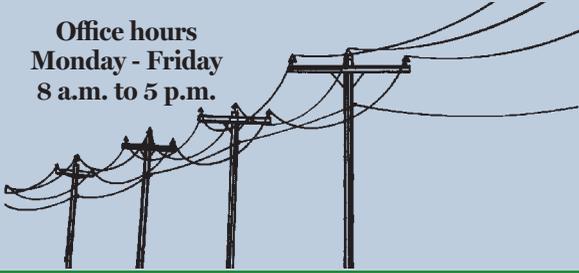


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Bradley Haupricht Sr.	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Kenneth Brubaker	Secretary/Treasurer
Johney Ritz	Dustin Sonnenberg
John Schuchert	Marvin Green

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Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Sandy Corey	Deb Stuller
Brian Bick	Weston Schwab

To report a power outage: 888-256-9858

Your call will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center. Give them the name on your account, service address and a telephone number where you can be reached.

They will dispatch a line crew to restore service.

Be sure to check your fuse or breaker system before reporting a power outage.

Jackpot news!

Raul Salaz of rural Napoleon reported spotting his hidden account number in the January issue of *Country Living*. He won half the jackpot and received a check for \$30. Mary Mather of rural Grand Rapids would have won the same amount if she had reported finding her account number.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros to the right when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$70. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Members like you *drive our co-op*

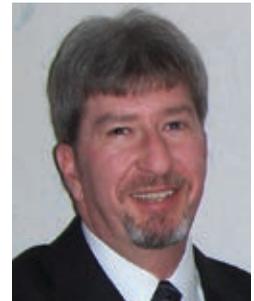
IN 2012, THE National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the trade association representing about 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states, released a report titled *The Electric Cooperative Purpose — A Compass for the 21st Century*. The report covered the findings of a task force composed of a dozen electric co-op leaders from across the country, and the primary determination was that an electric cooperative's purpose is to "power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives."

Tricounty is a member of NRECA and firmly believes that you, our members, need to be at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities, where the primary purpose is to generate profit for their stockholders. Many of those stockholders don't live in the communities served by the utility. While Tricounty must, of course, generate enough revenue to cover costs, profit is not our primary motive. Serving you and your neighbors is our number one priority. Two nine three zero zero two.

As the *Electric Cooperative Purpose* report noted, "Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it." But that was 80 years ago. As we look to the future, we once again need your active participation in determining the future of our co-op.

Tricounty welcomes your input on what we can do to ensure we are meeting your needs.

One thing you can absolutely count on from your locally owned electric co-op: We will always be local — right here and ready to serve our members. ☺



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Knowing what to do **SAVED THEIR LIVES**

Teens stayed safe after a car crash with an electric pole

WHEN TEENAGERS LEE WHITTAKER and Ashley Taylor saw a power line safety demonstration at their high school, they never dreamed what they had learned that day would be put to test. Only days later, Whittaker and Taylor, along with two classmates, were in a car that crashed into a utility pole, bringing live power lines to the ground.



Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor, along with two classmates, survived a vehicle collision with an electric utility pole. The students had recently seen a safety demonstration on what to do in this type of situation, which ultimately saved their lives.

“When people are involved in a car accident, electricity is usually the last thing on their minds,” explains Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “We’re usually more concerned about whether anyone was injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. We can forget that by exiting the vehicle, we’re risking exposure to thousands of volts of electricity from downed power lines.”

If you are in an accident with a utility pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity’s path to the ground, and you could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it, creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed lines can sometimes reveal they are live by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are live, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident

involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see people approaching, warn them to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

The safest place to be is almost always inside the car. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire, and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to “bunny hop” with your feet together to safety. This will ensure that you are at only one point of contact and will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another, which can be deadly. Six four zero seven zero zero two.

Whittaker, Taylor and their friends survived their accident because they had learned what to do. While they waited more than 30 minutes for line crews to arrive and deactivate the power line, Whittaker and Taylor made sure nobody left the car and warned those who came upon the accident to stay far away.

“Knowledge was crucial in keeping everyone involved in the accident safe,” Hall says. “We want to make sure that everyone knows what to do if they’re in accidents with power poles.”

For more information and to see Lee and Ashley’s story, visit SafeElectricity.org. ☞

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries — and an ENERGY STAR charger for them — which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: energy.gov

Last call to claim capital credits

On December 21, 2015, capital credits refund checks were mailed to people who were patrons of the cooperative in the year 2000. Some of them were returned due to outdated addresses. Please review this list, and if you know the whereabouts of any of these people, have them or their heirs contact our office at 419-256-7900 so these unclaimed checks can be forwarded to the right person.

Marc J. Alexander
 Roberta Amann
 American Tower Corp.
 Aurora Energy Ltd.
 Connie L. Belcher
 Paul J. Berente
 Richard C. Bishop
 Robert Bowman
 Robert E. Braun
 Brenden G. Brophy
 Gloria Brown
 Jeremy J. Burghardt Sr.
 Lynn M. Busdiecker
 Scott A. Carpenter
 Margaret L. Carter
 Deborah Clausen
 Patricia Clay
 Joseph R. Click
 Karen L. Clifford
 Jennifer J. Cook
 Jason Cooper
 Brenda K. Cowell
 Thomas E. Cox
 Richard Cremeans
 Andy Damman
 Delta Steel Products
 Cheryl L. Densmore
 James E. Eastmann
 Andi J. Echler
 Della L. Eicher
 Bruce E. Enos
 Richard C. Fuller
 Regina Gillinham
 Marcia Gordos
 Cynthia L. Grabarczyk
 GTE Telephone
 Stephena C. Gunter
 William Hale
 Harold Hendrickson
 Eric Hetrick
 Chuck Heynen
 Mark Higgins
 Wes J. Hill
 Jessica R. Horetski
 Jose R. Jiminez
 Mona Johnson
 Hazeanne Karnes
 Kathy's Kwik Stop
 Rachel A. Keller
 Tim Keller
 Thomas W. Kemper III
 Elizabeth Kimbler
 Aaron Koder
 Walter Labie
 Roger W. Lambert
 Shawn M. Lance
 Clifford Latta
 William Lawniczak

Merle C. Lieb
 Jacqueline Luce
 Michael E. Mackey
 Joy E. Mahlman
 Kay A. Mann
 John M. Martinez
 Maumee Youth Center
 Harold Mayle
 Edward G. Menard
 Robert B. Meyers
 Michael T. Mossing
 Vicki S. Mumford
 Bradley Nichpor
 Joseph L. Ogan
 Conrad Parker
 Robert E. Paul II
 Laura Jo Rahm
 Gregory A. Riebesehl
 Donald W. Rison
 Charles A. Robertson
 Jeffrey A. Roseman Sr.
 Jerome J. Rozek
 Beth L. Russell
 Randal R. Russell
 Jeffrey J. Rutowski
 Billy R. Ryan
 David L. Schmidlin
 Joshua W. Schober
 Buford C. Scott
 Marcia Shagena
 John Shearman
 Lisa A. Sheridan
 Michael F. Sheridan
 Alan Sims
 Gerald R. Smith
 Karen S. Smith
 Sherrie Snuggs
 Michael Snyder
 Robert J. Snyder Jr.
 Robin L. Spangler
 Lisa A. Stanton
 Walter Starrett
 Karl D. Stetson
 Sunderman Bros. Farm
 Jodi L. Sutter
 Chris J. Sutton
 Eric M. Swartz
 Michael Thompson
 Maribeth A. Tuckerman
 Christopher J. Watts
 Martin A. Weishampel
 William C. Wenzlick
 David C. Whetstone
 Logan J. Wilburn
 Angela D. Williams
 Gary A. Wueller
 Robert E. Zimmerman II
 Gene Zinn



HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?

June 10-16

What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Tricounty and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the country and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. **Will you be one of them?**

To apply for the Youth Tour:

Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Tricounty member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.

How will the finalist be chosen?

Tricounty will sponsor one student on the Youth Tour. Interested students should complete and return a test on rural electric cooperatives to Tricounty by **March 31**.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Sophomore Junior

Mail to: Tricounty REC, Inc.
 P.O. Box 100
 Malinta, OH 43535

OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Electric co-ops participate in national grid security exercise

BY DAN RIEDINGER

HAVE YOU EVER IMAGINED what would happen if a catastrophic event damaged or destroyed parts of our electric system? What if a derecho tore down high-voltage power lines? What if a power plant sustained major flooding? What if a hacker got into an electric utility's control system?

Relax! You don't have to dream up these scenarios; there are utility security professionals who do that for a living, and recently they convened more than 3,000 people from 350 organizations for a two-day exercise to help utilities prepare for these sorts of disasters.

The event was called GridEx III, and it simulated physical and cyber attacks on the nation's power systems, destruction of communication systems, and damage from explosive devices and shootings.

Electric co-ops were well-represented during the drills: A few hundred staffers from 14 generation and transmission utilities, as well as four distribution co-ops, participated in this biennial exercise, which was spearheaded by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). NERC said the exercise was designed to "enhance coordination of cyber and physical security resources and practices

within the industry, as well as communication with government partners and other stakeholders."

Co-ops were represented at the national level by Duane Highley, president and CEO of Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation and Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Highley serves as co-chair of the industry's Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council. The CEO-level council works with Cabinet-level officials from the federal government on electric reliability, security and resiliency in the face of cyber and physical threats.

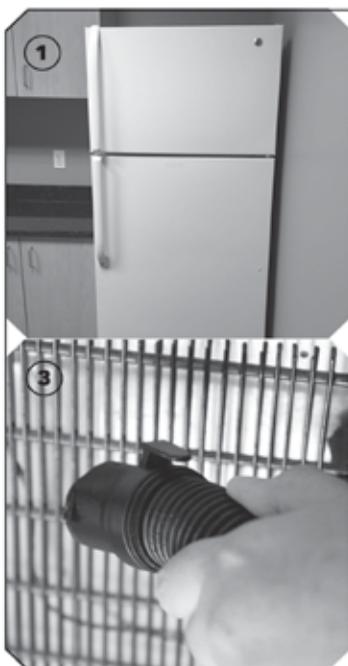
"Simulated exercises such as these allow co-ops to practice contingency and response plans, improve them and hone our skills to be prepared for potential future events," Highley said. "This also gives us the opportunity to improve our coordination capabilities with multiple industry sector partners at the local, state and federal levels." ☞

DAN RIEDINGER writes for the *National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

HOW TO CLEAN REFRIGERATOR COILS

... AND WHY IT MATTERS!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance — just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. A minor investment in time once a year can save you cash down the line.



MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Vacuum cleaner with hose
- Damp cloth

1. Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

