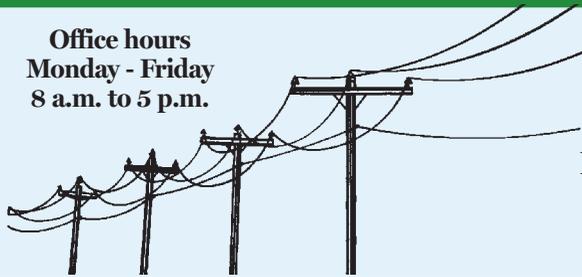


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



## TRUSTEES

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

## EMPLOYEES

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

### 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!

**William Bearley** of rural Liberty Center reported spotting his hidden account number in the March issue of *Country Living*. He won half the jackpot and received a check for \$30. **Charlyn Barrett** of rural Delta 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 \$60. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

## Linemen show character by helping accident victim

Tricounty linemen Jake and Jeremy Warnimont found out firsthand that you never know when or where your first-aid skills will be needed.

Coming back from a March training session near Marion, Ohio, they were waiting for a train to pass when they saw a 13-year-old lose control of the four-wheeler she was riding, flip and get thrown from the vehicle. Knowing it was serious, they called 911 and used their first-aid training until emergency crews and, eventually, a medical helicopter arrived to take her to the hospital. One Eight One Six Zero Zero One.

James Brown, a lineman from North Western Electric Cooperative, was coming from the same training session and also came to the aid of this young lady.

It is inspiring to know that Jake and Jeremy, along with their fellow co-op lineman, were willing and able to apply their safety training and help someone in need no matter who, where or when. This is truly a testament to their characters.

I've always believed some of the best people are part of the electric cooperative family, and these fine men showed that with their willingness to help a complete stranger who was in need.



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager

*Tricounty Rural Electric  
will be closed  
Monday, May 25, in  
observance of  
Memorial Day*

EMERGENCY SERVICE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
24 HOURS A DAY BY CALLING 888-256-9858.



National Electrical Safety Month

## Put safety first this May and throughout the year

Every May, Tricounty recognizes National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

### In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be kept away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top of the cooking range and the area above it should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

### Lighting

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home

should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.

- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition, not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center or replace the item.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

### Be prepared

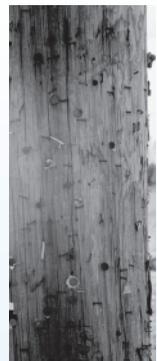
- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
  - Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year, or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
  - Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route — they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.
- Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

***May really brings out the garage sales. Lots of garage sales. And while you may be anxious to have everything ready for the big sale, we ask that you take a moment and read the following notice about not posting on power poles. We know they are convenient, but nailing signs on power poles can also be very dangerous for our linemen.***

### Please don't post signs on power poles

Working on power lines can be a dangerous job. Poles get hit and broken and sometimes must be changed out at night so power can be restored in the area. Handling these poles and the others that must be changed out can be a hazard in the daytime when nails and staples are left behind from all types of signs people have nailed to the poles. It is even more hazardous at night when it is not so easy to see the nails and staples that can puncture safety gloves and tear the linemen's protective clothing and may result in injury. Linemen are on the job to ensure you have quality, efficient, dependable electric service.

Show them you care. Don't use power poles to post signs and posters. Occasionally we find "garage sale," "no hunting," "property for sale" and many other types of signs nailed to the poles. Because some signs are high-quality, we will call and ask the owner of the signs to remove them, rather than our destroying them if we take them down. If the signs are not removed by the owner, we will remove them.



## Tricounty awards 6 scholarships to local students

The Tricounty Board of Trustees presented scholarship awards at its March meeting.

Board President Steve Hoffman was proud to distribute \$3,300 in scholarships, which is just one of a variety of ways Tricounty supports the communities it serves. The 2015 winners were **Brian Weddelman** of Napoleon, **Benjamin Mangas** of Patrick Henry, **Andrew Shiley** of Otsego, **Lincoln Okuley** of Holgate, **Allison Righi** of Liberty Center and **Erica Buenger** of Patrick Henry.

Brian Weddelman will also represent Tricounty in the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives statewide competition in Columbus on April 15.



Earning Tricounty scholarships are, from left, Benjamin Mangas, Erica Buenger, Lincoln Okuley and Brian Weddelman. Not pictured are Andrew Shiley and Allison Righi.

## Tricounty offers payment options for any preference

Mail delivery has been frequently delayed in the past few months. If you are mailing a check to pay your account each month, you may want to consider the convenience and security of direct, or automatic, payment. With our Direct Payment plan, we simply draft the payment from your bank account on the due date of the bill. You will receive your billing statement just as you have been. It will note "Bank Draft Payment" with the amount rather

than showing an amount due. The draft takes place on the due date of the bill. Once set up, the automatic payment will continue until you notify us to stop. Nine One Six Six Zero Zero Nine

Some members prefer the convenience of paying their account by credit or debit card. See page 22 for details on our Pay-By-Phone system.

### Direct Payment authorization form

Please complete and return this form if you are not currently enrolled.

#### Member information

Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Bank information

Financial institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of account:  Checking  Savings Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Tricounty REC to instruct my financial institution to make my payment from the account listed on or about the 25th of every month for the purpose of paying my electric bill. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify Tricounty REC, in writing, to cancel.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note — you must include both signatures if the funds are to be drawn from a joint bank account. Include a voided check or deposit slip for the account you wish to have your bill paid from.*

## Introducing Tricounty's

### PAY-BY-PHONE

toll-free number:

**1-855-313-7465**

If you want to make a payment on your electric bill over the phone using a credit/debit card, you **MUST** call the above number.

The system is automated and all of your personal information, such as card number and payment amount, will be entered by YOU.

At any time, you may hang up and this will discontinue the phone call.

### NO ADDITIONAL FEE!

**Before you call, you will need your account number.**

After dialing, you will go to the main menu. You'll be prompted to press numbers for the actions you wish to complete.

*Tricounty must use the automated system in order to be compliant with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard. These worldwide requirements are designed to help companies that process such payments prevent credit card fraud through increased data controls.*

*This system ensures our continued ability to accept debit and credit card payments.*

### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

#### PAY-BY-PHONE

TOLL-FREE NUMBER:

**1-855-313-7465**

#### MAIN MENU

- 1 – to inquire on your account or make payment
- 2 – to update your phone number

#### LOOK UP INFORMATION

- 1 – using account number
- 2 – using phone number

#### HOW TO MAKE A PAYMENT

Please enter your account number followed by the # sign. (If this is correct Press 1; if not Press 2)

If you are calling regarding your service at \_\_\_\_\_ (Press 1; otherwise Press 2)

- 1 - to pay total amount due

For example: enter 15003# for \$150.03  
(if this is correct Press 1; if not Press 2)

- 2 - to enter a specific amount

For example: enter 15003# for \$150.03  
(if this is correct Press 1; if not Press 2)

- 3 – to continue (will take you back to *Main Menu*)
- 9 – to repeat this information

#### ONCE YOU ENTER AMOUNT TO PAY

- 1 – add another account to payment total
- 2 – process your payments

#### SELECT PAYMENT METHOD

- 1 – pay by Discover, MasterCard, Visa credit or debit card
- 3 – add another account to payment total
- 4 – exit this menu without making a payment (will take you back to *Main Menu*)
- 9 – repeat these options

#### CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AS YOUR PAYMENT METHOD

- 1 – enter credit card number; enter expiration date; enter security code on back of card and Press #



**Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 