



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR **GMEC**



Brian Hill  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

**W**hat's coming in the new year from Guernsey-Muskingum? We are hearing from our members that cooperatives should become involved in trying to solve the broadband issue in rural Ohio. I recently returned from a couple of days in Washington, D.C., where I met with our congressional delegation to discuss rural issues affecting cooperative members. With no exception, all asked if we could help solve the rural broadband issue. This problem has become more evident as the need grows for rural residents to conduct business and apply for jobs and for our youth to complete their school assignments. The need for faster, higher capacity broadband is here — so what can the cooperative network do to help solve the issue of no access or limited access to broadband in rural Ohio? I know many of our members have access already and may think it's not an issue, but others are being left behind. The situation many are facing can be compared to the time over 80 years ago when the investor-owned utilities would not bring electricity to the farms in the rural areas. It took folks coming together and forming cooperatives to advance electricity to these areas because

others said they couldn't make a profit. Maybe it will take the cooperatives of Ohio and this country to come together and work on solving this problem.

We at Guernsey-Muskingum plan on researching this topic to see if we might find better ways to serve the members in our communities. One of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our main focus is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want our community to thrive and have similar opportunities for our folks to compete in the world. I can't offer a guarantee about broadband service, but I believe we should be having conversations on what our role may be, if any. I look forward to hearing from any and all of you on this subject in the coming year.

Until next month, may your Christmas season be filled with joy. From the entire cooperative family, may your life be richly blessed this holiday season.





Ray Crock

## The phantom of the house

### Part I

**W**ould you believe me if I told you that there were phantoms lurking in your home? How about a vampire? No, I'm not referring to the monsters from horror movies or the masked beggars from Halloween. I'm talking

about phantom load and energy vampires. Vampire or phantom load, also known as standby power, is energy used by any device that consumes electricity when turned off but is still plugged into an outlet. We have come to depend on electronic devices to provide the modern-day conveniences we rely on, but they can waste energy and cost money. Approximately 10% of your electric bill comes from appliances that you have turned off. Worse yet, the U.S. Department of Energy states that, on average, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while they are turned off. Have I got your attention now?

I get a lot of questions when on energy audits about this topic. Questions like, "Is it true that everything uses electricity, even when off, unless I unplug it?" This is not true. When we shut off a lamp, it is not using power. The same is true for hot plates, slow cookers, toasters, hair dryers, and many other simple devices. Phantom load comes into play with appliances that have circuit boards, like internal computers, to make them "smarter" — like a

coffee maker that can be programmed the night before to come on at 5 a.m. versus one that you have to turn on in the morning. Those of us who were watching TV before 1980 can remember having to get up off the sofa to turn it on, adjust the sound, or change the channel — no phantom load in those. Today's televisions pull vampire load all the time as they sit in standby mode, waiting for a signal from the remote while storing stations, time, programs, and settings electronically.

In part one of this article, I want to cover what I feel is the biggest vampire in the house — entertainment systems. They have become by far the largest standby user in most homes. Thirty to forty years ago, most homes had one or two televisions without accessories attached to them. Today, I have been in homes with six or more televisions (the record was twelve). We have gone from 19- to 25-inch screens to screens as large as 60 to 80 inches and added multiple accessories to each television, all of which have phantom load. They include cable or satellite boxes, internet devices, DVD players, DVRs, video game consoles, stereos, and amplifiers. I measured one system that was using almost 300 watts with everything turned off!

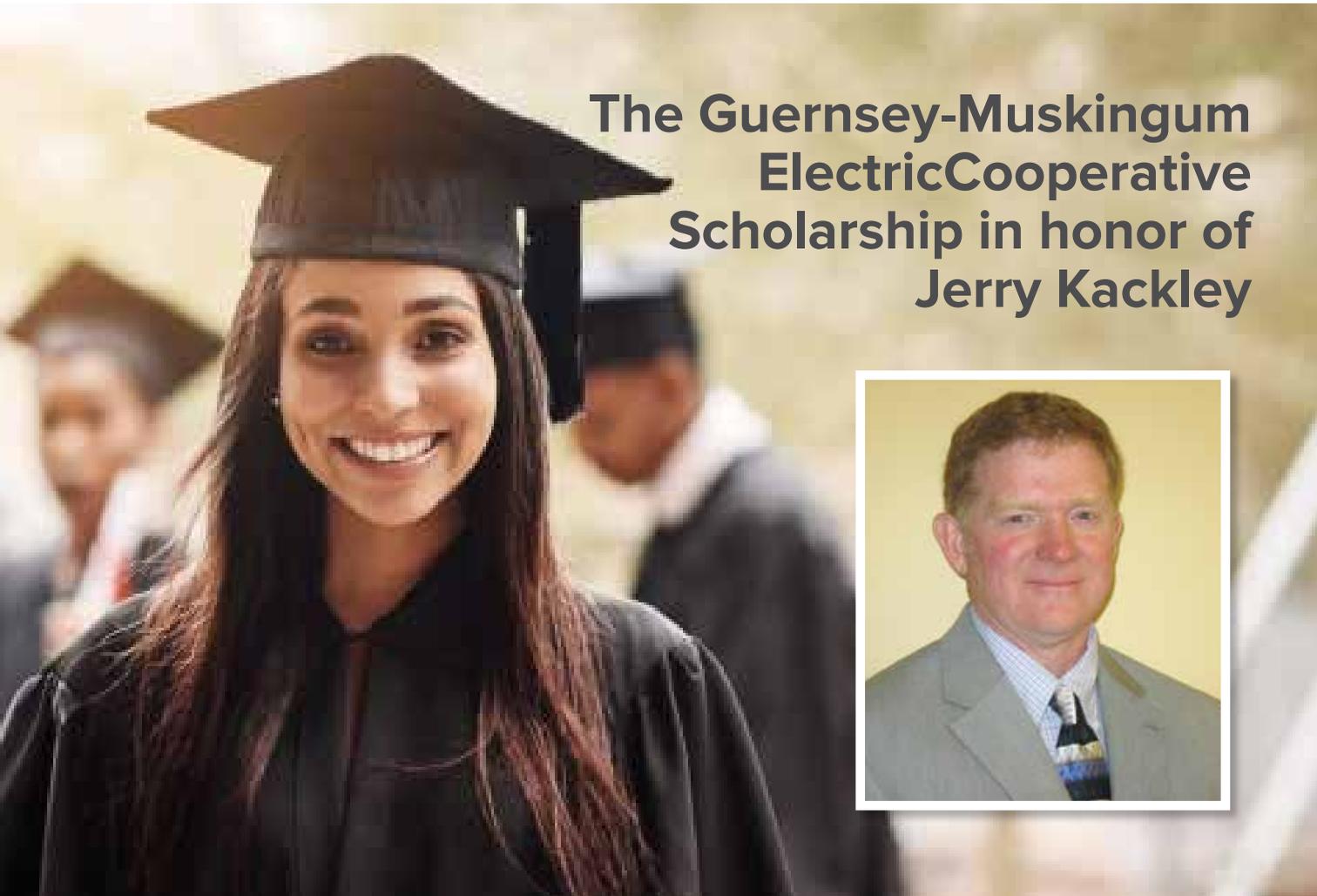
Here is a breakdown of what some of the components can draw in standby mode:

Television	45–50 watts
Cable or satellite box	25–35 watts
DVR	30–45 watts
DVD player	10–11 watts
Video game console	60–65 watts
Stereos	5–6 watts
Surge protector	5–6 watts

This really adds up when you have multiple televisions. The system I mentioned earlier at 300 watts would use 223 kWh, or about \$25.66 per month, just sitting there with no one using it.

Be sure to look in next month's issue for part II of "The phantom of the house." I will discuss some other phantom loads, how you can measure them, and some solutions.





## The Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Scholarship in honor of Jerry Kackley

In 1980, Jerry Kackley, a high school senior at Meadowbrook High School, won the Guernsey-Muskingum Scholarship. At the time, each high school in the GMEC territory could nominate one boy and one girl to compete for the scholarship. Who knew that 12 years later, Jerry would become employed by GMEC and would eventually become general manager/CEO? In 2018, Jerry was diagnosed with cancer and earlier this year, made the decision to retire to spend time with his family.

Shortly before Jerry passed away, he and his wife, Debbie, decided that they needed to give back to the GMEC members who supported him and his family through

the years. This led to the creation of the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Scholarship in Honor of Jerry Kackley. Jerry's family, with the help of the Muskingum County Community Foundation, has created a \$500 scholarship to honor Jerry.

To be eligible for the GMEC Scholarship in Honor of Jerry Kackley you must be a senior with a 3.0 GPA or higher whose parents/guardians are members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. A list of the complete rules and the application for this scholarship can be found at the Muskingum County Community Foundation's website, [www.mccf.org/scholarship-central/](http://www.mccf.org/scholarship-central/).

**Application Deadline: Friday, Feb. 7, 2020**



## Duane Parks 50 years of service

### CONGRATULATIONS



Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative Board.

In 1969, a young Duane Parks was appointed to the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy left by the death of board member Kenneth Moore.

During his 50 years of service, membership has doubled, revenue has increased from over \$1 million dollars to just over \$36 million dollars, and kilowatt-hours sold has increased from 51 million to almost 260 million.

Duane has worked with five general managers/CEOs, helping select four of them. He has served as chairman and vice chairman and sat on the

This milestone is a first for Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative; Duane is the first employee or director to serve the cooperative for 50 years. In honor of this achievement, the board room at GMEC will now be known as the Parks Board Room. Congratulations, Duane!



### Duane Parks new trustee

Duane Parks was named last month to the Board of Trustees of the Guernsey-Muskingum Rural Electric Co-op of New Concord. Mr. Parks fills the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Kenneth Moore, who served on the Board of Trustees since 1947.

Mr. Parks, in partnership with his father, farms 720 acres in Union Township. He is a member of Guernsey Noble Feeder Calf Association and Muskingum County 4-H Advisory. He is a graduate of New Concord High School and a member of the Methodist Church in New Concord.

Mr. Parks resides at R. 2, New Concord, with his wife, Naomi, and their four children Melanie Sue, Valerie Sue, Ronald Duane and Deborah Renee.

## GMEC contracts with PennLine

Cooperative members may see a red Dodge pickup towing a red four-wheeler in the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric service area. The driver, Devin Neal, is an employee of PennLine and is contracted by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. Devin can be found on and around the rights-of-way with a four-wheeler, testing poles to identify those in need of replacement. He is also treating poles with a preservative to prolong the life of those deemed to have some life left in them. There are still a few poles from the 1950s in existence on our lines. Your cooperative has about 48,000 poles, nearly 17,000 meters, and serves nine counties.

PennLine, based in western Pennsylvania, has been a good partner to the cooperative. PennLine started in 1940, focusing on power line construction. Today their services include tree trimming, right-of-way operations, roadside reclamation, line operations, and commercial electric operations. PennLine continues to thrive, with

approximately 2,000 employees and 1,000 road and off-road units. Their service area includes 22 states and they will travel anywhere for storm work. PennLine customers have come to rely on outstanding operations, backed with the skill that only years of experience can bring.



## 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

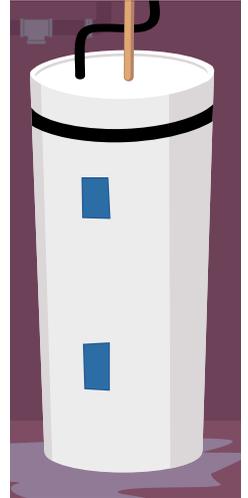
Did you buy a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or freezer? We may have a \$100 rebate for you. Call member services for details.

### 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.

### Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, may be able to install your water heater for an additional charge. 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](http://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](http://www.gmenergy.com) and click on the link to explore the possible discounts available to you.



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**CURRENTLY SPEAKING**

# 2020 GRADS: are your parents Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members?

If so, you could win more than  
**\$3,800** in scholarships from



TO OBTAIN RULES AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
**CHILDREN OF MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP:**

- Visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) and click on the Community tab
- Stop by the co-op office

Interviews are on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020

Deadline to apply: Feb. 7, 2020

# GRADUATING SENIORS:

Have you overcome unique and significant personal challenges on your way to academic excellence?

You could win **\$750** in the  
**Touchstone Energy  
Achievement Scholarship  
Program!**

For rules and applications,  
visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com).

Deadline to apply: Feb. 7, 2020  
Interviews are Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020





## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Laundry Tip:

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative wishes our members a happy and healthy holiday season.

We will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 and 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.

## 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.

#80-0007-29-01.....Harlen U Smith

#42-0192-27-01.....Leisa K Bond

#44-0233-04-01.....Jon D Arnold

#14-0040-14-08.....James W Drake

#18-0998-07-00.....Jordy S Anderson

#85-0054-10-06.....Nick D Grasso



### 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.

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, 2019, and Feb. 28, 2020)

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

Jay Gray  
Chairman

Shirley Stutz  
Vice Chairman

Ed Bay  
Secy.-Treasurer

John Enos  
Duane Parks  
Matt Carpenter  
Maureen Riley  
Directors

Brian Hill  
General Manager/CEO

Joseph P. Boeckman  
Counsel

