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Local Information

GUERNSEY-MUSKINGUM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

17 S. LIBERTY ST., NEW CONCORD, OH 43762

www.gmenergy.com e-mail: mailbox@gmenergy.com

Board of Directors

Duane ParksChairman
 Ed BayVice Chairman
 Jim Rex.....Secy.-Treasurer
 John Enos.....Director
 Jay GrayDirector
 Brian Hill.....Director
 Shirley Stutz.....Director
 Daniel J. GunsettCounsel
 Garry Mbiad.....General Manager/CEO

Electric rates

Farm and Home Service
 rate schedule R-1
 Service Availability Charge
 \$15/month

First 500 kWh/month
 @ 11.619¢/ kWh

Over 500 kWh/month
 @ 9.495¢/ kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
 annual rate schedule S-1
 Service Availability Charge
 \$180/year

First 800 kWh/year
 @ 19.619¢/ kWh

Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year
 @ 10.495¢/ kWh

Over 6,000 kWh/year
 @ 9.495¢/ kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$180 per year for service between March 1, 2010, and Feb. 28, 2011.)

Commercial Service
 rate schedule C-1
 Service Availability Charge
 \$15/month

First 1,500 kWh/month
 @ 11.619¢/ kWh

Over 1,500 kWh/month
 @ 9.495¢/ 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

Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative gathers for the 73rd Annual Meeting, looks back at snowstorm

February's snowstorm went down in the record book for Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative, a fact recalled by General Manager/CEO Garry Mbiad in his remarks at the 73rd Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 10, at Larry W. Miller Intermediate School in New Concord.

A crowd estimated at more than 2,000, including 815 co-op members, turned out for food, fellowship, prizes and entertainment and to hear reports on the financial condition and progress of their nonprofit electric cooperative.

Surviving the storm that paralyzed the area on Feb. 5 and left more than 10,000 Guernsey-Muskingum members without power—some for up to five days—topped Mbiad's list of memorable achievements.

"We had 906 outages in all of 2009," reported Mbiad, "but we had about that many from this single snowstorm earlier in the year."

He called it a "high-misery index storm" for the number of co-op members affected; the number of crews and amount of time needed to restore power; and the price tag of more than \$400,000 in repair costs—none of which can be offset with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds because a federal disaster declaration was not forthcoming.



"I've never seen such tired faces on our linemen," Mbiad recalled after the five-day storm cleanup was completed, "but we worked safely and had no lost-time accidents, although the conditions were very difficult."

He thanked co-op members for their "understanding and patience" and their volunteer assistance: "You provided bulldozers, tractors, all-terrain vehicles and cups of hot coffee."

Extra kilowatt-hour sales from cold temperatures in January and February should help mitigate some of the storm's out-of-pocket costs, according to Mbiad.

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New Concord
740-826-7661

(24-hour service)

All other members
1-800-521-9879

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Annual Meeting

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The snowstorm was a theme of the Annual Meeting, with several exhibits showing outage response work and the scope of the weather event. Co-op members also shared their photos of the winter blitz, which was the worst to strike the service area in recent memory.

Re-elected to three-year terms on the Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative Board of Directors were Jim Rex, District 3, and Jay Gray, District 5. They were unopposed in the balloting.

Board Chairman Duane Parks praised co-op employees for having no lost-time accidents in 2009. In a period of economic recession, Parks said the co-op still managed to complete \$3.6 million in utility replacements and additions. He also noted that Operation Helping Others, the co-op's charitable community outreach funded by member contributions, logged another successful year, bringing the total to more than \$153,000 spent to help 294 recipients since the program started.

"I want to thank the Guernsey-Muskingum employees and the co-op's members. You are our assets," Parks said.

Treasurer Jim Rex noted the co-op's assets increased by \$1.5 million in 2009. Total equity at year's end stood at \$25.7 million (39.7 percent of assets), and the co-op recorded \$1.1 million in operating margins.

"For the 25th year in a row, we achieved the margin levels recommended by our lenders," Rex pointed out.

Special guest speaker Pat O'Loughlin, the chief operating officer and vice president of Engineering and Power Supply for Buckeye Power, Inc., explained that wholesale rates are increasing for electricity generated to supply Ohio's electric cooperatives, but this is necessary to prepare for the future.

Regulatory challenges and the possibility of climate change legislation thrust the electric industry into an uncertain period, O'Loughlin said.

"Our ability to perform basic and necessary functions—ensuring that power is available when you want and need it—has never been more challenged. Permitting new facilities is nearly impossible. Government policy discriminates against the tried and true in favor of the fanciful and untested. Most electric utilities are planning to do very little, or nothing, to prepare, but Buckeye Power and



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your local cooperative are not taking for granted the need to supply reliable and economical electricity to meet your needs,” O’Loughlin said.

“Since 2002, we have been adding generating capacity. We have purchased other companies’ existing generating plant at much less than the cost of new plants. We have added small amounts of the most economical renewable energy we can find—wind, hydro and biomass. We have made investments in state-of-the-art environmental controls to minimize the impact of our coal-burning power plants.”

Buckeye Power’s cost to supply electricity has increased as a result of this planning and investment, but it is still among the lowest in the state and region, O’Loughlin concluded.



Door prize winners from your Annual Meeting

\$10 energy credit

Eric Hartman, Hopewell
Joan L. Neff, Norwich

\$30 energy credit

Robert R. Swingle, Blue Rock
Carl E. Ruby, New Concord
Richard J. Taylor, Roseville
Ronald R. Work, Blue Rock

\$50 energy credit

Richard D. Preston,
Gnadenhutzen
Joseph Soros, Rootstown
Karen F. Millward, Senecaville
J. Timothy Rector, Gahanna

Char-Broil Patio Caddie

John Hummel, Chandlersville

Electric Chainsaw (sponsored by Davey Resources)

Wanda L. Herron,
Chandlersville

Guess the Watts in the Bag

Marilyn Hewitt, Roseville
Marilyn guessed 925 watts
(answer 907.6 watts)

How many kilowatt-hours did our five largest members use in 2009?

Guess: 22,500,000 (answer 30,159,624)
Trenton McCarty, Dresden



Ask your Energy Advisor

Don't neglect your air conditioner

I'm sure that by the time you receive this issue, the weather will be warm and you may already be running your air conditioner. Here are some maintenance tips to keep it running efficiently.

Maintaining your air conditioner

An air conditioner's filters, coils and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service. Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in air conditioning performance while energy use steadily increases.

Air conditioner filters

The most important maintenance task that will ensure the efficiency of your air conditioner is to routinely replace or clean its filters. Clogged, dirty filters block normal air flow and reduce a system's efficiency significantly. With normal air flow obstructed, air that bypasses the filter may carry dirt directly into the evaporator coil and impair the coil's heat-absorbing capacity. Keeping the filter clean can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5–15 percent.

For central air conditioners, filters are generally located somewhere along the return duct's length. Common filter locations are in walls, ceilings, furnaces or in the air conditioner itself. Room air conditioners have a filter mounted in the grill that faces into the room.

Some types of filters are reusable; others must be replaced. They are available in a variety of types and efficiencies. Clean or replace your air conditioning system's filter or filters every month or two during the cooling season. Filters may need more frequent attention if the air conditioner is in constant use, is subjected to dusty conditions or you have fur-bearing pets in the house.

Air conditioner coils

The air conditioner's evaporator coil and condenser coil collect dirt over months and years of service. A clean filter prevents the evaporator coil from soiling quickly. In time, however, the evaporator coil will still collect dirt. This dirt

reduces air flow and insulates the coil, reducing its ability to absorb heat. To avoid this problem, check your evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary.

Outdoor condenser coils can also become very dirty if the outdoor environment is dusty or if there is foliage nearby. You can easily see the condenser coil and notice if dirt is collecting on its fins.

You should minimize dirt and debris near the condenser unit. Your dryer vents, falling leaves and lawn mower are all potential sources of dirt and debris. Cleaning the area around the coil, removing any debris and trimming foliage back at least two feet (0.6 meters) allow for adequate air flow around the condenser.

Coil fins

The aluminum fins on evaporator and condenser coils are easily bent and can block air flow through the coil. Air conditioning wholesalers sell a tool called a "fin comb" that will comb these fins back into nearly original condition.

Condensate drains

Occasionally pass a stiff wire through the unit's drain channels. Clogged drain channels prevent a unit from reducing humidity, and the resulting excess moisture may discolor walls or carpet.

Window seals for room air conditioners

At the start of each cooling season, inspect the seal between the air conditioner and the window frame to ensure it makes contact with the unit's metal case. Moisture can damage this seal, allowing cool air to escape from your house.

Preparing for winter

In the winter, either cover your room air conditioner or remove and store it. Covering the outdoor unit of a central air conditioner will protect the unit from winter weather and debris.



*Ray Crock,
Energy Advisor*

Are your name and location/account number here?

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

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#38-0181-17-00David Krak
#43-0365-15-01Nancy L. McClintock
#46-0397-23-00Richard L. Skolnik
#58-0134-18-01Beverly S. Cummings
#60-0034-40-01David F. Miller

*Happy
Father's
Day from
Guernsey-
Muskingum
Electric!*

