



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# LITTLE GREEN MONSTERS

*In 2015, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative began a difficult and expensive battle with a very small but powerful foe.*

That enemy is not human, and while they are green, they are not aliens from another planet, either. Rather, I am referring to a tiny insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer. This bug moved into northern Ohio in 2003 and has gradually made its way south, destroying a huge number of Ohio's nearly four billion ash trees. Consequently, many of these dead or dying trees pose a danger to electric poles and wire.

We developed a plan in 2015 to try to minimize the impact the infestation might have on our members. Our biggest concerns were reliability and cost. We understood the need to be proactive in removing "danger" trees that could fall, taking wire and poles with them. But we also realized that the cost of repairing and replacing lines and poles damaged by falling trees would be much greater and could cause a tremendous hardship for our members, especially on a cold winter night. So, we decided to "take the fight to them." Our members have been great, and many of you have allowed us to go beyond our typical 40-foot right-of-way to take down "danger" trees. Thank you!

The cost of dealing with these invaders has been significant, not just to the co-op, but also to property owners across our service territory. In 2015, we started our pre-emptive battle late in the year and spent around \$200,000. In 2016, we cut dead and dying trees all year and spent nearly \$700,000. Now we have budgeted \$653,000 in 2017 to continue the

fight. Thousands of ash trees have been removed so far, and there are thousands still to cut.

The cold winter of 2015 and hot summer of 2016 provided revenues that helped us to finance the ash tree removal without any increase in rates. However, we knew this could not last forever, and we now need a slight rate increase to cover a portion of the cost. Effective on the February 10 billing, we implemented a 2 mil increase per kWh, which is equivalent to \$2 per month for the average member using 1,000 kWh. This would generate about 75 percent of the revenue needed to cover the 2017 costs. If there is any good news, it's that our members are still paying less for their electricity today than they did five years ago.

Rate increases are never fun, but we must always be willing to do what is prudent, even when we know it will not be popular. If we experience strong winter or summer sales, which would help finance the ash tree removal costs, we could discontinue the rate increase at any time. We appreciate your understanding and your continued support as we fight the "little green monsters."



Jerry Kackley  
General Manager/CEO

*Have a wonderful day!  
God Bless! Jerry*

## Visit GMEC at the home show — Swing Into Spring

The Swing Into Spring Home Show is Friday, March 10, through Sunday, March 12, at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge. Make sure to stop by the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative booth to pick up some ideas on improving your home's energy efficiency. We hope to see you there.



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



## We want to HEAR FROM YOU!

Your opinions about Guernsey-Muskingum Electric help us to serve you better.

In March, April, and May, Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete a member satisfaction survey. The surveys will be both by phone and e-mail, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative. *All information is confidential.*

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, and reliable electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

## Is your name and account number listed here?

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇ If it is, call your co-op'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* magazine.

#53-0354-44-05  
#52-0043-09-01  
#21-0403-01-00  
#24-0277-45-06  
#33-0337-14-00  
#16-0023-14-01

Clayton H Coffey  
Regina A Salyers  
Rick J Cooper  
Charles S Moore  
Emilee Potts  
Ina Mae Komaromy







## ANNUAL MEETING

# 80th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord

- Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.
- Business meeting called to order at noon.
- Food, entertainment, and displays — Something for everyone!
- Old-time stringband The Wayfarers (pictured right) will be this year's stage entertainment.
- PT Reptiles (pictured bottom left) will entertain children during the business meeting.

*Be sure to check for details in the April issue of Ohio Cooperative Living. Your Official Notice will be included with your March bill.*





# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



## NOTES AND REBATES

### Geothermal heating/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 your electric water heater of at least 40-gallon capacity. Over 280 members use geothermal.

### Dual Fuel — \$300 rebate

If you install a new add-on electric heat pump with a fossil-fuel back up and have an electric water heater (40-gallon minimum), you're eligible for a \$300 rebate. Radio-controlled switches must be installed on both the heat pump and water heater. Over 880 members use dual fuel.

### Cool Returns — \$100 rebate

Are you having central air conditioning installed or a new electric heat pump with electric-resistance heat back up? Allow your cooperative to install a radio-controlled switch, and receive a \$100 rebate check. Over 150 members participate in 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 for details.

### Water heater with a hole

The four-inch hole in the side of our tank is great for cleaning out sediment. This rebated tank is available for free delivery. If bought elsewhere, we offer \$50 to \$100 rebates.

### Water heater installation available

If you purchase your water heater from GMEC, our member services technician, Tim Fisher, will install your water heater for an additional charge.

### Radio-controlled switch

If you don't already have a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for your electric water heater (40-gallon minimum), please call and Tim Fisher will install one for FREE. Over 5,300 GMEC members have a RCS on their water heaters. This entitles you to a discount and free maintenance (except cleaning), including parts and labor on your electric water heater. Some exclusions apply; call for details.

### GenerLink™

We want you to use your portable generator safely. Call GMEC and ask them about GenerLink, which eliminates the use of extension cords and other connections that can be dangerous to members and linemen.

### Meter Reading

You can enter your meter readings online at our website, [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com). As always, 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. Receive discounts nationwide on lodging, entertainment, dining, and more. Visit [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com) to learn more.

## 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 — \$18/mo.  
First 500 kWh/month — 12.969¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month — 10.845¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service  
rate schedule S-1\*

Service Availability Charge — \$216/yr.  
First 800 kWh/yr. — 20.769¢/kWh  
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — \$11.645¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 10.645¢/kWh  
(Minimum annual charge — \$216/yr. for  
service between March 1, 2017, and Feb.  
28, 2018)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1\*  
Service Availability Charge — \$18/mo.  
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 12.969¢/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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