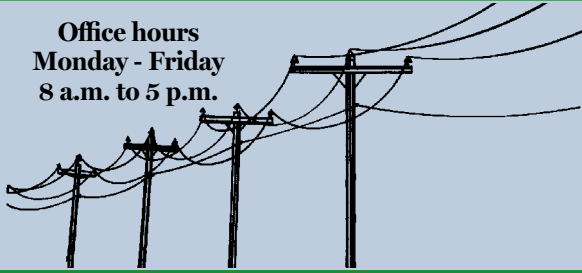


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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 **Jamie Pawlinski** of rural Liberty Center nor **John Jasper** of rural McClure reported spotting his hidden account number in the June 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 \$90. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!

You are a member, not a customer: *That's the co-op difference*

MANY BUSINESSES USE the word "member" to describe their customers. Places like Sam's Club, Costco, and even American Express like to refer to their customers as members. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but that is really all you get for the "membership." No right to vote for the board of directors or to participate in any meaningful way in the organization.

In cooperatives like Tricounty, membership really does mean something more than just the right to buy electricity. Co-ops of all types are founded on seven principles that give us guidance and strategic direction. Membership also gives you rights as an owner of this co-op.

Brett Fairbairn is the director of the Center for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He makes the case that member relations is not just part of what co-ops should be doing, but, in fact, is the fundamental core business of the cooperative.

He further lays out the three strategic concepts that any co-op must get right in order to survive and thrive:

ECONOMIC LINKAGE

Tricounty is connected to you. There is a business relationship that serves you, the member, and the co-op. Because co-ops are solely owned by people in the community, they have a mutual interest to ensure that both the co-op and the member do well and prosper.

TRANSPARENCY

As an owner of the co-op, you have a right to know how it operates and how decisions are made that directly affect you. If the co-op is transparent and combines this trait with integrity and fairness, it will build trust — the key to any solid relationship.

COGNITION

In this case, cognition is best defined as how your co-op thinks. It includes

(Continued on page 22)



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Water heater rebates and radio-controlled switch (RCS) program update

TRICOUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative currently offers rebates and monthly bill credits to members who allow a radio-controlled switch (RCS) to be installed in their homes. We want all our members to be aware that due to advances in water heater technology, some changes to our program are necessary.

If you currently have an RCS installed and are not planning to replace your water heater, then you will not see any changes. If, however, you need to replace your current water heater, then these changes may affect your participation in the RCS program with the monthly bill credits.

Water heater manufacturers are producing more energy-efficient units. The newest water heater technology incorporates digital controls that allow the homeowner to program the run time and temperature of the water heater units based on individual needs. Unfortunately, your cooperative has become aware of a potential conflict when these digital-control-type water heaters are connected in conjunction with our RCS.

If you will be installing a water heater with digital controls and currently have an RCS, the RCS must be removed prior to the water heater being energized. Please contact our office at 419-256-7900 for us to schedule the removal of your RCS.

REBATES AND CREDITS:

Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative encourages our members to purchase the most energy-efficient electric water heater model that fits your needs. That said, we will continue to offer our members a \$350 rebate for those units that meet certain efficiency and capacity criteria, regardless if it's a standard unit or one with digital controls.

As a part of the RCS program, a monthly bill credit of \$2 is given to all members who have an RCS installed in their home on a qualifying water heater. Those members who choose to purchase a water heater **with** the digital controls will no longer be eligible for the monthly bill credit, since the RCS will need to be removed. Those members who choose to purchase a water heater **without** the digital controls will be eligible to receive the monthly bill credit.

Rebate details:

- A rebate of the purchase price of the unit or \$350, whichever is lower, will be paid for installing or replacing a 40-, 50-, or 80-gallon electric water heater.
- All water heaters must be new to qualify for the rebate and have an RCS installed to qualify for the \$2 monthly bill credit.
- Rebates are not paid for replacement of non-leaking water heaters or water heaters that are replaced while in warranty.
- There is a 40-gallon minimum size to qualify.
- No rebates or RCS installations are available for solar, heat pump, or on-demand tankless water heaters.

Thank you for your continued support of the water heater and RCS program. After all, saving energy benefits everyone. If you have further questions or want to learn more about these programs, please feel free to contact our office at 419-256-7900. ☎

Here is an example of a water heater with digital controls for reference.



Tricounty general manager brings lamps to 4-H camp

For over 40 years, Tricounty Electric Cooperative has provided youth at 4-H Camp Palmer with the materials and guidance to make their very own four-leaf clover lamp, teaching them about electricity and safety tips along the way.

4-H Camp Palmer is a modern camping complex nestled in the woods adjacent to Harrison Lake State Park in Fayette, Ohio. Founded in 1947 by Ohio State University Extension, the camp serves as a permanent 4-H summer camping site for 11 Ohio counties, featuring complete indoor and outdoor living and recreational facilities.

Though you don't have to be a 4-H'er to attend, 4-H Camp Palmer offers youth outdoor and environmental education and fosters team development. Campers can relate and apply camp leadership and camp living experiences directly into their home, school, church, and community life. Not to mention, it's a great way to get youth outdoors to appreciate nature.

Tricounty General Manager Brett Perkins makes lamps with the camp youth twice a year at Camp Palmer — once for Henry County's camp week and again for Fulton's. Pictured are youth from this year's lamp-making event.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	1	2	3
11	12	13	14	8	9	10
18	19	20	21	15	16	17
25	26	27	28	22	23	24
				29	30	

2016 Annual Meeting to be at Patrick Henry High School

Plans are underway for Tricounty's 79th Annual Meeting of Members on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at Patrick Henry High School on State Route 18, just east of Hamler.

Registration will start at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing.

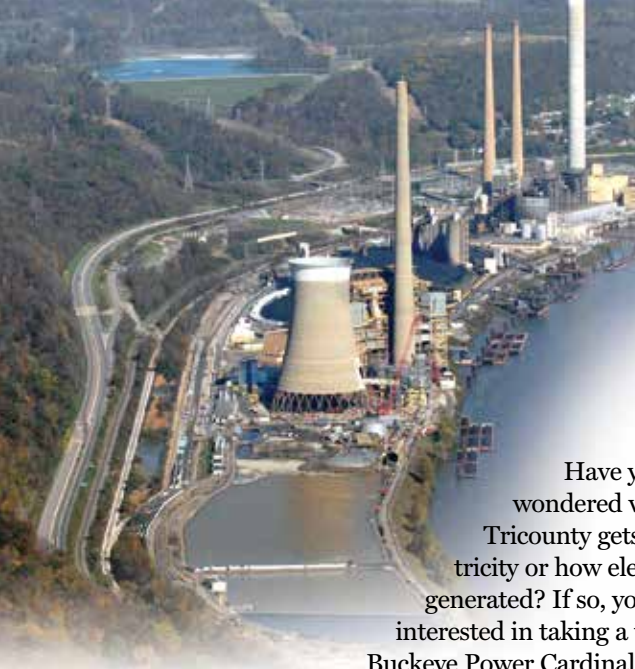
This is a great opportunity to visit with your neighbors and friends, elect one trustee to represent you on the Tricounty board, and hear reports on the operation of your cooperative. A gift will be provided for each membership represented in person. We look forward to seeing you Sept. 21.

What: 2016 Annual Meeting

Where: Patrick Henry High School, State Route 18, east of Hamler

When: Wednesday, Sept. 21

Who: All Tricounty members are invited to attend!



See how electricity is produced

Free tour of your power plant is Sept. 28

Have you ever wondered where Tricounty gets its electricity or how electricity is generated? If so, you might be interested in taking a tour of the Buckeye Power Cardinal Generating Station.

Tricounty members will get an opportunity to tour Cardinal Unit 3, located along the Ohio River near Brilliant, Ohio, and witness the generation of the electric energy used in the homes, businesses, and industries served by Ohio's electric cooperatives. The tour is free and will take place Wednesday, Sept. 28.

This year, Tricounty is sharing a chartered bus for the one-day trip with North Western and Paulding Putnam electric cooperatives. Tricounty Electric has 15 seats available on a first-come, first-served basis for any co-op member who has not previously toured the plant.

The tour will be conducted by employees of Buckeye Power, the generation and transmission cooperative owned by Tricounty and the 23 other electric cooperatives serving Ohio. You will view how coal is used to produce steam, which powers the turbine generators. Two Three Two Zero Zero One.

Buckeye Power recently completed more than \$1 billion in upgrades to make Cardinal Station one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the world. The clouds you see from the tall stacks? Thanks to those new protections, it's nearly 100 percent steam.

Traveling by air-conditioned bus with restroom facilities, we will leave the Defiance Mall parking lot

at 7:30 a.m. and return around 9:30 p.m. Tricounty will treat you to lunch prior to our arrival at Brilliant. You will be responsible for your own supper during the "sandwich stop" on the way back.

Since the power plant can be a potentially hazardous area, tour participants must be at least 12 years old, unless specifically authorized. There will be a lot of walking, descending several flights of stairs, and going through some hot and dusty areas. Members with health concerns or who require assistance with walking should not take the tour.

To reserve a seat, please call our office at 419-256-7900. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 12.

Should you have any questions or like more information, please call Deb Stuller at 419-256-7900.



You are a member

(—continued from page 19)

the current and historical identity, the mission, and the values it shares with its members. Research, education, and training are critical functions that Tricounty must conduct on an ongoing basis to ensure that we always have the best information to make decisions. Four Eight Two Eight Zero Zero Two.

The cooperative business model is the best one on earth, but like any enterprise, it is up to the human beings who work at the co-op, who serve on the board and the members like you, to ensure that the principles and values do not fade over time.

First and foremost, Tricounty strives to be thought of as a member-owned cooperative that gives you the best value of any utility. If we succeed, our community thrives and you will always value being a member — not a customer. ☺

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Source: energy.gov