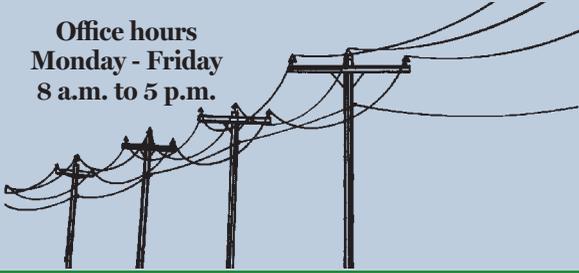


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# 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

## 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 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!

Neither **Howard Kessler Jr.** of rural Liberty Center nor **Michelle Fruth** of rural Napoleon reported spotting their hidden account number in the March issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, they would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$35. 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 \$90. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!



## Electric co-ops and a culture of safety

A CHILDREN'S BOOK TITLED *Safety 1st, Safety Always* encompasses many of the traditional safety lessons parents should teach their children. We drill youngsters about safety from an early age because we know how important it is to protect ourselves and the people we care about. In recognition of May as National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at how electric cooperatives have been stepping up to the plate when it comes to safety in our communities. One nine five five zero zero one.

In 2007, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures many electric co-ops nationwide, initiated a campaign called "Culture of Safety." It was designed to create greater awareness about safety issues at all electric co-ops and to reduce "lost-time accidents," which are any incident resulting in an employee missing time at work.

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together co-op CEOs and general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors, and linemen to better understand how each group viewed safety. Out of this evaluation came the "Speak Up, Listen Up" program, which empowers anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to "Speak Up" and encourages everyone to "Listen Up" to concerns about safety. The results have been dramatic, with more than a 30 percent decline in the number of accidents over the past nine years.

As a member, you have a role, too. If you see any situations or practices that seem dangerous, you should report them as soon as possible to Tricounty by calling 419-256-7900.

The implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program demonstrates a very important point. If we are intentional about our actions, we can indeed change the culture in our organizations. The same is true for our families, our teams, and any groups we may belong to.

(Continued on page 20)



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager

## *Tricounty awards scholarships to local students*

Tricounty's Board of Trustees presented seven scholarship awards at its April meeting. Board President Bradley Haupricht distributed a total of \$3,550 to the students. This is one of the ways the cooperative supports the communities it serves.

Receiving awards were:

- Brooks Hinton of Liberty Center High School
- Alison Imbrock of Patrick Henry High School
- Tara Lanzer of Patrick Henry High School
- Cassandra McHugh of Liberty Center High School
- Natalie Rettig of Napoleon High School
- Keith Scheckelhoff of Leipsic High School
- Michael Schmenk of Patrick Henry High School

Michael Schmenk represented Tricounty at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives statewide competition, held April 14 in Columbus.

Six two five nine zero zero three



Earning scholarships from Tricounty are, from left, Natalie Rettig, Alison Imbrock, Tara Lanzer, Michael Schmenk, and Keith Scheckelhoff. Not pictured are Brooks Hinton and Cassandra McHugh.

## **Electric co-ops and a culture of safety**

(—continued from page 19)

We also know that living our cooperative principles and values is equally important. We have the best business model because it puts you, the member-owner, at the center of our efforts.

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy advisor long into the future. ☺

## **Happy Mother's Day!**

Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative extends our best wishes to all moms as they enjoy their special day on May 8.



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

### 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.*

## 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 number above.

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 a 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.

# Unclaimed capital credits

On Dec. 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 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  
American Tower Corp.  
Aurora Energy Ltd.  
Connie L. Belcher  
Paul J. Berente  
Robert E. Braun  
Brenden G. Brophy  
Gloria Brown  
Lynn M. Busdiecker  
Scott A. Carpenter  
Patricia Clay  
Joseph R. Click  
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  
Bruce D. Enos  
Polly Fackler  
Richard C. Fuller  
Regina Gillinham  
Marcia Gordos  
Cynthia L. Grabarczyk  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Stephena C. Gunter  
William Hale  
Chuck Heynen  
Mark Higgins  
Wes J. Hill  
Jessica R. Horetski  
Mona Johnson  
Hazeanne Karnes

Kathy's Kwik Stop  
Rachel A. Keller  
Thomas W. Kemper III  
Elizabeth Kimbler  
Roger W. Lambert  
Shawn M. Lance  
William J. Lawniczak  
Merle C. Lieb  
Jacqueline Luce  
Michael E. Mackey  
Kay A. Mann  
John M. Martinez  
Maumee Youth Center  
Harold Mayle  
Edward G. Menard  
Robert B. Meyers  
Michael T. Mossing  
Vicki S. Mumford  
Elizabeth Napier

Bradley Nichpor  
Joseph L. Ogan  
Conrad Parker  
Robert E. Paul II  
Laura Jo Rahm  
Donald W. Rison  
Charles A. Robertson  
Jeffrey A. Roseman, Sr.  
Jerome J. Rozek  
Beth L. Russell  
Jeffrey J. Rutkowski  
Billy R. Ryan  
David L. Schmidlin  
Joshua W. Schober  
John Shearman  
Lisa A. Sheridan  
Alan Simms  
Gerald R. Smith  
Karen S. Smith

Michael Snyder  
Robert J. Snyder, Jr.  
Robin L. Spangler  
Lisa A. Stanton  
Walter Starrett  
Karl D. Stetson  
Mark Stevens  
Sunderman Bros. Farm  
Jodi L. Sutter  
Michael Thompson  
Christopher J. Watts  
Martin A. Weishampel  
William C. Wenzlick  
Logan J. Wilburn  
Angela D. Williams  
Gary A. Wueller  
Robert E. Zimmerman II  
Gene Zinn

## Dig safely by calling 811

Accidents can happen to anyone, even the most experienced professionals. Tom Dickey knows that all too well. It's why he and Safe Electricity urge everyone to plan ahead before digging.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

One day at the end of a major project, Tom's client asked to have an additional section for conduit dug — after his safety gear had already gone back to the shop. Instead of saying he'd have to come back and do it the next day, he made a decision in favor of time and efficiency instead of safety and agreed to dig the 40-foot section.

This decision almost cost him his life. As an experienced professional, he knew all of the correct procedures, but while kneeling on the ground, he made a small slip as he used a shovel to adjust the conduit's path. As a result, he came into contact with 7,200 volts from underground power lines. He survived, but he spent months in the hospital, endured multiple surgeries, and still lives with pain every day.

Tom and his family are working with Safe Electricity's "Teach Learn Care TLC" campaign to share his message, "Please, safety first," to help prevent others from having accidents with underground utilities. Tom's story can be seen at SafeElectricity.org.

Tom stresses that even a homeowner who puts a shovel in the ground risks his well-being and damage to underground utilities if he has not gotten utility

lines marked. The first step in safe digging is to call 8-1-1, the national "Call Before You Dig" number, to have underground utility lines marked. The service is free and could prevent a tragedy.

"People have got to understand that when you deal with electricity and you do silly things, it changes your life. It changes the people's lives around you," says Tom. "I'm lucky to be alive. Please, safety first."

"We commend Tom and his family for their willingness to share the lessons learned from their difficult experience in hopes of helping prevent tragic accidents with underground utilities," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. "We encourage everyone to visit SafeElectricity.org to see the video of Tom's story and learn all of the vital information both contractors and homeowners must know before starting any project that involves digging."

For more information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

*Tricounty Rural Electric  
will be closed  
Monday, May 30,  
in observance of  
Memorial Day*



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