



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

### A CHILL IN THE AIR

In case you haven't noticed, there is a chill in the air. T-shirts are being replaced or supplemented by sweatshirts and flannel shirts as the autumn air pushes away the warm breezes of summer. Leaves and flowers have begun their transition, and the vibrant colors of spring and summer are replaced by the beautiful tones of brown, orange, red, and yellow that remind us of the seasonal changes. We must now begin our transformation from beach bums to lumberjacks.

We are fortunate to experience such a beautiful variety of color and weather here in Ohio. Now don't misunderstand me — I can't say that I love winter, but it does seem to make me appreciate the other three seasons a whole lot more.

Just as the seasons change, so does everything else. Your cooperative is no exception. Wire and poles began bringing power to the rural countryside in southeastern Ohio in 1938 when GMEC was founded. We now serve nearly 13,000 members through almost 17,000 meters across nine counties! Thirteen substations provide power through an array of 2,800 miles of wire and poles. The hills and hollows of our service territory present tremendous challenges, and Mother Nature does her best to keep life interesting with an endless supply of weather and critters.

My sincere hope is that our members understand that we do our best to provide reliable, safe,

1-800-521-9879 or 740-826-7661.

and affordable power under some very difficult circumstances, and that is not a simple task. Recently, we watched our neighbors to the south suffer the wrath of hurricanes and tornados.

We even sent four of our linemen to help with restoration efforts. It wasn't that long ago (June-July 2012) that we experienced outages for 75 percent of our members, and our neighboring co-ops came to help. We also rely on our members to provide right-of-way so that we can build and maintain a strong electric distribution system. We appreciate the cooperation and sacrifice that helped us to energize this entire region.

So sit back and watch a good football game, or better yet, head out to a state park at Blue Rock, Dillon, or Salt Fork. Or try some fishing or boating on Seneca Lake and enjoy these wonderful outdoor blessings that we are fortunate to share in southeastern Ohio. And that chill in the air...nothing that a little bit of flannel can't address.

God Bless!



**Jerry Kackley**  
General Manager/CEO



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



## ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR THE MODERN FAMILY AND ITS MANY DEVICES



If you are struck by the amount of screens, remotes, gaming controls, charging stations and cords

that have become fixtures in your home, you are not alone. The typical American family is well connected and owns a variety of electronic devices. According to the PEW Research Institute, 95 percent of U.S. families have a cell phone, and 77 percent of Americans own a smart phone. Nearly 80 percent of adults own a laptop or desktop computer, while around half own tablets.

Consumer electronics coupled with the growing array of smart home appliances and technology have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles. The increased reliance on our many devices has new implications for home energy use and efficiency.

### Using smart technology to manage energy savings

So how can we save energy when we are using more electronic devices than ever before? The answer may lie with some of those same electronic devices that have become indispensable to modern living. In many cases, energy savings is a touchscreen away as more apps enable you to monitor energy use.

From the convenience of your mobile device, smart technologies can maximize your ability to manage electricity use across several platforms — controlling your thermostat, appliances, water heater, home electronics, and other devices. One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest models. Using your mobile device, you can view and edit your thermostat schedule, monitor how much energy is used, and make adjustments accordingly. For example, program your thermostat for weekday and weekend schedules so you are not wasting energy when no one is home.

You can also ensure efficiency by purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances. Many new appliances

include smart-technology features such as refrigerators that can tell you when maintenance is required or when a door has been left open. New washers, dryers, and dishwashers allow you to program when you want the load to start. This means you can program your task for off-peak energy hours — a smart choice if your electric rate is based on time of use.

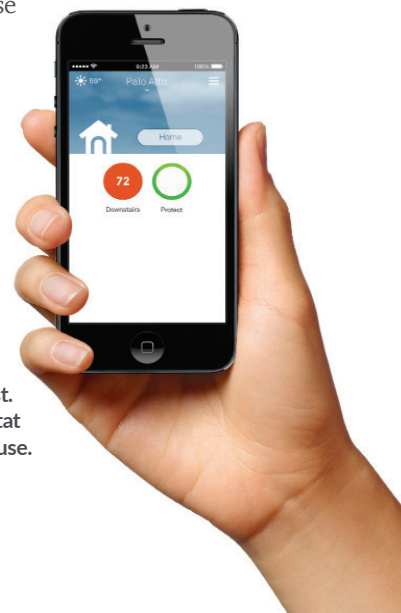
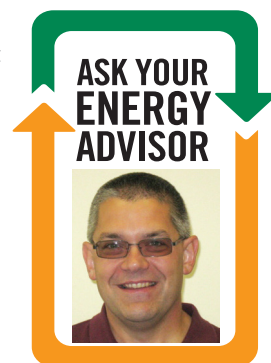
### “Old school” energy savings for new devices

Of course, there are the time-tested “old school” methods of energy efficiency that can be applied to the myriad of household electronic devices and screens. Computers, printers, phones, and gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users, meaning they drain energy (and money) when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off or placed on a timer.

While modern life involves greater dependence on technology, your best resource for saving energy and money remains your local electric co-op. Regardless of your level of technical expertise with electronic devices, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative can provide guidance on energy savings based on your account information, energy use, local weather patterns, and additional factors unique to your community.

One of the easiest ways to make an impact on energy efficiency is with a smart thermostat, like Nest. You can easily adjust your thermostat schedule and monitor your energy use.

PHOTO CREDIT: NEST





## Welcome Marcia Murphy



Guernsey-Muskingum welcomes Marcia Murphy. She began part-time employment in September 2017 as a member accounting specialist. Marcia brings several years of administrative support experience with her to the cooperative. She and her husband, Bob, reside in the Salt Fork area. Marcia enjoys

arts and crafts, reading, feeding and watching wildlife, spending time with friends, and relaxing at home with her husband and three cats.

## Change in Office Hours

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, the GMEC office in New Concord will no longer be open on Saturdays. In addition, the office will be closed on the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday weekends this year.

Members can still make payments at our night drop box 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are also several other payment options now available to members for bill payment. These options are detailed on our website at [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com).

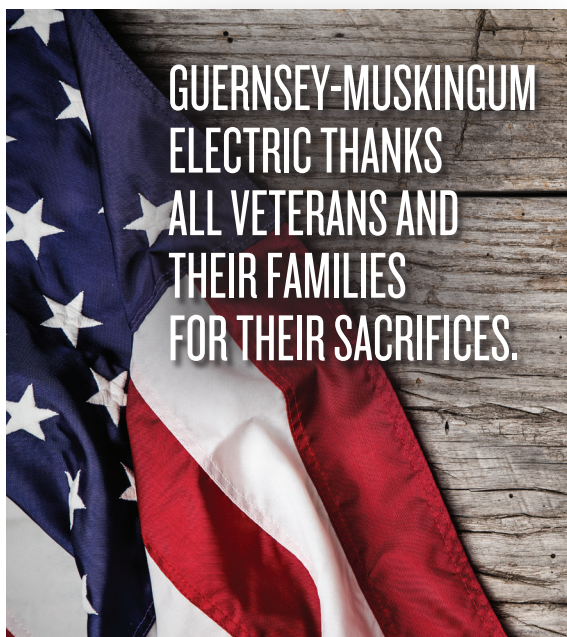
**Automatic Direct Bill Payment** — On the bill due date, the amount due is deducted from your checking or savings account. No fees are charged to members.

**By Phone** — Payment via electronic check or VISA, MasterCard, or Discover cards may be made 24/7 via our automated phone system by calling 1-844-206-7873. A transaction convenience fee of \$3.95 per payment will be applied to each payment submitted up to a \$500 limit.

**Online via Smarthub** — Payment can be made using electronic check or VISA, MasterCard, or Discover cards 24/7 via your SmartHub account access. A transaction convenience fee of \$3.95 per payment will be applied to each payment submitted up to a \$500 limit.

In addition to making payments, SmartHub has additional features such as a screen to enter meter readings, view use and bill history trends, and set account reminders.

**Online via Pay Now Application** — Payment can be made using electronic check or VISA, MasterCard, or Discover cards 24/7. A transaction convenience fee of \$3.95 per payment will be applied to each payment



### Is your name and account number here?

If it is, call the cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs (limit 6 bulbs). Thanks for reading the local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living*.



#11-0731-26-00..... Jodie T. Ashton  
#18-0612-20-02..... Babette C. Wofter  
#45-0003-05-02..... Michael Stonebrook  
#56-0184-18-01..... Beverly Rominger  
#71-0070-34-04..... Eric H. Ball  
#37-0176-02-02..... Kenneth G Hayes

submitted limited to \$500. This application does not have the additional features that Smarthub has.

Of course, you can still mail in your payments like you always do, or pay through your bank's on-line bill pay. Please note that if you choose to pay through your bank, we ask that you report your readings to us directly by calling our office or 1-844-206-7873 (no charge to enter a reading). You can also do this on our website.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We will continue to be open for business on all normal scheduled workdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so feel free to stop in and see us. Thanks!



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

The Holiday Workshop at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric is on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

We will only be holding one workshop in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Guernsey-Muskingum office in New Concord.

This year, there will be filled with great learning opportunities, including hands-on activities. If

you would like to attend this fun-filled evening, please call member services at 1-800-521-9879. There is no charge to attend.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn some great tips to help you prepare for the holiday season.



Guernsey-Muskingum  
Electric Cooperative's  
board of directors and employees  
wish all members a

*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

### Cooperative holiday hours



**Office closed Thanksgiving holiday**  
Thursday, Nov. 23, through  
Sunday, Nov. 26



**Office closed for Christmas holiday**  
Friday, Dec. 22, through  
Monday, Dec. 25



**Office closed for New Year's holiday**  
Saturday, Dec. 30, through  
Monday, Jan. 1

If outages occur during the holidays, someone will be available to take your call and dispatch a trouble crew to correct your problem. GMEC's drop box is always available for your convenience.

#### 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.  
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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Vice Chairman

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Secy.-Treasurer

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Duane Parks

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Shirley Stutz  
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General Manager/CEO

Joseph P. Boeckman  
Counsel

