

Currently Speaking

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

Board of Directors

Ed BayChairman
Jim RexVice Chairman
Jay GraySecy.-Treasurer
John EnosDirector
Brian HillDirector
Duane ParksDirector
Shirley StutzDirector
Daniel J. GunsettCounsel
Garry MbiadGeneral Manager/CEO

Electric Rates

Farm and Home Service
rate schedule R-1

Service Availability Charge
\$17/month
First 500 kWh/month
@ 12.369¢/kWh
Over 500 kWh/month
@ 10.245¢/kWh

Seasonal Residential Service
annual rate schedule S-1

Service Availability Charge
\$204/year
First 800 kWh/year
@ 20.369¢/kWh
Over 800 to 6,000 kWh/year
@ 11.245¢/kWh
Over 6,000 kWh/year
@ 10.245¢/kWh

(Your minimum annual charge will be \$204 per year for service between March 1, 2012, and Feb. 29, 2013.)

Commercial Service
rate schedule C-1

Service Availability Charge
\$17/month
First 1,500 kWh/month
@ 12.369¢/kWh
Over 1,500 kWh/month
@ 10.245¢/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

Children of Members Scholarship Winner

Tony Ahern, left, president and CEO of Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., congratulates Megan Bell, daughter of Craig and Traci Bell of Frazeyburg, who won seventh place and a \$1,300 scholarship in the statewide scholarship competition sponsored by the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. in Columbus.

Megan is a graduate of Tri-Valley High School. She plans to attend Brigham Young University-Idaho majoring in early childhood/special education this fall.



Touchstone Energy Special Achievement Scholarship

We are proud to announce that Megan Thomas was chosen as the 1st place GMEC recipient of the Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship for 2011. Megan graduated this year from West Muskingum High School. She is the daughter of Mike and Colleen Thomas of Zanesville. Megan plans to attend Ashland University this fall to become an early childhood intervention specialist.

The Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarship was created to reward those students who have committed themselves to the pursuit of a college education despite unique personal challenges.



Guernsey-Muskingum celebrates 75th

Members of Guernsey-Muskingum Electric Cooperative celebrated a milestone this month when they convened for the co-op's 75th annual meeting.

A crowd of approximately 1,800 members and guests were treated to a morning of fun and informative displays, opportunities to win prizes, music from the Wayfarers and lunch.

Just prior to the noon start of the business meeting, a special 75th annual meeting video was shown. The video featured a history of the cooperative along with first-hand accounts from members about the days when electricity was brought to their homes.

During the course of the business meeting, nearly 50 members in attendance were recognized for remembering "when the lights came on" and presented with a special memento.

Board President Ed Bay told members that even

with the recent slow-down, the cooperative has seen 10 percent growth in the last 10 years. "That tells me that people prefer to live in the country, even in today's economy," he said.



Bay commented on the cooperative's safety record. "Safety is our first priority," he said. "In 2011, we had zero lost-time injuries.

"Service is second only to safety," he added.

Bay noted the cooperative takes steps to provide reliable electric service and, to help improve reliability, spent \$1.4 million in 2011 on substation improvements. The cooperative also has programs to help members such as offering free energy audits and selling quality water heaters at a rebated price, he said.

Bay also discussed Operation Helping Others, where participating members have their bills rounded up to the next dollar with the extra change being pooled to help out in the community which has been

annual meeting

in existence since 1998. "You can't imagine the amount of good those few cents from each of us can do the community," Bay said.

General Manager/CEO Garry Mbiad addressed his final annual meeting, as it was announced he would be retiring in the coming months.

"2011 was a tough year for your cooperative, as it was for everybody in southeast Ohio," Mbiad said.

The mild winter led to decreased energy sales in the final quarter of 2011. While this was good for members' bills, it hurt the cooperative's bottom line, he said. In response to financial pressures, Mbiad discussed a variety of ways the cooperative was working to control costs. "These are not great big changes, but a lot of little changes to take the edge off your electric bill."

Mbiad also noted efforts the cooperative takes to maintain reliability, including the right-of-way maintenance program to keep trees from interrupting electric service.

Members also heard from Ken Keylor, vice president of Statewide Services with the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives. He told the meeting that Guernsey-Muskingum's wholesale power provider, Buckeye Power, is completing major environmental upgrades at its power plants. "Your power plants are going to be, probably, among the cleanest in the world," he said.

Keylor urged members to stay informed about government regulations that could affect their power bills and be supportive of their cooperative. "In order for us to reliably represent your needs, we need your voice," he said. "Your cooperative has been advocating for rational policies. It's going to be a tough fight because there are a lot of extreme voices."

Members exercise their right to elect their repre-



sentatives on the cooperative's board of directors during the meeting. Brian Hill was re-elected to serve District 1 and John Enos was re-elected to serve District 4. Members also passed, by nearly a 6-1 margin, an amendment to the cooperative's code of regulations allowing directors to use electronic communications devices to participate in meetings.

The achievements of the cooperative's youth were recognized during the meeting. The eight winners of the cooperative's traditional scholarship program were announced along with the winner of the Touchstone Energy Achievement Scholarship. The two selected to represent the cooperative on the upcoming Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., also were recognized.

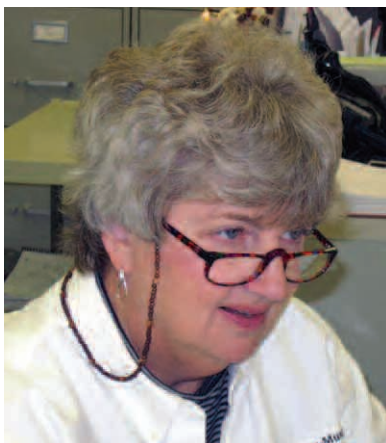
The meeting concluded with a number of door prize drawings for appliances and energy credits.

Julie McGee retires

Julie McGee retired from the Cooperative in May 2012 after 42 years of service. Julie began her employment in 1967 as a temporary billing clerk, the same year she was hired as a permanent billing clerk and worked until 1973. After having a child she again was hired as a part-time employee and in 1975 was rehired as a member accounting clerk. In 1990 she began the position of credit administrator, the position she held upon retiring. We wish Julie a very long and happy retirement.



Julie McGee in 1977 (above) and in 2009.



G-M Electric Cooperative hopes all dads have a great Father's Day!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Tip of the Month

It is time again to turn our attention to our air conditioner and make sure it is ready to work. You should clean the coils of any leaves and debris that may have built up over the winter. Make sure the unit is turned off and then the coils can be rinsed carefully with a garden hose. Never blow grass clippings against the AC unit and keep grass, weeds and landscaping plants away from it so there is no airflow restrictions. If your air conditioner is more than 12 years old, it may be time to start looking into a new, more energy-efficient model. Also, if you are heating with electricity, propane or fuel oil, you should consider a heat pump rather than a simple air conditioner because of the huge savings in the winter on heating bills.

Every Degree=Dollars

\$SAVE!

Don't let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78°.

Going out for the day?

By turning your thermostat up 10°-15° when you're out of the house, you can cut your electric bill by up to 15 percent. That's a savings of up to 1 percent for every degree you raise your thermostat (based on eight hours).

78°

Source: EnergySavers.gov

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 light bulbs. (Limit 12 bulbs) Thanks for reading the "local pages" of *Country Living* magazine.

- #37-0602-45-00Sadie Bowman
- #39-0189-03-08.....Melissa Work
- #43-0516-23-00Leonard L Berry Jr.
- #47-0009-10-01.....Mary T. Kozar
- #50-0340-18-00Ernest R. Butcher
- #53-0579-01-02.....Nick Cola
- #57-0075-14-03.....Ruth Sanders
- #65-0093-20-06Michael A. Roe