



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

**H**olidays are a time for traditions. Typically, these traditions revolve around gathering as a family to celebrate, eat, and reminisce. Perhaps we talk about days gone by so we can once again feel young. Or maybe we find fulfillment in sharing our adventures with the next generation. My guess is that we remind ourselves of simpler times and revive our memories of the loved ones who once shared similar stories with us many years ago. They are with us in each word and every family recipe.

When I came to Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative in 1992, there was already a tradition during the holidays. Employees had developed a Christmas Fund they used to help families in need. Employees and directors contributed to the fund each year, and the money was used to buy food and gifts — but not just generic gifts. Employees “did their homework” and found the ages of the boys and girls in each family, including their clothing and shoe sizes. This enabled the employees to buy gifts that could truly be used and appreciated. Then, employees (some dressed as Santa) delivered the bags of gifts and groceries to the families. A small gesture perhaps, but no act of kindness is ever small.

Today, this tradition has changed and improved. Employees want to do even more. So they decided to hold a holiday potluck lunch to raise additional

money for the Christmas Fund. Employees and directors now bring their favorite culinary creations, and everyone puts additional money in an old tin can. Many employees and directors donate their holiday turkeys or hams, too, so even more families can be helped.

I cannot tell you how much money has been donated over the years or the number of families who have been helped through the Christmas Fund. I cannot count the number of children who found hope during the holidays when life seemed almost hopeless. I cannot measure the tears of joy or the warmth of compassion that was felt. What I can do is tell you that simple acts of kindness can and do make a difference. We cannot eliminate pain and sadness entirely; these are a part of life. But we can help others to cope and to heal. We can give them hope when all seems lost.

God has shown us the power of grace. It is up to each of us to keep His tradition alive. Happy holidays to you and your family.



Jerry Kackley  
General Manager/CEO

*Have a wonderful day!  
God Bless! Jerry*

## Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# LEDs cut costs of CHRISTMAS CHEER

For more than a century, incandescent bulbs dominated holiday lighting, but in less than 20 years after their debut, light emitting diodes (LEDs) have caught on with consumers and are now the way many families decorate for the holidays.

“LED lighting products now account for 60 percent of the holiday and seasonal lighting sold in the U.S. each year,” said Robert S. La Rocca, business development manager from the Melville, New York-based wire and cable/seasonal lighting division of Underwriters Laboratories.

Seasonal decorations are a \$12 billion annual market, which now includes consumer lighting, ornaments, inflatables, artificial trees, and table or mantle displays. LEDs are enticing consumers to buy more, and go bigger and brighter, even as they use far less energy.

“A typical 50-lamp incandescent light set can operate up to 0.170 amps or 20.4 watts, meaning you could only connect three strings end-to-end. This was incredibly limiting,” said La Rocca. “Now, however, with 50-lamp LED light set that typically operates at about 0.020 amps or 2.4 watts, you can technically connect more than 50 strings together.”

La Rocca added that consumers should always check the caution markings on the strings and follow the provided instruction manual, which advises the user how many strings to connect together.

“LED light strings may be more expensive initially, but the energy savings on some light strings will more than offset the added costs in two or three seasons,” said Dennis Krize, senior vice president of Nicolas Holiday, Inc., a Taiwan-based firm manufacturing seasonal lighting products

for more than 50 years. “Incandescent bulbs were rated to perform for up to 2,000 hours while LEDs have been designed and tested to last 20,000 hours or more.”

Twinkling icicles, lighted shrubbery netting, pre-lit trees and wreaths, and LED projection systems are among a growing list of favorites. Unitized fabricating, substitution of plastic for glass, and solid-state control boxes have also improved durability. Some designs even feature programmable display patterns and color selections.

Many white lights used during the holiday season might reappear in green around St. Patrick’s Day or be moved to the patio for summer entertaining. Decorative lighting is not just for Christmas anymore!

If you are searching for products to stand the test of time, look for the UL Holographic label, which means the lights have undergone a series of testing related to mechanical, physical, and electrical criteria. Product testing replicates the types of stresses caused by wind, moisture, and rough handling.

Although UL 588 is a voluntary standard, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission requires that manufacturers of seasonal lighting products meet the specific sections described in UL 588, the Standard for Safety of Seasonal and Holiday Decorative Products.

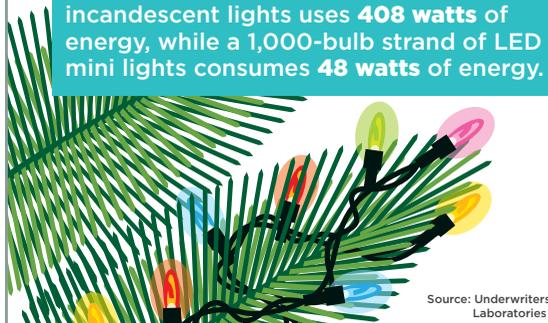
“I cannot say that an LED lighting string will last longer than an incandescent lighting string, but I can tell you that a lighting string provided with the ENERGY STAR® logo must come with a specified warranty backed by the manufacturer,” said La Rocca.

**DERRILL HOLLY** writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus electric cooperatives.

### Go brighter and greener with LED lights

LED lighting products account for 60 percent of the holiday and seasonal lighting sold in the U.S. each year.

A 1,000-bulb strand of miniature incandescent lights uses **408 watts** of energy, while a 1,000-bulb strand of LED mini lights consumes **48 watts** of energy.



Source: Underwriters Laboratories



## YOUTH PROGRAMS



### FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

You could win more than \$4,700 in our **Children of Members Scholarship** program!

- Visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) and click on the Community Tab
- Interviews will be conducted Saturday, February 24, 2018
- Deadline to apply: Friday, February 2, 2018

**Graduating Seniors: Have you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to academic excellence?**

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- Visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) and click on the Community Tab
- Deadline to apply: Friday, February 2, 2018

You could win \$500 in scholarships in the

**Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Achievement Scholarship Program!**



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit **www.energystar.gov/productfinder** for a full list of efficient products.

Source: *energystar.gov*



## 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*.



- #35-0540-18-01..... Herschel Watson
- #60-0082-12-04..... Renny R Glazer
- #28-0021-15-05..... James Lashbrook
- #25-0329-01-00..... Jason White
- #22-0313-32-00..... Thomas L Rayner
- #43-0779-18-01..... Susan L Harper



Please NOTE  
correction  
from Nov. issue

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The office will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26 for Christmas, as well as Dec. 30 through Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors and employees wish all members a Merry Christmas.

If an outage occurs, someone will be available to take your call and dispatch a trouble crew. Our drop box is always available as well.

### 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

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