

Currently Speaking

**Guernsey-Muskingum
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
17 S. Liberty St.
New Concord, Ohio 43762
740-826-7661 — 800-521-9879
www.gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

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Jerry Kackley ..General Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service
rate schedule R-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$18/month

First 500 kWh/month

@ 13.069¢/kWh

Over 500 kWh/month

@ 10.945¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
annual rate schedule S-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$216/year

First 800 kWh/year

@ 21.069¢/kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year

@ 11.945¢/kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year

@ 10.945¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$216 per year for
service between March 1, 2013, and Feb. 28, 2014.)

Commercial Service
rate schedule C-1*

Service Availability Charge

\$18/month

First 1,500 kWh/month

@ 13.069¢/kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month

@ 10.945¢/kWh

*Rider T —

Kilowatt-Hour Tax applies to all rate schedules
and must be added to the rates shown.

First 2,000 kWh/month .465¢/kWh

Next 13,000 kWh/month .419¢/kWh

Over 15,000 kWh/month .363¢/kWh

The joy of giving

I CAN RECALL THE EXCITEMENT that I felt as a child each year in September — no, not because school was starting. The anticipation was the result of a couple of items that came in the mail: the JCPenney and Sears Christmas catalogs.

My twin brother and I would take turns — or fight over— flipping through every page in the toy section of each glorious book. We were farm boys, so this was as close as we got to actually reading for pleasure. The pages of each catalog were filled with wondrous things, and we would bend the corners of the pages that contained items we “needed.” We found great joy in the hope that we would find these gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

I’m not sure when it happened, but at some point in my life, I began to find greater joy in giving than I found in receiving. Perhaps that change occurred when my children were old enough to experience the same wonder and delight that I did as a child. Maybe my gift is the blessing of seeing that remarkable light of joy in their eyes.

But I think it goes beyond that. I can recall one Christmas when I had a local artist prepare a drawing of my wife’s grandparents. They had both departed this world, but her bond to them was still overwhelmingly strong. I framed the picture with old barn siding, being careful to make each mitered corner match perfectly. When she opened the wrapping paper on that Christmas morning, she was speechless, but the tears in her eyes reflected the wonderful memories she had of these two special people. Those tears will always be one of the greatest gifts that I have ever received.

May the gift of God’s love be in your hearts this Christmas season, and may each of us bring tears of joy to those around us. ☺



**Jerry Kackley,
General Manager/CEO**

**Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative's
Board of Directors and employees wish all
members a **Merry Christmas!****

Holiday hours

GMEC's office is closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.

*If you have a power outage during the holidays, call the
G-M office — an employee will be there to dispatch a
trouble crew. G-M's drop box is always available for
your convenience.*

GMEC system maintenance begins

GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc., has ongoing maintenance and inspection programs. These programs play a vital role in providing safe and reliable electric service to the GMEC membership. These programs include inspections of poles, meters and rights-of-way. GMEC employees and outside contractors will perform these services from now through 2014.

Tom Hamlett of Penn Line Service, Inc., will inspect and treat poles in the Antrim and Salt Fork substation areas. These inspections identify any deteriorated, decayed

or damaged poles in the electrical system. He may also read meters and assist with rights-of-way auditing as needed. Tom's truck will be identified with the Penn Line name along with a GMEC magnetic sign.

For the remainder of 2013, right-of-way clearing will be in the Pike/Route 40 and the Senecaville substation areas. Right-of-way maintenance scheduled for 2014 includes both tree trimming and herbicide application. Tree trimming and removal near power lines will be in the Salt Fork and Newcomerstown substation areas. Herbicide will be applied in areas that were cut and trimmed in 2013: Chancellersville, Pike/Route 40, and Senecaville substation areas.

This maintenance is necessary to maintain adequate clearance between trees and electric lines, which minimizes blinking lights and power outages.

GMEC operates primarily on 40-foot electric line rights-of-way. Trees within the right-of-way and decayed or leaning trees outside of the right-of-way are detrimental to the system and need to be removed. Therefore, we ask for your cooperation as GMEC personnel or Asplundh representatives discuss these matters with you. ☺

Tom Hamlett of Penn Line Service is performing pole inspections and treatments as well as meter reading and right-of-way auditing in GMEC service areas. His truck will be identified with the PennLine logo and a GMEC magnetic sign.



High School Seniors

Are your parents members of an electric cooperative?

You could win a college, vocational or technical school scholarship of

Nine scholarships totaling \$15,900 are available, plus four more from GMEC! For rules and applications, go online to www.gmenergy.com.

Deadline is Feb. 7, 2014.

For more information, contact:
Heather Baker
740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879

\$3,200

Guernsey-Muskingum scholarships available!

First: \$1,000

Second: \$800

Third: \$500

Fourth: \$400

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 three outstanding opportunities that exemplify one of your cooperative's core principles, Commitment to Community:

- **GMEC Scholarship Day**
- **Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship**
- **Washington Youth Tour**

You can find more information, including rules and applications, about all of these opportunities at www.gmenergy.com or by calling 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!

Deadline: Feb. 7, 2014

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

Up to four **\$1,900**
scholarships awarded
Two Guernsey-Muskingum Electric
scholarships also will be awarded:
First Place \$500 Second Place \$300

For further information, go to www.gmenergy.com, or call Heather Baker at 740-826-7661 or 800-521-9879.



Touchstone Energy®

Calling all high school sophomores & juniors: You could win a FREE trip to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by GMEC and Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to compete for a **FREE** weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-19, 2014.

About 1,600 teens from across the country will converge on the nation's capital in June. You'll meet and talk with congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol and see many of the famous sites.

Guernsey-Muskingum will sponsor two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high

school sophomore or junior whose parents/guardians are members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative.

For information on how you can be part of this trip, visit www.gmenergy.com or call Heather Baker at 800-521-9879. Application deadline is **Friday, March 7, 2014**. All qualified applicants will be interviewed on **Wednesday, March 19, 2014**.



OHIO RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Are all space heaters created equal?

AS WE MOVE INTO winter, you may be considering trying to lower your overall energy bill by supplementing or converting to a portable electric space heater. Space heaters are small, versatile and good at warming a room. However, some manufacturers claim that their electric space heater can cut a home's heating bill significantly. Are these claims true? When used properly, such as for temporary zone heating, they can be effective, but you also need to understand how your energy bill may be affected if you choose to use one.

First, some facts:

- All electric space heaters produce about 3,410 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kwh) of electricity.
- Most space heaters use between 600 and 1,500 watts of electricity (and thus produce between 2,040 and 5,110 Btu per hour).
- At 1,500 watts, or 1.5 kilowatts, it would make your electric meter register 1.5 kWh for every hour it is running.
- It would cost about 17.25 cents per hour to operate a 1,500-watt heater. So one heater running continuously for a month would cost \$0.1725 x 24 hours x 30 days = \$124.20.

I have been in homes with five or six heaters running. You can see the result on those electric bills, and no brand of heater is going to change the facts.

There are three main types of space heaters available: radiant heaters, convection heaters and combination heaters. Which to choose depends on how and where you are using it.

A radiant heater heats object and people — not the air — in a room. They work best when you're in the heater's direct line of sight. Radiant heaters can be a good choice if you're in a room for a short period of time, want instant heat and will stay in one spot. A good example would be while watching TV

or working at a desk.

Convection heaters are designed to heat the air — not people or objects — in a room. Hot air from the convection heater rises to the ceiling and forces cooler air to the floor. The cooler air is warmed by the heater and rises to the ceiling, creating a cycle that continues as long as the heater is on. These typically are either baseboard or oil-filled heaters. Convection heaters work well to warm up bathrooms before bath or shower time.

As the name implies, combination heaters try to merge the best features of the radiant and convection heaters. They often have an internal fan that aids in distributing heat throughout the room. These heaters are versatile, but typically don't perform as well as radiant or convection heaters.

The way electric heaters can save money is if you turn the thermostat of your central heating system down considerably (as low as 50 degrees in some cases). Place the space heater in the occupied room and close it off from the rest of the home. This method of "zone heating" will save money but is not really practical. They do work well to heat a room that is seldom used or is always hard to heat.

Space heaters simply cannot replace more energy-efficient central heating systems like heat pumps and geothermal systems. Also, be sure to weatherize and insulate your home to save money and be more comfortable. Call GMEC for a free energy audit, and I can give you ideas for saving and adding comfort. ☺



Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor

Is your name and location/ account number here?

If it is, call your cooperative's office and receive a FREE home change-out to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs.) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #35-0142-01-01Rita Kuhn
- #39-0208-01-00Carl Justice
- #42-0189-36-01John R Betts
- #46-0002-15-02Mary Yoder
- #44-0076-20-00Alan L Eagon
- #52-0404-11-02Chris R Barlow
- #55-0074-22-01Ervin H Troyer
- #65-0037-20-01David Gonot



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

During the holiday season, consider using ENERGY STAR-qualified lights and strands to decorate. LED strands use over 70 percent less energy than regular lights, last up to 10 times longer and can withstand more abuse. They also give off much less heat, reducing the risk of fire.