

Currently Speaking

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

17 S. Liberty St.

New Concord, Ohio 43762

800-521-9879

www.gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

Jim Rex Chairman
Jay Gray Vice Chairman
Shirley Stutz Secy.-Treasurer
Ed Bay Director
John Enos Director
Brian Hill Director
Duane Parks Director
Joseph P. Boeckman Counsel
Jerry Kackley, General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge \$18/month

First 500 kWh/month 12.769¢/kWh

Over 500 kWh/month @ 10.645¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge \$216/year

First 800 kWh/year @ 20.769¢/kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year @ 11.645¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year @ 10.645¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year for service between March 1, 2016, and Feb. 28, 2017.)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge \$18/month

First 1,500 kWh/month @ 12.769¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month @ 10.645¢/kWh

*Rider T —

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

First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh

Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh

Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Happy Father's Day

My wife and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend a recent Garth Brooks concert in Columbus. I was impressed with the energy and passion that Garth put into his performance. Garth and I are the same age and, while I have more hair, he definitely has more energy and much more musical talent. I walked away feeling that Garth cared, and he was genuinely grateful that the audience was willing to spend the evening with him. Don't get me wrong, I understand that Garth received a significant share of the ticket proceeds, and that is certainly a strong motivation to provide a worthwhile concert experience. Yet I still felt that he made an extra effort to reach out to the audience so we would feel his sincere appreciation.

Within our cooperative, I believe that the directors and employees of Guernsey-Muskingum have this same desire. Yes, we each have a job to do, but the amount of passion and energy that we put into our jobs is primarily up to each of us. We want you to receive service that is reliable, safe, and affordable, but we hope to deliver that service in a way that tells each of our members that we sincerely care. You might not always get the answer you want, but we should treat you with respect and show that we truly appreciate you as a member of this cooperative.

As Father's Day approaches, I hope that I have taken the work ethic and "get-r-done" attitude that my father displayed in his life and applied it to my job and my life. To all the fathers out there, I would like to say "thank you" for your sacrifices, commitment to family, guidance, and love. If you have faltered, now is the time to try again. Fatherhood is not easy, but it is the most rewarding experience that I could ever imagine. So take a bow fathers — you've treated everyone to an excellent "life" concert. Your audience, the precious gifts we call sons and daughters, will likely give you a standing ovation. ☺



Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO

Happy Father's Day from Guernsey Muskingum Electric!



*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless! Jerry*

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric *holds 79th annual meeting*



A CROWD ESTIMATED AT OVER 900 turned out for food, fellowship, prizes and entertainment and to hear reports on the financial condition and progress of their non-profit electric cooperative.

Members enjoyed hot dogs grilled by GMEC linemen, plus a live high-voltage safety demonstration, games, and vendor displays, before hearing reports on the state of their cooperative and voting for directors.

Members re-elected directors Jim Rex of District 3, also the board chairman, and Jay Gray of District 5.

Rex reported on cooperative achievements during 2015. Shirley Stutz, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on the cooperative's financial status.

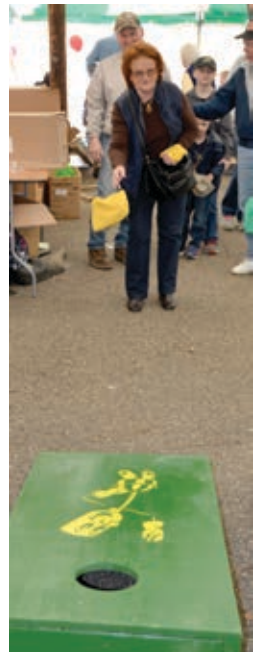
Bill Roberts of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, the statewide service organization and wholesale power supplier for GMEC, said the focus on people and affordable, reliable, safe electric service is what sets GMEC apart from other utilities.

In his report, GMEC General Manager/CEO Jerry Kackley said the co-op had a good year driven by kilowatt-hour sales, largely from homes and farms. However, the region is attracting new businesses that will contribute to GMEC's growth, and because electric cooperatives serve fewer consumers over more challenging terrain, growth means that the costs of distributing power are spread among more people.

GMEC works hard to contain costs, so the co-op is naturally concerned about a pending regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency that aims to shut down coal plants, Kackley said. The rule is currently under legal review, and co-ops object to it because it will increase costs while barely affecting global carbon dioxide emissions or sea levels.

"We care about our environment, and the world we leave to our children and grandchildren," he said. "We're a cooperative, and that means it's not about profits — it's about people."

Kackley also reported on milestones from 2015, including the replacement of old meters with new models and the acquisition of land and electric equipment south of Cumberland that will help to improve service for members near there. ☺



GMEC lineman helps electrify rural Guatemala

THE LIGHTING OF A SMALL village in Guatemala was life-changing for the more than 230 residents who occupy 70 homes, two churches, and a school, many with dirt floors and a few family photos stuck on the walls. Not framed portraits, but rather pictures probably taken on a work trip to the United States, so money could be sent back home. A home with no bathroom, no kitchen, no basement, no TV or lights — that is until Saturday, March 12, when life changed.

In our world, carrying a camera on our side and printing a picture is child's play. In La Soledad, Guatemala, a photo of a loved one affixed to the wall is a valued possession. An entire village shares one spring for all of their water needs. Most clothes have Aeropostle or JAMES branded across the back because these clothes have been tossed away by “our world.” Where cemeteries are the most decorated corners of the village so the dead will not be forgotten.

The folks of La Soledad do not live in poverty — they live in the country. They know of the lights and electric in the cities, but they live in the country, where lights and electricity were “not available,”



until March 12.

The folks of La Soledad are no different than the folks of Southeast Ohio in 1938 without electricity. Life in the country is not worse, just “different.”

In March, Guernsey-Muskingum Operations Supervisor and Lineman Rob Weber joined 16 other linemen from Ohio's electric cooperatives on a two-week mission to electrify La Soledad, Guatemala. Guernsey-Muskingum and the other electric co-ops that serve Ohio donated time and materials to accomplish this effort for the 322 residents.

Rob has been with Guernsey-

Muskingum for 23 years and chose to leave his supervisor hat behind and use his time and talents under a hardhat, as a lineman. He and other men from the Buckeye state, with help from the folks of La Soledad, set 70 poles and wired 4 bulbs and 2 outlets in each home.

On March 12 at 6:32 p.m., the lights came on, and the celebration began. La Soledad had no reason to shut down at nightfall. They had reason to eat, listen to music, hit piñatas, smile, and thank Rob and the Ohio group who brought electricity to their village. ☺



Retrofit your manufactured home for energy efficiency

IF YOU LIVE IN A MANUFACTURED HOME, chances are you may have a disproportionately higher energy bill than a family living in a modular or traditional wood-frame home. The good news is there are many ways you can improve your home's energy efficiency.

Manufactured home or mobile home?

First, a clarification. Some use the term manufactured home and mobile home interchangeably. A mobile home is one that was factory-built before 1976, when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) set national standards that nearly every manufactured home must meet. Thereafter, factory-built homes were called manufactured homes and are engineered and built in accordance with the 1976 federal code.

Manufactured homes come in all shapes and sizes. They may be single- or multi-sectioned and are available in various sizes and floorplans. There are many differences between manufactured homes built before the U.S. HUD code took effect in 1976 and those built afterward, a major difference being energy efficiency. Those built before federal standards were generally not as energy efficient as later models, even though thermal standards were changed in 1994. And while your manufactured home may have been built to the energy standards of the time, significant progress has been made over the past decades with high-efficiency mechanical equipment, windows, insulation, siding, and roofing materials.

In short, whether your home is less than 5 years old or more than 50, most homes can benefit from energy efficiency measures. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes, and wind can cause doors and windows to not close tightly, and ductwork can spring leaks, wasting cooling and heating energy.

If your home was built before 1976, the U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps to retrofit your manufactured home and improve energy efficiency:

1. Install energy-efficient windows and doors.
2. Replace insulation in the belly.
3. Make general repairs, such as sealing the bottom board, caulking windows and doors, and sealing ducts.
4. Add insulation to the walls.
5. Install or seal the belly wrap.
6. Add insulation to the roof or install a roof cap.

Additional energy-saving tips


In addition to the measures listed above, consider caulking and weather stripping windows and doors, particularly if you are not able to replace them with more energy-efficient ones. Properly seal openings around ducts and plumbing fixtures. Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, both indoors and outside. Reduce "phantom" loads by unplugging electronic devices like computers, printers, and gaming systems when not in use. If you are planning to move to a new manufactured home, look for an ENERGY STAR-rated model.

For more information about energy efficiency improvements for manufactured homes, contact the energy experts at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative or visit EnergySavers.gov. ☺



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

Is your name and location/ account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 6 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the GMEC "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

#65-0004-12-03 John L Smith
#46-0495-03-00 Richard W Kuthy
#58-0011-02-36 Kenneth P Enos
#72-0101-33-01 Leda Green
#13-0002-45-04 Kindra Carroll
#90-0030-43-05 Bonnie L Horn