



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RATE CHANGES

One of the more difficult things that your co-op directors and management must do is to determine the rates that we charge our members. While rates are designed to cover costs and assure an adequate operating margin, rates are not as simple as they may seem. Rates are established for numerous classes of members – from residential to commercial – so we have around 16 different rates in effect today.

The goal in establishing rates is to be fair to all members. That means we must try to assure equity between rate classes and within a rate class. Commercial members should not carry the load for residential members, and residential members should not contribute unfairly to support the operations of the co-op while businesses do not provide adequate support through the commercial rates. Likewise, a residential or commercial member using very little power cannot expect other members to pay to keep the lines clear and the power flowing just so power is available on the rare occasions when they need it.

Your electric bill, like all electric utilities, consists of three main parts:

- 1.) The **Fixed Charge** or service availability charge is designed to cover the cost of installing and repairing the poles, wire and equipment and maintaining this “electric distribution system”, whether you use electricity or not.
- 2.) The **Generation & Transmission** charge is a pass-through of the cost from Buckeye Power, your power supplier. These costs include the costs of generating the power and then delivering it to our distribution system which accounts for nearly 60% of your bill.
- 3.) The **Energy** charge is based upon the usage of each member.

Commercial/industrial members also have a **demand** component on their bills designed to cover a portion

of the cost of providing the electric **capacity** needed, which is typically much greater than residential members need. Keep in mind that the co-op must be able to provide the power required at all times even though that level of use may only be needed for a short time. This capacity comes at a cost, and the demand component of the commercial rate is designed to recover this.



Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

Recently, your co-op had a cost of service study performed by an organization that specializes in rate design. The purpose of this study was to ensure that our rates are fair and consistent. Fixed costs should be covered by fixed charges, so all members contribute toward fixed costs even when no energy is being consumed. If the fixed charge is not high enough, members using a large amount of kilowatt-hours pay a disproportionate share of costs. There is never a perfect solution, but based upon the study, the co-op’s fixed charge needs to be raised.

Effective on the April 10 billing, the fixed charge on residential accounts will increase from \$18 to \$22 per month. However, the energy charge on the first 500 kilowatt-hours each month will be reduced by 8 cents. **This means that accounts using 500 kilowatt-hours or more each month will reflect no increase in their bills due to the rate change.** Other rate classes are also changing, but I will not go into those details here.

Change is never easy, and I can assure you that we have discussed this in great detail before proceeding. I can also mention that our new fixed charge is still one of the lowest in the state among electric cooperatives. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



IN THE COMMUNITY

GMEC AWARDS 8 SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

Every spring since 1954, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative has sponsored scholarships for high school seniors. The cooperative awards a \$1,000 first-place scholarship, a \$800 second-place scholarship, a \$600 third-place scholarship, and a \$400 fourth-place scholarship in both boys' and girls' divisions.

On Feb. 11, applicants participated in interviews judged by two teams of judges. Judges for the girls' division were Kari Burke and Dorothy Montgomery; judges for the boys' division were Dr. Howard Beazel, Dr. Barb Hansen, and Jack Taylor.

Points in the competition were given for scholastic record, personal achievement, school and community activities, and the interview.

First-place awards went to:

Alayna Cowden, the daughter of Bill and Jana Cowden of Cambridge. She attends John Glenn High School.

Ethan Harris, the son of John and Marsha Harris of Zanesville. Ethan attends Tri-Valley High School.

Second-place awards went to:

Jennifer Zacharias, the daughter of David and Sherri Zacharias of Salesville. She attends Buckeye Trail High School.

Jarrett Wilson, the son of William and Shana Wilson of Cambridge. He attends John Glenn High School.

Third-place awards went to:

Jocee Janicki, the daughter of Julie Janicki of Chandlerville. She attends Tri-Valley School.

Blake Cooper, the son of Terry Cooper and Brenda Cooper of Cambridge. He attends John Glenn High School.

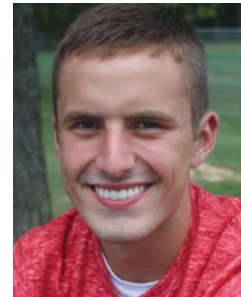
Fourth-place awards went to:

Alexus Starr, the daughter of Chris and Vicki Starr of Salesville. She attends Buckeye Trail High School.

Bryce Vernon, the son of Rob and Bobbi Vernon of Adamsville. He attends Tri-Valley High School.



Alayna Cowden



Ethan Harris



Jennifer Zacharias



Jarrett Wilson



Jocee Janicki



Blake Cooper



Alexus Starr



Bryce Vernon

25 area students competed for Children of Members scholarships this year

Participating seniors included:

Bishop Rosecrans

Aaron Gehlken

Buckeye Trail

Jamie Secrest
Alexus Starr
Jennifer Zacharias

John Glenn

Blake Cooper
Alayna Cowden
Erin Dickson
Maria Johnson
Madison McGee
Matthew Meinert
Brittany Smith
Miranda Starcher
Ryan VanMeter
Jarrett Wilson

Meadowbrook

Jarrett Wilson
Allison Mudgett
Erin Rodgers

Shenandoah

Brooke Arick

Tri-Valley

Landon Campbell
Elise Frueh
Hannah George
Ethan Harris
Jocee Janicki
Aaron Ross
Bryce Vernon

VanMeter receives first-place Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarship

We are proud to announce that Ryan VanMeter was chosen as the first-place GMEC recipient of the Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship for 2017. He attends John Glenn High School and is the son of Michael and Jodi VanMeter of Cambridge.



Ryan VanMeter

The second-place award went to Jocee Janicki. She attends Tri-Valley High School and is the daughter of Julie Janicki of Chandlersville.

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

Hamlett joins Guernsey-Muskingum

Tom Hamlett was hired in February 2017 as a member accounting specialist and meter reader. He is a graduate of Maple Heights High School and earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in environmental studies from Hiram College. Hamlett brings pole inspection and meter reading experience with him to the co-op. He enjoys hunting and fishing, and resides near Cumberland. We welcome Tom to the Guernsey-Muskingum crew!



Are your name and account number here?

If so, call your cooperative's office and receive a free home change-out to compact fluorescent light bulbs (limit of six bulbs).

Thanks for reading the Guernsey-Muskingum local pages of Ohio Cooperative Living.

- #35-0717-04-01 Judson Shreves
- #57-0392-17-00 Traci Gump
- #43-0679-14-02 Jill M. Minyo
- #26-0016-21-02 Claudia D. Flynn
- #32-0021-40-03 Jason Hatfield
- #51-0619-09-01 Steve Taylor





GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

IT PAYS TO BUY **QUALITY!**

TWO WAYS TO SAVE:

1

Rebates – For water heaters purchased at Guernsey-Muskingum:

Prices include: **FREE** Delivery

FREE Maintenance (except cleaning), including Parts & Labor

FREE Pressure Relief Valve

FREE Radio-Controlled Switch

50-gallon: dimensions 28" dia. x 52" hght. (Weight = 230 lbs.)

\$625 Wholesale Cost

\$250 Member Rebate

\$375 Net Member Cost, plus tax

80-gallon: dimensions 32" dia. x 59" hght. (Weight = 345 lbs.)

\$850 Wholesale Cost

\$250 Member Rebate

\$600 Net Member Cost, plus tax

Installation may be available for an approximate charge of \$120.

2

Cash back – for electric, storage water heaters purchased elsewhere, with installation of a radio-controlled switch (hybrid water heaters not eligible)

\$100 cash back for:

- 50-gallon
- 7-year warranty (or longer)
- 91% or higher Energy Factor

\$50 cash back for

- 40-gallon
- 7-year warranty (or longer)
- 91% or higher Energy Factor

To qualify for cash back incentives and discounts, members must allow the free installation of a radio-controlled switch. Prices and rebates subject to change. Call Guernsey-Muskingum for more details. 1-800-521-9879



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.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 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, 2017, and Feb. 28, 2018)

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

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Counsel

John Enos
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Jim Rex
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Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

