



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Jerry Kackley
General Manager/CEO

As I write this month's article, we are in the midst of budgeting for your cooperative for 2018. While not a four-letter word, "budget" is certainly not a combination of letters that make many of us smile. And why is that? In my humble opinion, the biggest hang-up we have with budgets is that budgeting requires us to make choices. I am no different than any of you; I would like to have it all — no sacrifices required. Wouldn't that be wonderful? But I am also a very practical man, and I realize that reality and finances do not allow most of us the luxury of unrestrained spending. Hence, we need to budget.

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's budget is not an easy document to develop. We have numerous departments responsible for various tasks and programs. The supervisors and employees within each department must accomplish their responsibilities, so funds need budgeted to each of these departments to cover the costs. Funds are not infinite, so choices must be made, and sacrifices are required. Why? Because our funds come from you, the members, through the payment of your electric bills. And one of our goals is to keep your rates as reasonable as possible while still maintaining a safe and reliable electric system. You might not believe this, but the typical

member pays slightly less today for electricity than he or she did in 2012!

But where does the money go? In 2016, 59 percent of your bill was simply used to pay for the cost of power purchased from YOUR power provider, Buckeye Power. Clearing right-of-way consumed another 9 percent of your bill. Taxes took their fair share at 7 percent, while depreciation of the poles and wires was close behind at 6 percent. Interest expense on the money we borrow was around 4 percent of your bill, while margins, which ultimately get returned to you, were about 5 percent. The remaining 10 percent of your bill went toward the payroll and benefits for our employees and other miscellaneous expenses.

Budget is not a bad word; it is a necessary endeavor that helps us plan for the future. As you prepare for 2018, take some time to sit down and analyze your household income and expenses. It is an excellent planning tool, even if it is a bit painful. My prayer is that each of you will enjoy a prosperous 2018. May God protect you, guide you, and bring you good health...and a balanced budget! Happy New Year!

*Have a wonderful day!
God Bless!
Jerry*



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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Electricity or trees...which will it be?



Electric service or trees? It's a delicate balance. We all want beauty, privacy, and shade — but we also want heat, light, and entertainment in our homes.

GMEC trims trees to meet the 40-foot easement. When trees grow and contact power lines, outages occur, often in the middle of a cold night. Your cooperative has 2,805 miles of lines to keep clear — the same distance as driving from Los Angeles to New York. That is a lot of trees!

Contractors have begun contacting members in the Chandlersville area about trees in or near the right-of-way. When we contact you, please help us help you by working together to cut or trim trees so power can flow to your home.

In 2018, Ash trees will continue to be a major issue. Starting near Cumberland then moving north to the New Concord and Pike areas, we will work to “lower” trees outside the 40-foot right-of-way. Ash trees that pose a risk of falling on the main “three-phase” lines are the first priority. These main lines deliver power to hundreds of homes and to shorter “single-phase” lines. Single-phase

lines deliver electricity to dozens or perhaps a single home.

GMEC does not own trees; our members do. We want to assist in getting trees safely on the ground to minimize damage to homeowners' property and electric lines. Tree contractors have been instructed to safely put ash trees on the ground while refraining to do clean-up work. They will cut them down at no charge but not chip the branches or haul the wood away. We want crews cutting as many dead Ash trees as possible, before the thousands of dead trees cause homes to go dark.

If you're planting new trees, we kindly ask that you look ahead and picture where these trees will be in 10 years. Will they grow within the 40-foot easement and cause outages? If the answer is yes, please don't plant there. Plant trees and shrubs that will not grow tall should be planted at least twenty feet from the lines. Contact a local nursery or search online for tree species that will give you the desired effect.

For questions, call Projects Superintendent Dave Costic at 1-800-521-9879.

2018 GRADS



FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

You could win up to \$4,700 in our **Children of Members Scholarship!**

- Visit www.gmenergy.com > Community
- Interviews will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018
- Deadline to apply: Friday, Feb. 2, 2018



IN THE COMMUNITY

Second annual Family Fun Day

About 230 guests and members attended Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Co-op's second annual Family Fun Day on Oct. 7, 2017, at Deerasic Park. During the afternoon, members and their families were treated to several activities available at Deerasic Park, including canoeing, fishing, archery, shooting, and deer viewing. Those in attendance also played games and were able to watch the high-voltage safety demo presented by GMEC's linemen.

Along with the outdoor activities, members were also able to come inside and enjoy hot dogs, chips, and ice cream served by our employees and directors. The door prize winner was Joel Kurtz of New Concord. The boys' bike winner was Trevaughn Alexander and the girls' winner was Cadance McCann.

A great day was had by all. We hope to see you next year for another round of family-friendly fun!



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

FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

- Visit www.gmenergy.com and click on the Community Tab
- Deadline to apply: Friday, Feb. 2, 2018

You could win a \$500 scholarship in the

Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship Program!



GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

*Interested in a life-changing
leadership experience
in Washington, D.C.?*

June 8-14, 2018



The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their Congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year. **Will you be one of them?**

The application deadline is **March 2, 2018**. All applicants will be interviewed on **March 14, 2018**.

For more information and to apply, visit www.gmenergy.com or call Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative at **1-800-521-9879**.

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*.

#24-0652-14-00Chris Brauning

#51-0284-42-01Kevin Olden

#37-0741-45-00Justin Fellows

#46-0496-08-00Bryan F Metzler

#57-0007-11-02Jack A Hilson

#15-0075-40-02Robert Worstall



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, 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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