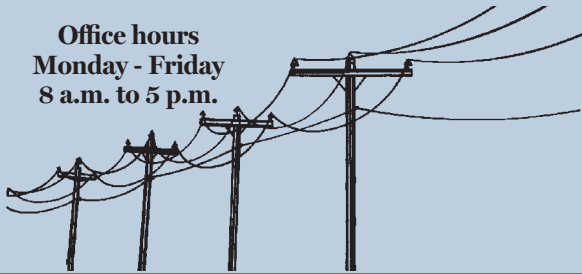


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# 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 **Eric Timm** of rural Swanton nor **Anthony Rohrs** of rural Malinta reported spotting his hidden account number in the December issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$30.

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 \$80. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!

# TOP FIVE ENERGY USERS IN YOUR HOME

A starting point for savings

While most homeowners would like their homes to be more energy efficient and save money on their electric bills, it can feel overwhelming if you don't know where to begin. A good place to start is with the top five energy users in your home, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

### Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple steps:

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

• Cleaning the filters of your heating and cooling system can cut costs 5 to 15 percent. Also, clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater. Five Three Two One Zero Zero.

No matter the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can also save you 10 per-

cent on your monthly utility bill.

### Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use traditional incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with ENERGY STAR®-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

### Water heating efficiency

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your water heater with an insulating blanket. This is even more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain 1 to 2 gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.

### Put cold, hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new ENERGY STAR model. If you are

(Continued on page 22)

# Your elected representatives

on the Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Board of Trustees



**Johney Ritz**  
President  
District III



**Larry Weirich**  
Vice President  
District II

OUR SERVICE AREA is divided into seven board districts, each with a member-elected representative who sits on the cooperative's board of trustees. A nominating committee selects candidates for the position of trustee from cooperative members residing in the district up for election who have expressed an interest in serving. The entire membership votes on candidates at the annual meeting.

The seven-member board meets at the cooperative's headquarters, normally on the last Wednesday of each month. The trustees are responsible for cooperative policies, rates, and objectives and regularly review the cooperative's operating performance. As representatives of the rural community, they communicate the problems and needs of the membership.



**Kenneth Brubaker**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
District VI



**David Aguirre**  
District V

**District I —**

Dover, Pike, Fulton, and York townships; sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 28, 32, and 33 of Swan Creek Township SW; and sections 9, 16, and 21 of Swan Creek Township NW, Fulton County.

**District II —**

Washington and Liberty townships, Henry County.

**District III —**

Pleasant, Napoleon, Flatrock, and Marion townships, Henry County; and Liberty and Van Buren townships, Putnam County.

**District IV —**

Harrison and Monroe townships, Henry County.

**District V —**

Providence Township, Lucas County; sections 1, 12, 25, and 36 of Swan Creek Township SE; and Section 24 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County.

**District VI —**

Damascus, Richfield, and Bartlow townships, Henry County; and Grand Rapids, Milton, and Weston townships, Wood County.

**District VII —**

Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 26, 27, 34, and 35 of Swan Creek Township SE; and sections 10, 15, 22, and 23 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County. ☞



**Dustin Sonnenberg**  
District IV



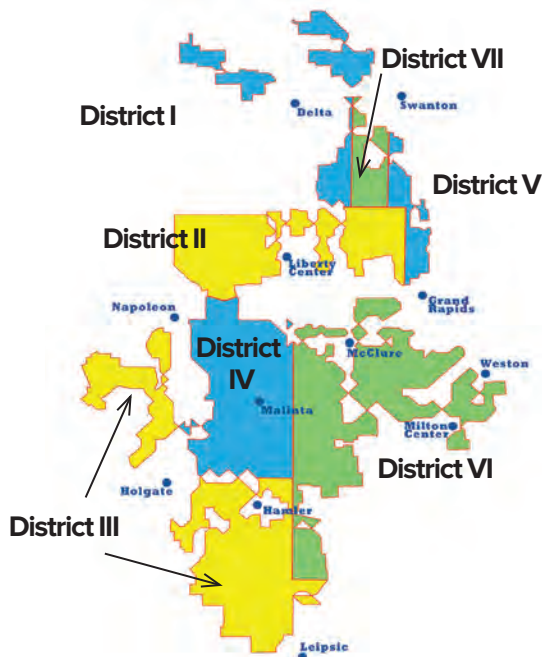
**Marvin Green**  
District I



**John Schuchert**  
District VII



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager



# HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:



# YOUTH TOUR 2017

June 9-15

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

### While on the Tour, you'll visit:

Gettysburg, Pa.  
White House & U.S. Capitol  
Supreme Court  
Smithsonian Institution  
Lincoln Memorial  
Arlington National Cemetery  
... and much more!



### What is Youth Tour?

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

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour.

### To apply for the Youth Tour:

Successful applicants must be a high school sophomore or junior and must be a son, daughter, or legal ward of a Tricounty member living on the cooperative's lines.

### 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

## Follow these tips for safe, efficient use of your clothes dryer:



- Avoid partial loads.
- Never overload the dryer — air cannot get through the clothes adequately.
- Clean the lint screen after every use; if fabric softener is used, wash the screen with soap and water. Periodically, use the long tip of your vacuum cleaner to remove lint collecting below the lint screen in the lint screen slot of your clothes dryer. Occasionally, clean out the dryer exhaust vent pipe.
- Consider drying clothes on a clothes line (solar power) or a drying rack. This is easier on clothes and uses no electricity.

# GEARING UP for safety

Keeping lineworkers safe on the job is serious business that requires serious equipment

CAN YOU IMAGINE working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and sometimes in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

Keeping employees safe is a top priority for Tricounty. Linemen are required to wear a variety of personal protective equipment (PPE) on the job, each of which serves a specific purpose.

**Fire-resistant clothing.** While linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting injury from burns.

**Insulated gloves.** Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

**Hard hat.** Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect linemen from falling objects.

**Steel-toe boots.** These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toe provides sturdier support and protects feet from objects that could pierce the boot. Three Two Six One Zero Zero Three.

**Safety goggles.** Linemen must always wear goggles or glasses to protect them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, they also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps, and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions. ☞



## Top five energy users in your home

(—continued from page 19)

considering an appliance update, a new ENERGY STAR-rated refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. These appliances are worth researching.

Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are

additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers used for long-term storage. ☞