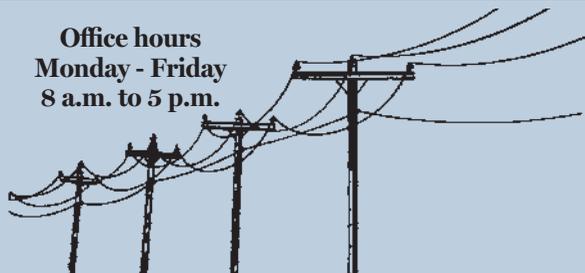


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535

Office Calls: 419-256-7900

www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Johney Ritz	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Kenneth Brubaker.....	Secretary/Treasurer
David Aguirre	Dustin Sonnenberg
John Schuchert	Marvin Green

EMPLOYEES

Brett Perkins, Manager	Craig Wilson
Doug Hall	Jason Warnimont
Sue Bockelman	Jeremy Warnimont
Chris Okuley	Tom Jones
Sandy Corey	Deb Stuller
Brian Bick	Weston Schwab

To report an outage: Call 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!

Neither **Scott Tansel** of rural Grand Rapids nor **Chad Gratz** of rural Leipsic reported spotting his hidden account number in the November issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$40.

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 are always 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!

We're ready to work with elected officials

AS THE NATION PREPARES to welcome a new Congress and administration, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

We have reason to believe this message will be well received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide — a sizable constituency by any measure.

Moreover, whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: Many, many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For member-owned co-ops, listening to people is at the heart of our business model. One One Zero Zero Nine Zero Two.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining rural voter turnout. Co-ops Vote sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

Co-ops will be reinforcing this message

with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs such as funding for infrastructure — especially transmission lines and access to natural gas, increasing the efficiency of the electric system, and determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. We've been doing it for years, and we are ready to continue the fight.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration. It is likely many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers and protecting access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric power will be a bipartisan effort.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops like Tricounty do best! ☞



Brett Perkins
General Manager

2017 GRADS:

**Are your parents members of
Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative?**

**You could win a college, vocational, or
technical school scholarship up to**

\$4,350

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place Tricounty scholarship: \$850
- First-place Ohio's Electric Cooperatives statewide scholarship: \$3,500
- Runners-up in each competition also will receive scholarships of \$550
- Applications due Feb. 10 to Tricounty's office

See details below!

Tricounty to award \$2,800 in four scholarships

Tricounty will sponsor two \$850 scholarships and two \$550 scholarships for high school seniors this year. Winners of the \$850 scholarships may have an opportunity to participate in the statewide judging mentioned above.

To enter Tricounty's scholarship competition, a high school senior must:

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and have parents who receive service from Tricounty.
2. Have a 3.50 or higher grade-point average through the first semester of his/her senior year.
3. Download an application online at Tricounty's website, www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop, or contact Tricounty's office to request one via mail.
4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by Feb. 10.

Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship — including room, board, and books — to the school of his/her choice is not eligible for a Tricounty scholarship.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

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

While on the Tour, you'll visit:

- Gettysburg, Pa.
- World War II Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- White House
- United States Capitol
- Supreme Court
- Smithsonian Institution
- Lincoln Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial
- Washington National Cathedral
- Arlington National Cemetery
- ... and much more!



YOUTH TOUR 2017

June 9-15

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**. Seven Nine Two Zero Zero Zero Two.

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

METER TAMPERING IS ILLEGAL AND UNSAFE

Once every year, state law requires the cooperative to notify our member-consumers that meter tampering and the theft of electricity are illegal. They also are quite dangerous. Ohio law now sets penalties for these illegal acts:

1. Tampering with or bypassing an electric meter or cooperative attachment with the intent to steal electricity.
2. Knowingly using electricity that has not been correctly registered because of tampering.
3. Reconnecting electric service that has been disconnected by cooperative personnel for nonpayment or other reasons.
4. Knowingly consuming electricity that has been unlawfully reconnected.

The law defines theft of utility service as a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electricity, plus any

utility equipment repairs, is less than \$150. It's a fourth-degree felony if more than \$150, or if the offender was previously convicted of the charge. Tampering carries similar charges.

Tampering is defined as "to interfere with, damage, or bypass a utility meter, conduit, or attachment with intent to impede the correct registration of a meter or the proper function of a conduit or attachment."

Conviction can range from six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine to five years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

We know that the great majority of our members do not and would not engage in any such dishonest action. But, just as with shoplifting, the acts of a few can cause higher rates for everyone.

If you know of or suspect any cases of tampering or unlawful practices, please report them at once by calling the Tricounty office at 419-256-7900.



Rebates available for qualifying Tricounty members

Electric water heaters

A rebate of the purchase price of the unit, or \$350 — whichever is lower — will be paid for installing or replacing an electric water heater. The following provisions will apply:

- All water heaters must be new to qualify for a rebate.
- There is a 40-gallon minimum size to qualify for a rebate.
- Rebates are not paid for any replacement of non-leaking water heaters or for water heaters that are replaced while under warranty.
- No rebates are available for solar, heat pump, or on-demand tankless water heaters.

For purposes of load control, members are encouraged to allow the installation of a radio-controlled switch (RCS) on qualifying water heater units. New technology incorporates digital controls on water heaters that allow the owner to program the run time and temperature of the water heater based on individual needs. There is a potential conflict when the RCS is connected to these types of units. Therefore, we will not install an RCS on a digital control-type water heater. A monthly bill credit of \$2 is given to all members who have an RCS installed on a qualifying water heater.

Geothermal heating and cooling systems

All units must be new. Rebates are available for new construction or as a replacement for an existing heating system.

- \$800 rebate for the installation of a geothermal system with electric-resistance supplemental heat.
- \$800 rebate for the installation of a geothermal system with fossil-fuel backup.

Air-to-air heat pumps

All heat pump units must be new, and wood burners are excluded as a qualifying fossil-fuel heat source. The cutoff temperature setting for heating shall not be set higher than 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

- \$300 rebate for the installation of a dual-fuel unit with a fossil-fuel furnace, or as an add-on to your existing fossil-fuel furnace.
- \$300 rebate for installation of a dual-fuel unit with an electric-resistance furnace.