



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# THANK A LINEWORKER

## on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable, as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably

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Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Guernsey-Muskingum, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

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at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Guernsey-Muskingum, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Guernsey-Muskingum, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



**Brian Hill**  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



Lineworker Appreciation Day • April 12, 2021

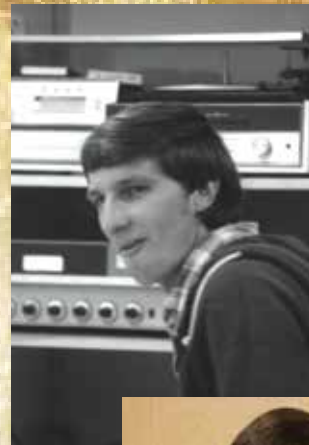


# Barry Wisniewski retires



Barry Wisniewski retired from the cooperative in February 2021 after 43 years of service. Barry began his employment in January 1978 as a meter reader, served as a lineman from October 1978 to 1990, then became a crew leader in June 1990. In 1997, Barry became a serviceman and retired from that position. Thank you, Barry, for your years of dedicated service to the cooperative.

Barry is pictured on our cover this month!



H A P P Y  
*Retirement*

# Welcome Ross Hursey



Ross Hursey began employment with Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative in February 2021 as an assistant field engineer. Ross is a graduate of John Glenn High School and Marietta College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering. He brings work experience from Montage Resources (formerly Eclipse Resources) and BP America Production Company. Ross and his wife, Kelsey, live east of Zanesville with their children, 7-year-old daughter, Jolene, and 3-year-old son, Rhett.

We welcome Ross to the cooperative family!

*Welcome*  
T O T H E T E A M

# 3 options for home cooling

## ASK YOUR ENERGY ADVISOR



Ray Crock

It's the right time of year to think about how to stay cool this summer. There are a few low- and no-cost cooling strategies, like using ceiling fans to keep air moving, turning off unused electrical devices and appliances, and blocking direct sunlight with window coverings. If the temperature drops at night, you can let cool air in late at night or early in the morning, then seal up your home to keep that air from leaking out.

If that's not enough, you can install air conditioning. Below are three common options for home cooling, with approximate cost estimates for each. But please be aware that costs are highly variable.

### Window units/portable cooling

Window A/C units or portable A/C units are the lowest-cost approach. Portable units can be moved from room to room and come equipped with a length of duct to exhaust hot air out a nearby window. Window units are mounted in a window opening and cool one room. The efficiency of portable and window units has improved over the years, but none of them are as efficient as most central A/C units or a mini-split heat pump.

- Cost: \$149 to \$1,000 per new unit (depending on how many square feet you're trying to cool)

Window A/C units are best used to cool a small, enclosed space rather than your whole home, much the way you might use a space heater to heat one area of your home during the winter.

### Ductless mini-split heat pumps

A ductless mini-split heat pump has a compressor outside the home that's connected to air handler units in as many as four rooms. Each room's temperature can be controlled separately. Ductless mini-splits are an especially good choice for homes without forced air ducting systems or with leaky or undersized ductwork. Heat pumps can also be a supplemental source of heat in the winter.

- Cost: approximately \$3,000 to \$10,000 (including installation)

### Central cooling

If your home has forced air heating ductwork, it can be used for an A/C or heat pump unit. This is a good option if the ductwork is sized properly and doesn't leak, and if ducts are in unheated attics or crawlspaces that are insulated.

- Cost: Approximately \$3,000 to \$7,000 (not including repairs to ductwork)

As always, you can save energy and money by purchasing ENERGY STAR-rated appliances and collecting a few quotes from licensed contractors.

Whichever option you choose, keep in mind that a cooler, more comfortable home in the summer will come with increased energy costs. You can expect a 30% to 40% increase in electric use during the summer months, depending on which type of cooling system you choose.



PHOTO BY PAUL SULLIVAN

A window A/C can be an effective way to cool a single room.



PHOTO BY GARY CZIKO

The condenser unit for a mini-split heat pump system is usually mounted on an exterior wall.



Central A/C systems typically have a compressor unit located outside the home.



# GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CURRENTLY SPEAKING



Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative members may see some new faces out in the field in 2021. GeoForce Utility Technologies will be performing pole inspections and treatment on some of the approximately 48,000 poles on your cooperative's system. This pole inspection and treatment program is essential to maintaining a strong and reliable distribution electric system by helping to prolong the life of our existing poles as well as identifying ones that need replaced. You should expect to see these contractors in and around the Chandlersville substation area this spring and in or around the Bethel Church substation area later this summer and fall, going from pole to pole to perform inspections and treatments.

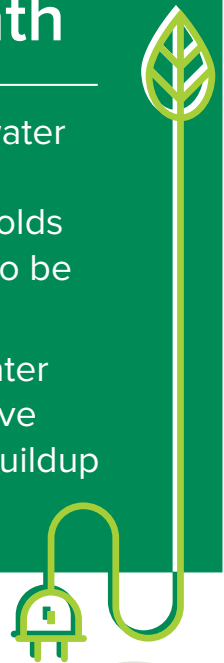
GeoForce Utility Technologies is based in Iron Station, North Carolina, and perform utility inspections across the nation.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees.

Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

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



### 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.

#16-0554-20-00..... R Richard Lordier  
#30-0235-08-00..... Aaron Taylor  
#40-0267-09-06.... Charlotte Drake  
#45-0296-23-04.... Keith M Waggoner

#43-0744-18-00..... David C Lyons  
#21-0381-03-01..... Jennifer Miller



### 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 — \$24/mo.  
First 500 kWh/month — 12.669¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month — 11.345¢/kWh

Net Metering Residential R-1 NM\*  
Service Availability Charge — \$42/mo.  
First 2,000 kWh/mo. — 11.145¢/kWh  
Over 2,000 kWh/mo. — 11.345¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service rate schedule S-1\*  
Service Availability Charge — \$384/yr.  
First 800 kWh/yr. — 20.269¢/kWh  
800 to 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.145¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/yr. — 11.345¢/kWh  
(Minimum annual charge — \$384/yr. for service between March 1, 2021, and Feb. 28, 2022)

Commercial Service rate schedule C-1\*  
Service Availability Charge — \$26/mo.  
First 1,500 kWh/mo. — 13.069¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/mo. — 11.345¢/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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