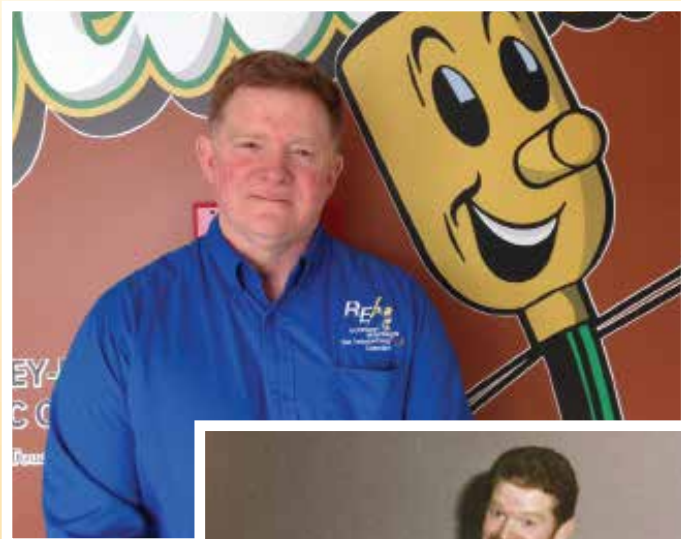




General Manager/CEO Jerry Kackley retires

Jerry Kackley will retire this year after serving seven years as general manager/CEO of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. Jerry is a 1980 graduate and valedictorian of Meadowbrook High School, and he attended The Ohio State University, graduating *summa cum laude* in 1984. Jerry, a 27-year veteran of rural electrification, began his career with Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. in 1992 as an accountant. In 1994, he was promoted to controller, and in 2012, he was selected as the cooperative's fourth general manager/CEO. As general manager/CEO, Jerry served on the Buckeye Power Inc. board of directors and various Buckeye Power committees. Prior to his career at Guernsey-Muskingum, he worked for Columbia Gas and the Marathon Petroleum Company.

Jerry plans to enjoy his retirement hunting, fishing, woodworking, farming, and spending time with his family. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. wishes Jerry much happiness in his retirement. Jerry says, "I want to thank the directors, employees, and members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. for their support and friendship over the past 27 years. This has been an absolutely wonderful organization to work for. I look forward to this next step in my life. May God grant you good health and happiness in the years to come."



What causes power outages?

Most of the time, we have lights, cold refrigerators, hot water, and we can watch our favorite TV show. However, this is *most* of the time. We all unfortunately experience power outages at some point. So what causes them?

Number of Outages



Hundreds of outages occur each year, and each one is a little different. We thank the cooperative members who help us help you!

Cause of Outage

2018 POWER OUTAGES



82nd Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Business meeting called to order promptly at noon.

Food • Entertainment • Displays • Something for everyone!

Be sure to check the local pages in the April issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living* for all the details and your official notice of the meeting.





Is your HVAC system losing money at its seams?

ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR



Ray Crock

I'm not sure how many energy audits I have done where I found duct leakage to be a big problem. When I can find leakage with my blower door, it escalates from a big problem to a huge problem. Duct leakage is prevalent in mobile homes, homes on crawl spaces, and houses with ductwork in the attic or garage. Anytime ducts are outside of conditioned space, there are greater risks.

How bad could this be? I've found homes that had mice, cats, or other animals getting into the ducts from the crawl space. I remember looking into a floor register on a mobile home and seeing daylight. In another, a main delivery duct had been disconnected for years, blowing the heated air into the attic and blowing back insulation. The homeowner's winter heating bills dropped by more than half when it was reconnected. Some problems I've encountered were so bad that I actually told the member to shut off their furnace, cover the vents, and heat with electric or kerosene space heaters, in an effort to not blow air out of the house.

In homes with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts distribute the conditioned air throughout the house. However, in a typical house, twenty to forty percent of the air moving through the system is lost due to leaks, holes, and poor connections in the ductwork. The result is decreased comfort and higher energy bills. Here are five signs that you may have problems with your ducts:

- You have high heating and cooling bills.
- You have rooms that are difficult to heat and cool.
- You have stuffy rooms that never feel comfortable.
- You find tangled or kinked flexible ducts in your home.

- You have ducts located in the crawl space, attic, garage, or unconditioned cellar.

There are many benefits to properly sealing and insulating your duct system. The most important is comfort. Sealing leaky ducts can help with common problems of rooms that are too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. A second benefit is saving money. Leaky ducts can lose 20 percent or more of the air that you pay to heat or cool. Improved air quality is another benefit. Sealing ducts can reduce the risks of pollutants entering the home from dusty attics or musty crawl spaces. Dust, insulation particles, or mold spores from damp spaces could aggravate asthma and allergy problems. There is also the





additional benefit of safety, as your properly sealed return ducts will not pull gasoline and exhaust fumes from the garage or mold and radon gas from a crawl space or cellar into the HVAC system.

Now, let's take action. Start with an inspection of your ductwork and vents. Take off the grills and look for possible air leaks in both delivery and return vents. Pay extra attention here on mobile homes and double-wides, since they are moved after construction. Inspect all ducts that you can get to in cellars, basements, attics, and crawl spaces. There are also professionals for hire to test the ductwork. Most of the time, I can identify if there's a problem when I do an energy audit with a blower door test.

The hard part is fixing the leaks. Where the ducts are accessible, seal the leaks, holes, and connections with duct sealant (mastic) or metal-backed (foil) tape. Never use grey duct tape, as it is not long-lasting. Make sure the surface is clean before applying sealing materials.

Another place for the do-it-yourselfer to make a difference is behind or under register grills. I have seen a lot of

leakage in returns that use wall cavities rather than sealed metal ducts. Air easily enters between the drywall and studs from adjoining cavities or the attic. Seal what can be reached with caulk or duct mastic. I found a great how-to video on YouTube that shows how to seal floor registers, which is especially important in trailers and double-wides. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UhrkNSBuE8> to see how to properly seal this area.

One product, AeroSeal, seals ducts from the inside and looks promising. A blower pushes an aerosol into the ducts, and it seals leaks as the air escapes through them. There are also companies that offer duct testing and sealing. This may be a better option for nonaccessible ducts with severe problems.

So, if you want to make your home or your child's bedroom more comfortable, consider checking your ductwork for leaks. It may save you money and improve your home's air quality. If you need help accessing your ducts or want a complete home energy audit, call Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, and we will get one scheduled. You'll probably be surprised at what I find!



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CURRENTLY SPEAKING

We want
to **HEAR**
FROM

YOU!

Your thoughts and opinions about Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative help us to serve you better.

In March, April, May, and June, GMEC will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete a member satisfaction survey.

The surveys will be both by phone and email, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative.

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

All information is confidential.

Cooperative news

Geothermal heating and cooling system — \$300 rebate

We have a \$300 rebate to help pay for the most efficient underground heating, cooling, and hot water system available today. To be eligible, the geothermal unit must be ENERGY STAR-rated and have a radio-controlled switch installed on the unit and on the electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. Over 280 of our members are using geothermal.

Dual Fuel — \$300 rebate

If you install a new add-on electric heat pump with a fossil-fuel backup and have an electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, you are eligible for a \$300 rebate. Radio-controlled switches must be installed on both the heat pump and water heater. Please call your cooperative for details. Over 890 members are using Dual Fuel.

Cool Returns — \$100 rebate

Are you having central air conditioning installed or a new electric heat pump with electric resistance heat backup? Allow your cooperative to install a radio-controlled switch and receive a \$100 rebate check. Over 170 members are using Cool Returns.

ENERGY STAR refrigerator/freezer rebate

Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

Water heater with a hole

The 4-inch hole in the side of our tank is great for cleaning out sediment. This rebated tank is available for free delivery. We also have \$50 or \$100 checks to send you if you purchase a tank somewhere else. Give us a call for details.

Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, will install your water heater for an additional charge. Give us a call.

Radio-controlled switch

“What a deal!” If you don’t already have a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity, please call, and Tim Fisher will install one at no charge. Over 5,600 GMEC members have an RCS on their water heaters. The switch entitles you to a discount and free maintenance (except cleaning), including parts and labor, on your electric water heater. Some exclusions apply; call us for details.

GenerLink

We want you to use your portable generator safely. Call the member services department at GMEC and ask them about GenerLink. GenerLink eliminates the use of extension cords and other connections that can be dangerous to members and linemen. Over 200 members currently have a GenerLink installed at their homes.

Meter reading

You can enter your meter readings online at our website, www.gmenergy.com. You can also mail your readings or call us 24 hours a day with meter readings.

Co-op Connections card

The Co-op Connections card is free to all GMEC members, and one card can be used by the entire family. The card can be used to receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the link to explore the possible discounts available to you.



Home, Garden, & Business Expo



The Home, Garden, and Business Expo will be held Friday, March 8, through Sunday, March 10, at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge. Make sure to stop by the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative booth to pick up some ideas on improving your home's energy efficiency. We hope to see you there.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: 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.

#45-0195-22-03.....Frankie Dean

#12-0206-18-05.....Rhiannon L Stoneking

#18-0895-46-00.....Joshua D Thornton

#56-0252-21-09.....Michael Phelps

#43-0629-18-00.....

Joseph H Robinson

#35-0052-17-12.....

Jay E Heddleson



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

800-521-9879 | 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

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Joseph P. Boeckman
Counsel

