



## GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

### MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

**A**t Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, we are striving to find better ways to communicate to you when there are issues on the electrical lines or when there may be planned outages for upgrades to our system. Many times, we cannot give an exact or even a good estimate of the time it takes to restore power. That being said, we are working on ideas on what could we do to better inform our members when things happen that take the power down. The more contact information you share with us, the easier it is for us to be able to communicate with you when we have information to share. Any cellphone numbers and email addresses will be helpful as we test different ways of communication. When there's an issue, we want to get messages to you about the nature of the problem and how long it might take to get power restored.

One of the main problems that cause us the need to contact you is TREES. Keeping our rights-of-way clear of growing trees that get into the electric lines are a big expense, but necessary to keep the lights on. Without this continued effort to trim and clear trees from the electric system, our service to you, the member, will

suffer. This year we have contractors working in the Antrim, Bethel, Dresden, Eastpoint, and Mt. Sterling substation areas. We plan to work on about 550 miles of our 2,800 miles of line. Our goal is to have, at minimum, a five-year rotation to get around the entire system. Look for our employees or contractors to be in touch with you

prior to us cutting on your property. This is another reason why we need the best contact information for you, so that we can reach you if necessary. If you have any questions as to who is working for Guernsey-Muskingum in this regard don't hesitate to call the office to confirm. Thanks for your support of our crews working to maintain and restore power to your homes and businesses.



Brian Hill  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO





Ray Crock

## Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle this year

**A** New Year brings new opportunities to save energy — and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

### Trim dryer vent

**Level of difficulty:** easy. **Supplies needed:** tin snips, gloves, measuring tape, and masking tape. **Estimated cost:** about \$25, depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple of feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line — it should not have a lot of slack. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster, and reduces lint buildup, thereby reducing a potential fire hazard.

Simply measure, mark, and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent.

### Seal air leaks

**Level of difficulty:** moderate. **Supplies needed:** caulk and caulk gun, weatherstripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. **Estimated cost:** \$25 to \$50.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring, and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weatherstrip exterior doors to keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weatherstripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>.

### Insulate attic stairs opening

**Level of difficulty:** moderate. **Supplies needed:** rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam

board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. **Estimated cost:** \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs or the opening to your attic space.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a home improvement store for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. Visit our website, [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com), for additional ways to save.



PHOTO BY ALYSON HURT



## 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 on our website at [gmenergy.com/content/scholarships](http://gmenergy.com/content/scholarships).

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





## GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

### Cardinal Plant tour



On Oct. 2, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members visited their power plant.

Cooperative members and guests traveled to the Cardinal Power Plant, located along the Ohio River in Brilliant, Ohio. The cooperative provided a chartered bus and lunch at Mehlman's Cafeteria.

Following an introductory presentation, attendees participated in an hour-long guided tour of the plant to see how and where their electric power is generated.

Owned by Ohio's 24 distribution cooperatives, Buckeye Power's Cardinal Plant generates over 1.8 million kilowatts of electricity. The plant provides power to nearly 400,000 homes and businesses in 77 of the state's 88 counties. As electric cooperative members, GMEC's consumer-members have an ownership stake in Cardinal Plant. If you would like to be a part of the tour this year, please call the cooperative office at 800-521-9879.



## 2020 GRADS

### FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

You could win more than  
\$3,800 in our  
**Children of Members  
Scholarship** program!

### 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

# New River helps supply our demand

Supply and demand is a phrase we hear often. The demand for goods or services must be met by the available supply. Each side of this equation affects productivity, costs, quality, efficiency, and much more.

Your cooperative has changing demands. How many old poles need to be replaced? How many new homes are being built? Does a substation need upgraded to reduce outages? Is business booming or stagnant? What about next year?

Presently, the supply coming out of New Concord to meet our demands are fourteen linemen, five bucket trucks, and three digger-derricks. When business is booming, we sometimes call on others to ensure we're able to meet the needs of our system. New River Electrical Corporation is a contractor you may see working on GMEC power lines. Since 2015, New River has had at least one crew working for Guernsey-Muskingum. When demand increases, we can call upon additional crews, and when a major storm hits, we call for even more crews. New River has been a good partner to GMEC, helping us to meet the needs of our members.

New River Electrical Corporation provides best-in-class service and solutions for electric utilities and high-voltage industrial customers across the United States. They are a 100% employee-owned corporation that specializes in substation construction and maintenance, overhead transmission and distribution, industrial electrical services, underground distribution, underground high voltage transmission, and storm restoration.

Their regional headquarters is located in Westerville, Ohio. New River provides work for their employees as close to their home communities as possible. This includes more than 150 employees living within the Guernsey-Muskingum Cooperative footprint. Their success is due to a local employee workforce that takes pride in their community and the company they work for.

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative recognizes New River Electrical Corporation as a good neighbor and partner in keeping the lights on in southeast Ohio.







## GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

# HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

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

### What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric  
Cooperatives Youth Tour  
is an annual leadership  
program sponsored by  
GMEC. 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  
1,800 delegates this year. **Will you be one of them?**

**For more information and to apply, visit  
[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) or call 800-521-9879.**

**Application deadline: Friday, March 6, 2020**

**Interviews: Wednesday, March 18**



## June 19–25, 2020

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

### FOR RULES AND APPLICATIONS:

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

**Deadline to apply: Feb. 7, 2020**

**Interviews are Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020**

You could win \$750 in  
scholarships in the

**Touchstone Energy  
Achievement Scholarship  
Program!**



From left, Bill Johnson and Jordan Price.

*Jordan Price was a Guernsey-Muskingum delegate to Youth Tour in 2018. He reflects on his experience below:*

“The Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour is a wonderful educational and social experience that I was extremely blessed to be part of in 2018. Going on Youth Tour opened my eyes to the much larger world outside of small-town New Concord, Ohio. Not only was it extremely fun and interesting to visit some of the most influential places and people in the United States, it was also a very special opportunity to see firsthand that every voice matters in our governmental system and that everyday people from rural Appalachia can make a difference in our country, our states, and our communities. We learned about the co-op business model and the importance of individual roles in maintaining a beneficial environment and fostering beneficial relationships in our communities. The highlight of my experience was meeting with Congressman Bill Johnson, who represents my home district in the House of Representatives. He was a very kind man who took time out of his schedule to greet each one of us individually and speak about the importance of our involvement in our different communities and pursuing our individual potentials. I even got to shake his hand and take a picture with him!

“The tour organizer for Ohio, Adam Specht, was also an extremely kind and caring individual who goes to great lengths to ensure that every student remain safe and has his or her needs met before, during, and after the tour experience. He arranged for us to visit many

of Washington’s most famous sites, such as the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, the Library of Congress, the Capitol Building, multiple different Smithsonian Museums, Gettysburg, and many more. In addition to visiting amazing places, I also got the opportunity to meet people from almost every state who were also part of this national event. I met so many amazing people and made many connections because of the unique environment and setup of the event. I have never met so many genuine people so intent on learning about the places and lifestyles of others spread all across the nation. We stayed in very nice hotels, always had multiple choices for and ample access to meals, as well as amazing chaperones ready to help us in any way necessary. Every need I had was covered on the tour; I don’t think I had to bring anything but my personal items. I was amazed by how well everything was provided for our experiences.

“Youth Tour was one of the most amazing experiences of my life thus far and I highly encourage any student that is eligible to apply for the experience. You’ll notice that I call it an “experience” and not simply a “vacation” or “trip.” That’s because it is unlike any event that I have ever attended or heard of. The Washington Youth Tour inspired me to live an active life in my community wherever I live and showed me that any voice can make a difference, no matter how small. I hope that my story will inspire you to consider applying for the student representative of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Co-Op for the Washington Youth Tour 2020!”



## GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night for up to a 10% reduction in heat loss.

Source: *energy.gov*



## GMEC Holiday Workshop

GMEC hosted 69 consumer-members at the Holiday Workshop on Nov. 13, 2019. Attendees learned about skin care and make-up techniques from Christine Browning, made an ornament with Becky McIntyre and Jessie Burga, then completed their evening with a Christmas-card-making class with Karen Bay. We thank you for joining us for another successful event!



### 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.

##31-0295-04-01 ... Rick Neff  
#47-0593-23-02 .... Ted W Burson  
#53-0514-44-00 ..... Clayton E Rudd Jr  
#60-0094-21-04..... Wayland West

#95-0016-03-03.....Janie R Beal  
#45-0541-20-00.....Bonnie J Caldwell



#### 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

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