



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# CELEBRATIONS



Jerry Kackley  
General Manager/CEO

As February begins, we are just recovering from an abundance of celebrations. At Thanksgiving just a few short months ago, we gave thanks for the bounty of harvest and the blessings of friendship. Only about a month later, we shared gifts with family and gathered together to enjoy the love and hope that Christmas brings into our lives. Our bellies had barely settled from these wondrous cornucopias before it was time for us to say goodbye to 2017 and hello to 2018. What better way to welcome a new year than with another celebration! And to top it all off, many of us may even be preparing to rejoice at the waking of a groundhog.

There are many other events throughout the year that present us with even more opportunities to party. Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, baptisms, graduations, and retirements — just to name a few. While I may poke a bit of fun at our willingness to embrace almost any occasion, I must admit that it is a wonderful attribute of humanity. Life should be celebrated every day.

It isn't necessary to buy a cake, bake a turkey, or decorate the house or a tree. We only need to express our sincerest thanks to those who enrich our lives. A hug, a kiss, a handshake, a smile, or a prayer should convey that message just fine.

*Life is a splendid celebration  
when we live it well and  
appreciate our blessings. Enjoy!*

*Jerry*



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY



# HOW TO INSULATE AN ATTIC ACCESS COVER



(Top to bottom)  
This close-up view of the cardboard box shows how well it seals against the the attic floor to block air leakage.

Source: Battic Door

When the attic entrance cover is zipped closed, it seals very well. Notice the extra thick insulation in the attic with just standard insulation immediately around the entrance.

Source: Attic Tent

The zippered cover provides easy access to the attic. Notice how well it is attached the attic floor.

Source: Attic Tent

This lightweight foam (similar to a cooler) attic entrance cover insulates and reduces air leakage.

Source: Atticap

In a well-insulated house, even a few square feet of uninsulated floor — like the attic access cover — can lose a considerable amount of heat. Builders don't always insulate and seal the attic access opening cover, but it certainly should be added for energy savings. Most often, just a scrap piece of plywood or drywall is cut somewhat close to the correct size and placed in the opening, resting on a strip of molding. That type of cover's insulation value is less than R-1, and it leaks air like a sieve.

Because the attic access is often in the ceiling of a bedroom closet or a hallway, the air leakage and heat loss/gain are seldom noticeable. During summer, attic temperatures can get extremely high with humid air, so you don't want it in your living space. During winter, the heated air in the house, because it is less dense, tends to leak up and out.

The simplest fix is to attach insulation to the top of the cover and weatherstripping underneath where it rests on the lip of the opening. Measure the cover to make sure it fits the opening, with the cover overlapping the molding lip so the weatherstripping seals well. If you have to make a new one, a piece of 1/2-inch drywall works well and is fire resistant. The insulation on the top of the cover should be up to the recommended code ceiling R-value for your area — find out what that is at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). (Adding more insulation above this level will not help.)

Before you add weatherstripping to the molding lip, place the cover over it and check whether it's even. The lip often consists of pieces nailed to the sides of the opening that aren't level. You may have to pry a side or two loose and reattach it. If it's very uneven, it will be difficult to get a good seal under the cover.

The next step is to attach adhesive-backed foam weatherstripping to the top edge of the lip around the opening. Use a thick foam to accommodate any out-of-level edges.

If you plan to go up into your attic often and want to install pull-down stairs or a ladder, or your attic currently has one, buy a special insulated cover for the attic access opening. You could attempt to make one yourself, but its weight may be hazardous to open and manage when you are on the stairs. One of the least expensive options is basically a three-sided heavy-duty cardboard box. It's easy to open and assemble.

An efficient option is a lightweight, large rigid-foam domed device that covers the folded stairs or ladder from above. Another design uses a flexible, zippered insulated cover permanently attached to the attic floor for a good airtight seal.

TogetherWeSave.com, an energy efficiency website from the nation's electric cooperatives, has two videos on this subject as part of its Watch & Learn series; visit [energysavings.togetherwesave.com/watch-and-learn](http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com/watch-and-learn) and click on the Sealing & Insulation tab for more information.



## IN THE COMMUNITY

# WHAT IS OPERATION HELPING OTHERS?

There are over 5,000 GMEC members signed up to participate in Operation Helping Others (OHO). If you are one of those members, THANK YOU. If you are not familiar with OHO, here is how it works.

OHO is a voluntary program that rounds up your electric bill to the nearest dollar and uses the change as a donation to fund this project. OHO is not a program to pay Guernsey-Muskingum electric bills. Funding comes entirely from members who voluntarily participate. The small change donated by members makes a big difference in our communities. This is how it works:



Willie Wirehand's Electric Bill.....	\$73.44
Willie rounds up his bill & pays....	\$74.00
Left over.....	\$0.56

The 56¢ from Willie Wirehand would be used in our local communities as decided by the OHO committee. Every penny raised by your donations to OHO goes toward assisting local needs. The OHO committee consists of one appointed volunteer from each district.

In 2017, your OHO committee granted \$34,686.67 to be distributed to needy causes in our community.

OHO grant amount	OHO meeting date	Location of recipient	Need of recipient
\$3,300	2/27/17	Highland Township, Muskingum County	Donation
\$5,000	2/27/17	Cambridge, Ohio	Donation
\$1,000	2/27/17	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Donation
\$1,177	2/27/17	Cambridge Township, Guernsey County	Replace Well
\$796	2/27/17	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Living Expenses
\$300	2/27/17	Muskingum County, Ohio	Donation
\$5,000	5/22/17	Wills Township, Guernsey County	Donation, uniforms
\$2,435.70	5/22/17	Adams Township, Guernsey County	Living Expenses
\$2,500	8/28/17	Monroe Township, Muskingum County	Medical Expenses
\$2,500	8/28/17	Hopewell Township, Muskingum County	Medical Expenses
\$229.11	8/28/17	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Medical/Living Expenses
\$1,699.46	8/28/17	Adams Township, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses
\$749.40	8/28/17	Spencer Township, Guernsey County	Property Taxes
\$1,000	8/28/17	Texas	Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Tuscarawas County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Guernsey County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Guernsey/Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Noble County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Zanesville, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$500	12/4/17	Muskingum County, Ohio	Christmas Donation
\$2,500	12/4/17	Madison Township, Guernsey County	Medical Expenses



# 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](http://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*.

#47-0082-09-06 .....Margaret Kale

#68-0002-19-03 .....Denise R Reed

#72-0067-16-28 .....Mary Riehl

#21-0225-01-01 .....Richard A Wisecarver

#28-0213-07-00

.....J F Miller

#35-0917-02-01

.....Kim Brasseaux



### 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, 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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Counsel

