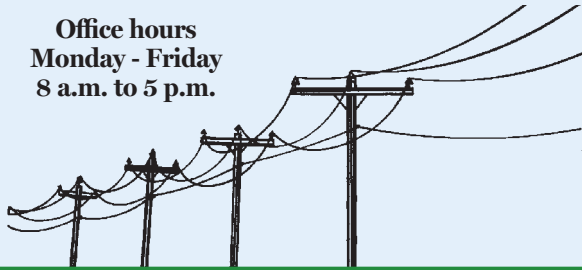


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535

Office Calls: 419-256-7900

www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



TRUSTEES

Steven 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

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 **Wendy Larrow** of rural Liberty Center nor **Kurt Rife** of rural Weston reported spotting their hidden account numbers in the October issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he or she would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$45.

Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros at the right in the number when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in the local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$70. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Warmest Holiday Wishes...



We hope this holiday season finds you sharing the joys of the season with friends and loved ones. Our office will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1, so our employees can spend the holidays with their families.

Tricounty wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Emergency service is always available 24 hours a day by calling 1-888-256-9858.

High School **Seniors**



**Are your parents members of
Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative?**

**You could win a college, vocational or
technical school scholarship up to**

\$4,250

- Available in both boys' and girls' divisions
- First-place Tricounty scholarship: \$850
- First-place Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives scholarship statewide: \$3,400
- Runners-up in each competition also will receive scholarships of \$550
- Applications due **Feb. 6** to Tricounty's office

See details below!

Tricounty to award \$2,800 in four scholarships

Tricounty will sponsor two \$850 scholarships and two \$550 scholarships for high school seniors this year. Winners of the \$850 scholarships may have an opportunity to participate in the statewide judging mentioned above.

To enter Tricounty's scholarship competition, a high school senior must:

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and have parents who receive service from Tricounty.
2. Have a 3.50 or higher grade-point average through the first semester of his/her senior year.
3. Download an application on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' website at www.ohioruralelectric.coop/youth/scholarships/ or contact Tricounty's office to request one via mail.
4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by Feb. 6.

Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship, including room and board and books, to the school of his/her choice is not eligible for a Tricounty scholarship.

\$481,000 returned to co-op members in December

DECEMBER 2014 MARKS THE 37th consecutive year Tricounty has made a general retirement of capital credits to current and former cooperative members. With this year's \$481,000 refund and payments to the estates of deceased members, more than \$15.4 million has been returned to our member-consumers since the first estate payment in 1950.

Members of not-for-profit cooperatives have a unique relationship with their cooperative. They are also the owners of the cooperative and share in the cost of expanding and maintaining the electric distribution system through the rates they pay for electricity. Cooperative member-consumers also share in the profits, or margins, that are left at the end of the year after all the expenses are paid.

As your cooperative is a not-for-profit organization, these margins are allocated to each member-consumer of the cooperative in the form of capital credits, based on the member's total kilowatt-hours purchased for the year, with each member having his or her own capital credits account. The margins, or patronage capital, are retained by the cooperative for a period of time and invested in the poles, wires, transformers, trucks and all the equipment necessary to provide reliable electric service to all cooperative members. Four Five Seven Zero Zero One

One measure of the value of membership in your cooperative and a guiding principle of a true cooperative is the allocation and refunding of the margins or capital credits

to its members. Each year, Tricounty's board of trustees reviews the financial condition of the cooperative and determines if a refund can be made and still maintain the cooperative as a financially sound business. Each cooperative determines its own general retirement cycle and its own method of refunding capital credits.

Tricounty's Code of Regulations specifies the first-in, first-out method: The first capital credits earned are the first capital credits refunded. This year's refund to current and former members who received electric service from Tricounty in 1999 will be 50 percent of the margin for that year and will amount to about \$481,000.

Current members who are due a refund will receive a credit on the electric bill they receive in December, and former Tricounty members due a refund will be mailed a check in mid-December. Issuing a credit on the electric bill is a savings to Tricounty in both time and money. Fewer checks are printed and mailed, with a reduced number of checks reported as misplaced or lost, and less time is required to process the payments.

Refunding capital credits is unique to the cooperative program. No investor-owned or municipal electric system in the country returns the profits or margins it makes to its rate payers unless mandated by the state agency overseeing utilities.

Capital credits are one of the numerous advantages to co-op membership. ☺

Last call to claim capital credits

In December 2010, we mailed capital credits refund checks to current and former members for 50 percent of the 1997 allocation. Of these, about 100 checks totaling \$9,901 still are unclaimed. If you know the whereabouts of any of these people, have them contact our office. These former members or their heirs must claim their checks by Feb. 28, 2015.

Nicholas I. Acosta	Thomas E. Cox	Rex Hazelton	Dale R. McDowell	Schmitz Construction Co
Marc J. Alexander	Mary B. Crigger	Kelly Hollinger	MCI Worldcom	Richard D. Sheets
American Tower Corp.	Jeffrey J. Dawley	Mary B. Howard	Robert B. Meyers	Jose D. Sierra
Doug Amos	Juanita G. Dodd	Howard Hutchinson	Timothy W. Moore	Robert Sims
Vicki Baden	Phyllis A. Duggan	Linda I. Inkrott	Robert G. Mugg	James C. Smith
Gregory C. Baker	Maria Escamilla	Michael R. Johnson	Nathan A. Mund	Joseph M. Smith
Gary J. Bobak	Terry N. Feasel	Nathan Kamer	Cathy M. Myers	John C. Stephens
Charlene Boucher	Wayne E. Fischer	Lynette Kennedy	Michael E. Nihoul	Mark Stevens
Robert M. Broadhead	Donald R. Floyd	Elizabeth Kimbler	Rolando Noriega	Michael P. Strabele
Brooks Contracting Inc.	Mark E. Frey	David Kinder	Michael E. Oakley	Scott A. Sturtevent
Sue A. Bryan	Frontiervision Partners	Joseph C. Kirkman, Jr.	Richard R. Parsons	Chris J. Sutton
Mario Bunster	Audrey C. Galbraith	Brian Kruse	John Pauley	Triax Associates
Kenneth L. Burkhart	Marcia Gordos	Patrick J. Lasich	Raymond M. Perkins	Susan M. Turanski
Lynn M. Busdiecker	Thomas P. Gowing	Kathleen Latta	Chris Pickel	Melda Villagomez
Cablecom Time Warner	Grand Trunk Western	George W. Lemerise	Jack J. Pojancki	Howard E. Wheeler
Cable	Railroad	Ronald D. Long	Peggy L. Rettig	Robert W. Wheeler
Troy D. Carter	Calvin S. Griffin	Sondra J. Majerowski	Margaret L. Rieger	Jackie Williams
Larry Cook	Randy Hall	John M. Martinez	Paul Robinson	James A. Wilmore
Jeanne Cooper	Gary A. Haney	Rod Mathison	Mildred Roehli	Gordon R. Winland II
Norris Coulson	Jacob Harvey	Harold Mayle	Jeffrey J. Rutkowski	Joseph Ziarko
Brenda K. Cowell	Linda Hassen	Harriet McCurdy	Danny E. Schetter	

'Tis the season for cooking — not high electric bills

BY KATIE KOTHMANN HABY, CCC

NO MATTER WHAT OR HOW YOU CELEBRATE, energy use in the home tends to increase over the holiday season. Start the new year off right: Celebrate the holidays efficiently so you don't have to worry about a high electric bill. Two Eight Seven Four Zero Zero Three

Decorating

- If you decorate with strings of lights, consider LED (light-emitting diode) options. LEDs use 80 percent less energy than traditional lights and have a much longer life. Make sure to purchase high-quality strands from reputable manufacturers — safety and the operating lifetime can be compromised in less-expensive LED strands.



Holiday decorating tip:

Consider decorating your home with strands of LED (light-emitting diode) lights. LEDs use 80 percent less energy than traditional holiday light strands and last a lot longer!

- Solar-powered decorative lighting is also worth considering. Instead of having an outlet handy, make sure you have a proper location for the solar panel that powers them.

- Place strands of electric lights on timers so they automatically turn on in the evening after the sun sets, and turn them off around bedtime.

- Decorate with less lighting. Consider a natural or vintage theme for your decorations. Use items like pine cones, greenery, candy canes, popcorn strings and gingerbread. The whole family can get involved with decorating the home with these safe and festive items.

Cooking

- Cook with your microwave, toaster oven or slow cooker whenever possible. Small appliances cook quickly and more efficiently than your oven.

- When you do use the oven, cook more than one item at a time. Have a ham, sweet potato casserole and rolls that all need to go in the oven? Make some adjustments to cooking temperatures and times, and put all your dishes in at once to take full advantage of the heat.

- Don't peek! It's tempting to open the oven door to check on holiday treats. Use the oven light instead and keep the door closed. This will keep the heat where it belongs — inside the oven.

- Glass and ceramic dishes allow you to cook food at a lower temperature than metal baking dishes. If the recipe calls for a metal baking pan and you substitute glass or ceramic cookware, reduce the temperature by about 25 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Have food defrosted before you cook. Simply planning ahead can cut cooking times and energy use in half. Place any frozen dishes in the refrigerator the night before so they are ready to go in the oven the next morning.

Around the house

- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees. Extra people bustling around the home and the oven warming food will heat up your home a few extra degrees. Take advantage and adjust your thermostat accordingly. You will save some money on your bill, and your guests will still be comfortable. ☺

Katie Kothmann Haby writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.