

# Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
17 S. Liberty St.  
New Concord, Ohio 43762  
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879  
[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)

## Board of Directors

Ed Bay .....Chairman  
Jim Rex .....Vice Chairman  
Jay Gray .....Secy.-Treasurer  
John Enos .....Director  
Brian Hill .....Director  
Duane Parks .....Director  
Shirley Stutz .....Director  
Daniel J. Gunsett .....Counsel  
Garry Mbiad ....General Manager/CEO

## Electric Rates

### Farm and Home Service rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge \$16/month  
First 500 kWh/month @ 12.269¢/kWh  
Over 500 kWh/month @ 10.145¢/kWh

### Seasonal Residential Service annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge \$192/year  
First 800 kWh/year @ 20.269¢/kWh  
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year @ 11.145¢/kWh  
Over 6,000 kWh/year @ 10.145¢/kWh  
(Your minimum annual charge will be \$192 per year for service between March 1, 2011, and Feb. 29, 2012.)

### Commercial Service rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge \$16/month  
First 1,500 kWh/month @ 12.269¢/kWh  
Over 1,500 kWh/month @ 10.145¢/kWh

### Rider T —

Kilowatt-hour Tax applies to all rate schedules.  
First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh  
Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh  
Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## 75th ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 14

**Larry W. Miller Intermediate School, New Concord**  
**REGISTRATION AT 9:30 A.M.**  
**BUSINESS MEETING AT NOON**

Mark your calendars now for your cooperative's annual meeting. Join your fellow members/owners in electing members to your board, hearing updates from your cooperative leaders and learning about various programs offered.

As always, food, entertainment and demonstrations will be held throughout the day. There is something for everyone!

Be sure to look for your official invitation and more information in your April issue of *Country Living*.

### Election of Directors

The provisions for electing members to the Board of Directors are included in the Guernsey-Muskingum's Code of Regulations. If you wish, please call your cooperative for a copy or go to [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com). In summary:

**ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** One or more member-consumers are eligible for nomination to each available position on the Board. Nominees must reside in the cooperative district they are nominated to represent. All nominations are made from the floor at the annual meeting.

**VOTING:** Each member shall be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at the meeting. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting. The spouse of a member not present may vote on behalf of such a member at the meeting.

One director from each of the following districts will be elected for a three-year term:

**District 1** — includes Muskingum County townships of Cass, Falls, Hopewell, Jackson, Licking, Madison, Muskingum, Newton and Springfield; Licking County township of Hopewell; and Perry County township of Madison.

**District 4** — includes Guernsey County townships of Adams, Cambridge, Knox, Liberty and Westland.



## Five ways to spring into energy efficiency

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

1. **Seal cracks and gaps around your home.** As you put away your storm windows, consider adding weatherstripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops, shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around vents, ductwork and windows. A typical member of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative can save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step.

2. **Change filters regularly.**

Change furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.

3. **Clean the refrigerator inside and out.** Now's a

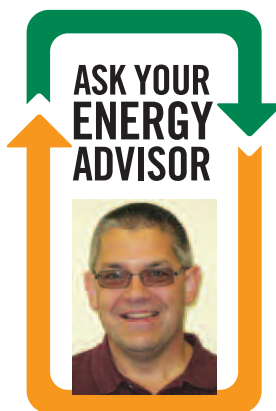
good time not only to throw out that leftover fruit-cake from the holidays but also to check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency.

When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's ENERGY STAR rated. These energy-efficient appliances can save Guernsey-Muskingum members as much as \$100 a year based on calculations from TogetherWeSave.com.

4. **Think sun block.** TogetherWeSave.com points out that by pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.

5. **Enjoy spring breezes.** Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com or by calling the energy experts at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative at 800-521-9879.



Ray Crock,  
Energy Advisor

## Linemen retire



Bill Latchic

**Bill Latchic** began employment with the cooperative in 1977 as a journeyman lineman. Bill retired in February with more than 34 years of service.

**Forrest Watson** began employment with the cooperative in 1982 as a meter reader. In 1987, he became a journeyman lineman and was promoted to crew leader in 1995. Forrest retired in January with more than 29 years of service.

We wish Forrest and Bill great health and happiness in their retirement.



Forrest Watson

# Rate revision

Unfortunately, the rising costs we have all been experiencing continue to hit your cooperative. Although these rising costs have slowed recently, for the most part we are still playing catch-up with our rates. The rate revisions outlined below will increase the average monthly residential bill by about \$2 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), or about 1.5 percent, effective with the April 10 billing.

The distribution rate is the portion of the rate that affects the things the cooperative does locally and not that portion which relates to wholesale power costs or high-voltage transmission costs. Those items are recovered separately through the generation-and-transmission component.

Your board realizes the financial pressure those of us in southeastern Ohio experience, but we also realize our obligation to provide you with reliable electric service. The service availability charge, which is currently \$16 per month, will rise to \$17 per month. The distribution portion of all rate schedules will also go up by 1 mil per kWh. On the average residential account, these amounts total about \$2 per month. This is a minimal increase (\$2 per month) and should keep the cooperative's distribution costs stable through 2012.

Through the years we have been able to offset increased distribution costs with the increasing electric consumption by our members. However, with flat kWh sales we are no longer able to do so. Recent measures to affect rising costs locally have been increased by use of competitive bidding, purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles, and changing or review-

ing some of our practices with an eye toward making them more efficient. Everything we do is done with consideration of its impact on rates and your service.

Another factor affecting our retail rates is the generation-and-transmission component. It has been at the 7.5 cents per kWh level since the Feb. 10 billing. It recovers the costs of generating and transmitting power to a substation to be used by cooperative members. Looking ahead and projecting the rate for the next three months, the generation-and-transmission component will remain unchanged.

Also, the charge for rural lights will increase by 50 cents starting with the April

10 billing. The typical charge for a rural light will increase from \$8 to \$8.50 per month.

Your board has timed these increases to minimize their impact on the membership. Our goal is to hold the line on rates as long as possible. Although the cooperative has passed on increases in the past, we have been fortunate to be able to handle most of the rising cost by selling more kilowatt-hours.

GMEC is committed to delivering electricity to you at the lowest possible cost and to minimizing the impact of any rate increases. We regret the need to increase rates at this time; however, it is necessary to allow us to continue and improve our programs of maintaining reliable electric service to our membership.

Rate Change Summary		
	Additional Amount	Effective Date
Service Availability Charge	\$1.00 per month	April 10, 2012
Distribution Portion of kWh Charges	1 mil per kWh	April 10, 2012
Security Light	\$0.50 per month	April 10, 2012

### Are your name and location/ account number here?

If so, call your cooperative's office and receive a **FREE** home changeout to compact fluorescent light bulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #37-0519-04-00 .....Raymond DeFoor
- #40-0546-25-00 .....Benjamin P. Snyder
- #45-0089-16-07 .....Brian Fall
- #51-0366-42-00 .....Edward F. Sampson
- #52-0143-23-05 .....Susan M. Eckroate
- #56-0398-19-03 .....Samantha Borland
- #60-0088-19-00 .....Melvin Duhamel
- #68-0030-33-08 .....Craig A. Reynolds

## Home Show

The **Swing Into Spring Home Show** is being held from **Friday, March 9, through Sunday, March 11**, 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.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month


Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow — a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel and where you live. Learn more at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Youth opportunities abound

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric has a long history of supporting its area youth in a variety of activities throughout the year. In this issue you will find two outstanding opportunities that exemplify one of your cooperative's core principles, Commitment to Community: 1) Touchstone Energy® Achievement

Scholarship; and 2) the Washington Youth Tour. You can find more information, including rules and applications, about all of these opportunities at our website, [www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com), or call Heather Baker at 800-521-9879.



# Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship

*Did you overcome adversity, obstacles or personal challenges on your way to excellence?*

**Tell us about it  
— you may win a scholarship!**


You must be a graduating high school senior whose parents are members of a Touchstone Energy® Ohio rural electric cooperative.

*Application deadline: March 2*

**Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives  
Four \$1,700 Scholarships**

**Guernsey-Muskingum Electric  
First Place \$500  
Second Place \$300**

For further information, contact:  
[www.gmenergy.com](http://www.gmenergy.com)  
**Heather Baker**  
740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879



## HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS — YOU COULD WIN THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

### WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

It's not just another trip! Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to use their knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

You'll meet up with 1,500 students from across the country in June if you win. You'll get a chance to meet and talk to congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol, plus you'll get to see all the sights and visit a bunch of really cool places.

### WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of an Ohio electric cooperative. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this fun opportunity to learn.

### HOW WILL THE FINALISTS BE CHOSEN?

Interested students should contact Heather Baker at Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative for the rules and judging criteria to be a part of this year's Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Heather can be reached at [hbaker@gmenergy.com](mailto:hbaker@gmenergy.com) or by calling 826-7661. The application deadline is March 2.

