



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Electric co-ops **engage** with new administration

With every presidential inauguration comes a period of learning. Nearly seven months into President Trump's first term, Washington is still adjusting.

America's electric cooperatives engaged early on to make sure the new administration recognizes the importance of affordable, reliable electricity to local economies.

Within three months after President Trump took office, Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), had already met with the Secretary of Energy and the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as presidential advisors on rural, infrastructure, and agriculture issues. Four cabinet members also met with co-op leaders at the annual legislative conference.



Co-ops are working to ensure the new administration understands our needs for our members.

Co-ops are encouraged both by the administration's willingness to review burdensome regulations and by its willingness to listen to the concerns of rural Americans. We are already seeing some beneficial changes.

One of the first actions taken by President Trump

was signing an order to review the Clean Power Plan (CPP) — a rule that would jeopardize affordable, reliable power for millions of American families and businesses. The administration's decision to review the CPP is a welcome development.

In April, Flint Energies member Sonny Perdue was confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture. As an electric co-op member himself, Perdue understands the critical role co-ops play throughout rural America, and we look forward to working with him to further improve the quality of life in rural America.

The White House recently created the Rural America Task Force. We appreciate President Trump recog-

nizing the need to prioritize rural American families and businesses, and this task force will offer yet another way for electric co-ops to work with the administration as we seek to strengthen rural economies.



Brett Perkins
General Manager

The White House has also expressed a strong interest in reviving America's infrastructure. Electric co-ops are at the policy table, urging politicians to look beyond the investment in roads and bridges when considering rural America's infrastructure priorities.

Improved high-speed internet access is at the top of the infrastructure priority list for many rural communities. That's why co-ops were pleased when Ajit Pai, the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman, appointed Jim Matheson to a new Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. The committee was created to make recommendations to the FCC on how to accelerate the deployment of broadband by reducing and removing regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment. Nine Six Three Two Zero Three.

As member-owned utilities, co-ops have a responsibility to engage in these discussions. During the co-ops' legislative conference in Washington, D.C., Jim Matheson declared that "in a time of uncertainty, it's all the more important for us to remain at the table, be active participants in the policy environment, and assert ourselves as the voice of American consumers."

The time is now for a substantial conversation about the importance of rural America. Co-ops evaluate the actions of any new administration according to one simple principle: how will these actions affect our 42 million member-owners?

New policy staff may not be aware of how some

programs slated for elimination or reductions in the budget proposal benefit co-op members. We must educate policymakers about the importance of these programs.

The time is now for a substantial conversation about the importance of rural America.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Tricounty sends student to D.C. for Youth Tour

Imagine touring America's capital and delving into the political process firsthand with hundreds of other students from around the nation.

Seth Grine of Liberty Center High School, the son of Mark and Angie Grine, was selected by Tricounty to attend the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This annual experience sends high school sophomores and juniors on a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., each June.

Seth was among 37 students from Ohio. For more than 50 years, co-ops across the country have sent students to learn about government and the cooperative business model, gain leadership skills, make friends from across the state, and, of course, see the famous capital sights.

Ohio's students were among 1,700 high schoolers from 47 states to convene in Washington, D.C., June 9 through 15. The trip is coordinated by Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, the trade association for the 24 cooperatives serving Ohio.

Nearly 50,000 students from rural and small towns across America have participated in Youth Tour. Some alumni have gone on to design airplanes, to lead companies, and to serve in the highest ranks of our government.



Seth Grine (above) visited our nation's capital with 36 other Ohio high schoolers as part of the 2017 Youth Tour.



FYI

Service notice

At least once a year, we print the Continuity of Service notice listed at right. While we strive to furnish you with a continuous supply of electricity, it is impossible to guarantee you will have electricity 100 percent of the time. Vehicles hitting poles, high winds, trees falling into the lines, animals and birds contacting the lines, people cutting trees that "fall the wrong way," lightning, and other causes can disrupt power to just a few co-op members or several hundred at one time.

Continuity of Service

The cooperative shall use reasonable diligence in furnishing a regular and uninterrupted supply of electric power and energy but does not guarantee uninterrupted service. The cooperative shall not be liable for damages or other losses in case such supply is interrupted, curtailed, reduced, fluctuates, becomes irregular or fails, or if the commencement thereof is delayed by reason of an act of God, public enemy, accidents, labor disputes, orders or acts of civil or military authority, governmental action, loss of power supply, breakdowns or injury to the generator(s), machinery, distribution or transmission line(s) or other facilities of the cooperative, or any other cause beyond its control; provided, however, that in no event shall the cooperative be liable for personal injury, wrongful death, property damage, or other losses not caused by or due to the gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct of the cooperative; and in no event shall the cooperative be liable for consequential damages of any nature whatsoever in case such supply of power and energy should be interrupted, curtailed, reduced, fluctuate, become irregular; and provided further that the failure of the customer to receive electric power and energy because of any of the aforesaid conditions shall not relieve the customer of its obligation to make payments to the cooperative as provided herein for electric service.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

High bill, empty home?

Give your home's energy use a vacation while you're away



**GOING ON
VACATION?**
Try turning your
fridge's temperature
to 38 and your freezer
to minus 5 degrees
while you're away from
home. Don't forget
about extra freezers in
garages or basements,
as they will suck energy
while you're gone!

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips for returning home to a low energy bill.

Water heater: Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away.

Thermostat: During hot weather, turn up the thermostat on your air-conditioning system, or consider shutting it off completely. For every degree a thermostat is raised during the summer, you can save 2 to 3 percent on your electric bill. Just be sure you don't leave pets in a home that might get too hot.

If you're away during the winter, lower the temperature on your furnace. The house can be as cool as 50 degrees without the risk of your pipes freezing.

Refrigerator: A refrigerator is the electronic equivalent of a V-8 engine, sucking electricity like a high-performance car. Extended vacations give you a good excuse to clean out your fridge and unplug it. But if your home will only be vacant for a few days, it's not worth the trouble to unplug the device.

Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Don't forget about those extra freezers running in garages or basements, either.

Lights: Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics: Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices — computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave, coffee pot, and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features, or remote controls will consume energy, even if they're not in use.

For other tips on how to save energy — and money — visit www.energysavers.gov or Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com.



ANNUAL MEETING

The *value* of your *annual meeting*

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? It is a special time for co-op members to gather, hear from co-op leadership, and vote to elect board members. Your co-op is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Tricounty is run by a democratically elected board given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

If you have not attended the annual meeting or it has

been a few years, we urge you to take a few hours to join your fellow co-op members and neighbors for this important event. You will feel good knowing you had a voice in an important decision that affects one of our most vital resources — electricity.

Tricounty is connected to you through more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting on Sept. 20 at Delta High School.

2017 Annual Meeting to be held at Delta High School

Tricounty's annual meeting of members is slated for Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Delta High School. Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious dinner at 6 p.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. and will conclude with a door prize drawing. Five Zero Five Five Zero Zero Zero.

- What:** 2017 Annual Meeting
- Where:** Delta High School, 605 Taylor St., Delta
- When:** Wednesday, Sept. 20
- Who:** All Tricounty members are invited to attend!



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johney Ritz
President

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Vice President

Kenneth Brubaker
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Dustin Sonnenberg
John Schuchert
Marvin Green
David Aguirre
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Brett Perkins
General Manager

JACKPOT NEWS!

Neither Dillon Blair of rural Leipsic nor Nicole Doseck of rural Swanton reported spotting their hidden account number in the June issue of *Ohio Cooperative 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 are always in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$90. So read *Ohio Cooperative Living*, find your hidden account number, report it, and win!