



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to the membership of Guernsey-Muskingum. I am blessed to be the next general manager/CEO of your cooperative. By now, I have about 30 days under my belt, and I realize what a wonderful opportunity I have been given to lead this organization and its member-owners into the future.

My family and I reside on a farm in Hopewell Township of Muskingum County. My wife, Tracie, and I and our children, Kaleigh, Cameron, and Conner, are thankful to be a part of the bigger family of GMEC. GMEC family sounds like a wonderful thing to be part of, and it is, but we realize that as with most families, there are struggles and challenges as well as a great support system during tough times in our life.

With this cooperative family, I look forward to continuing to offer safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members. I have worked for the past 14 years in public service, and I see this job as serving you, the member. We must keep a strong financial business model while fulfilling the needs of our member-owners. We have a part in making our southeastern Ohio communities strong.

One area of strength in our service territory is our youth. Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative has sponsored a scholarship program since 1954. This was another competitive year, with 21 applicants from 10 different schools in the service area. All completed an application, had at least a 3.5 GPA, and were interviewed by a panel of three judges. Two past winners were later employed by the cooperative! We also offer two special achievement scholarships that are for students who have overcome adversity in their lives to persevere and excel.

As I move into this new career, I look forward to hearing from you on things that you like and those you feel we could do better to serve your needs. Stay tuned for more member engagement opportunities in the future. I value your opinions.



Brian Hill
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO





Children of Members Scholarship

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.

This year, the following 21 students from 10 high schools competed for the awards:

Bishop Rosecrans

Ryin Browning
Benjamin Phillips
Rachel Taylor

Buckeye Trail

Logan McVicker

Cambridge

Logan Tuttle

John Glenn

Josie Babcock
Mitch Eubank
Harry Harman
Carleigh Ludwig
Jordan Price

Maysville

Mackenzie Rine

Philo

Josh Mudgett
Dawson Saunders

Shenandoah

Makayla Feldner

Sheridan

Sydney Amore

Tri-Valley

Chad Bell
Ashley Knicely
Brice Nethers
Zane Paisley
Tanner Vernon

West Muskingum

Heather Barborak



Harry Harman



Chad Bell



Jordan Price



Heather Barborak



Benjamin Phillips



Makayla Feldner

Points in the competition were awarded for scholastic record, personal achievement, school and community activities, and a personal interview. Applicants were interviewed on Feb. 23, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dr. Howard Beazel, Dr. Barb Hansen, and Garry Mbiad served as judges.

Harry Harman was the first-place winner, receiving a \$1,100 scholarship. Harry is the son of Jeff and Diane Harman of New Concord, Harry attends John Glenn High School.

Chad Bell won second place and a \$1,000 scholarship. Chad is the son of Craig and Traci Bell of Frazeytsburg and attends Tri-Valley High School.

In third place, **Jordan Price** received a \$900 scholarship. Jordan is the son of Randy and Sharon Price of New Concord and attends John Glenn High School.

Heather Barborak was the fourth-place winner, receiving an \$800 scholarship. Heather is the daughter of Brad and Susan Barborak of Mt. Perry and attends West Muskingum High School.

In fifth place and receiving an \$700 scholarship, was **Benjamin Phillips**, the son of Matt and Jill Phillips of Nashport. Benjamin attends Bishop Rosecrans High School.

Makayla Feldner won sixth place and received a \$600 scholarship. Makayla Feldner is the daughter of Jason and Jeannette Feldner of Caldwell and attends Shenandoah High School.



Touchstone Energy Scholarship

We are proud to announce that **Kennedy Rine** and **Mackenzie Rine** were chosen as the recipients of the Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarships for 2019. Kennedy and Mackenzie attend Maysville High School. They are the daughters of Steve and Donna Rine of Zanesville.

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.



Kennedy Rine



Mackenzie Rine



Chuck Hall

Chuck Hall began employment with Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. in February 2019 as the engineering mapping technician. Chuck is a graduate of Zane State College with an Associate degree in electrical/electronic engineering technology. He brings with him work experience from American Electric Power, and he was a past engineering intern of the cooperative. Chuck resides outside of Dresden and is engaged to be married next year.

We welcome Chuck to the cooperative family!



May is Electrical Safety Month.
Safety starts with you.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



Director Jim Rex retires

Jim Rex retired from the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's (GMEC) board of directors on April 13, 2019, after 16 years of dedicated service. Jim was appointed to the board on September 26, 2003, to fill the vacant

position of former GMEC Board Director Bob Tysinger and was elected to the board on April 3, 2004. He served the board of directors as secretary-treasurer from 2008 to 2010 and served as chairman of the board from 2014 to

2016. Jim earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Jim represented the members of Muskingum County in the townships of Blue Rock, Brush Creek, Clay, Harrison, and Meigs; the Noble County townships of Brookfield and Sharon; and the Morgan County townships of Bloom, Bristol, Manchester, Meigsville, and York.

Jim is the retired district director of 12 offices of the Farm Services Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He resides in Blue Rock, Ohio with his wife, Judy. We wish Jim well in his retirement! Thank you, Jim!

Karen McFarland retires

Karen McFarland was hired by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Inc. as a part-time intern in June 1994. In October of that year, she moved to the position of part-time member accounting clerk and became full time in July 1995. She moved to the position of engineering coordinator/mapping technician in July 2001 and was in that position until her retirement in February 2019. Thank you, Karen, for your 25 years of dedicated service to the cooperative.



CO-OP 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.

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 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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov





**ASK YOUR
ENERGY
ADVISOR**



Ray Crock

Landscaping for energy efficiency

The approach of spring has many gardeners turning their attention to planting plans, but if your goal is energy efficiency, landscaping is an approach that can beautify your home and help you control future energy costs for years to come.

According to researchers at the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, carefully positioned trees placed around a home can save as much as 25 percent of household energy consumption for heating and cooling. Foundation shrub plantings can also help control costs by diffusing wind or solar heating to moderate thermal temperature transfers.

Meet your microclimate

For years, gardeners have used the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Hardiness Zones as guidelines for plant stock selection, seasonal cultivation, and projected harvesting. But understanding the impact of nearby vegetation, topography, and soil science will help you know your yard better, providing more flexibility for landscape planning and potentially more options for using plants to control energy costs.

Other factors influencing microclimate are the duration and intensity of sunlight over areas considered for planting, proximity to topographic or vegetative wind breaks, or nearby wooded areas, which might regulate local temperatures by several degrees.

Trees at the top

No matter how much you love trees, you will want to plant them at a distance. Too close to foundations, pavement, and plumbing, root systems or maturing branches can damage foundations or roofs.

But planted in the right place, within five to 10 years, a fast-growing shade tree can reduce outside air temperatures near walls and roofs by as much as 6 degrees on sunny days. Surface temperatures immediately under the canopy of a mature shade tree can be up to 25 degrees cooler than surrounding shingles or siding exposed to direct sunlight.

According to the Department of Energy, deciduous trees are great options for seasonal summer shade. Tall varieties planted to the south of a home can help diffuse sunlight, providing roof shading.

Shorter varieties of deciduous trees can be planted near exposed west-facing windows to help shade homes on sultry summer afternoons. Mass plantings of evergreens selected for their adaptability to regional growing conditions can be planted further away on a north or northwestern section of a yard to form a windbreak, shielding the home from frigid winter winds.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (i.e., leaves and branches) can be planted to the south of your home



to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Trees with crowns lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of solar-heated homes in cold climates, because the branches of these deciduous trees will block some winter sun.

Using shade effectively requires you to know the size, shape and location of the moving shadow that your shading device casts. Also, homes in cool regions may never overheat and may not require shading. Therefore, you need to know what landscape shade strategies will work best in your regional climate and your microclimate.

Trees are available in the appropriate sizes, densities and shapes for almost any shade application. To block solar heat in the summer but let much of it in during the winter, use deciduous trees. To provide continuous shade or to block heavy winds, use dense evergreen trees or shrubs.

Although a slow-growing tree may require many years of growth before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to breakage by windstorms or heavy snow.

(Opposite) Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (i.e., leaves and branches) can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Photo Source: Pixabay.com

(Below left) The approach of spring has many gardeners turning their attention to planting plans, but if your goal is energy efficiency, landscaping is an approach that can beautify your home and help you control future energy costs for years to come. Photo Source: Pixabay.com)

(Below right) Deciduous trees—those that lose their leaves in autumn—are great options for seasonal summer shade. Tall varieties planted to the south of a home can help diffuse sunlight, providing roof shading. Source: Pixabay.com



Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

To ensure lasting performance of energy-saving landscaping, use plant species that are adapted to the local climate. Native species are best, as they require little maintenance once established and avoid the dangers of invasive species.

Properly selected, placed and maintained landscaping can provide excellent wind protection, or windbreaks, which will reduce heating costs considerably. Furthermore, the benefits from these windbreaks will increase as the trees and shrubs mature.



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



**Our office will be closed on
Monday, May 27,
as we observe
Memorial Day and
honor those who gave
their lives for our country.**



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.

#72-0213-77-00..... Carl E Bennett
#60-0323-21-00..... Charles L Knight
#52-0027-62-02..... James D Taylor
#68-0510-02-01..... Glenn R Goddard

#24-0144-45-03..... Russell L Stachler
#12-0764-51-01..... Joshua Madinger



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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