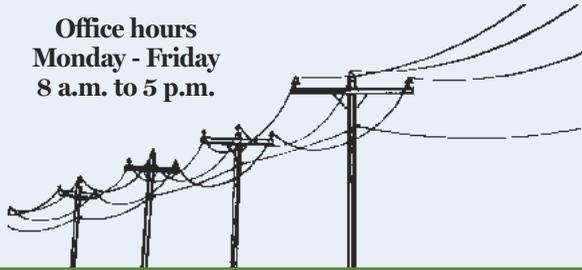


Office hours  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# 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	Johne Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

## EMPLOYEES

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

### 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!

**Joel W. Brown** of rural Liberty Center reported spotting his hidden account number in the December issue of *Country Living* and won half the jackpot. He received a check for \$60.

**Nick Spears** of rural Deshler would have won the same amount if he had reported finding his 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 \$80. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

## Service is the heart of our community

I'M SEEING RED (AND PINK). Valentine's Day could be a great holiday, but the cards, balloons and candy cramming aisles this time of year miss the mark. I need a card for our community. Two Seven Zero Four Zero Zero Four.

It's great to let loved ones know you care about them, but let's go a step further. As a member-owned electric cooperative, we're committed to powering our community and empowering you to improve your quality of life. How can life be better in northwest Ohio? We need hearts for service.

On Feb. 14, take time to send a card to a police officer or firefighter. Give candy (or an apple) to a school teacher. Visit a retirement home and spend time with the folks who built our community. Send a card — or better yet, a donation — to a local charity or food pantry.

These champions are the heart of our community. ☺



**Brett Perkins**  
General Manager



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. Keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use, and caulk around the hearth. Take advantage of the fire's heat by setting the thermostat between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at [www.EnergySavers.gov](http://www.EnergySavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Your elected representatives

## ON THE TRICOUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Steve Hoffman  
President  
District I



Larry Weirich  
Vice President  
District II



Bradley Haupricht Sr.  
Secretary-Treasurer  
District V



Johney Ritz  
District III



Dustin Sonnenberg  
District IV



Kenneth J. Brubaker  
District VI



John Schuchert  
District VII



Brett Perkins  
General Manager

Our service area is divided into seven board districts, each with a member-elected representative who sits on the cooperative's board of trustees. A nominating committee selects candidates for the position of trustee from cooperative members residing in the district up for election who have expressed an interest in serving. The entire membership votes on candidates at the annual meeting. Nine One Two Four Zero Zero One

The seven-member board meets at the cooperative's headquarters, normally on the last Wednesday of each month. The trustees are responsible for cooperative policies, rates and objectives, and regularly review the cooperative's operating performance. As representatives of the rural community, they communicate the problems and needs of the membership.

### District I —

Dover, Pike, Fulton and York townships; Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 28, 32 and 33 of Swan Creek Township SW; and Sections 9, 16 and 21 of Swan Creek Township NW, Fulton County.

### District II —

Washington and Liberty townships, Henry County.

### District III —

Pleasant, Napoleon, Flatrock and Marion townships, Henry County; and Liberty and Van Buren townships, Putnam County.

### District IV —

Harrison and Monroe townships, Henry County.

### District V —

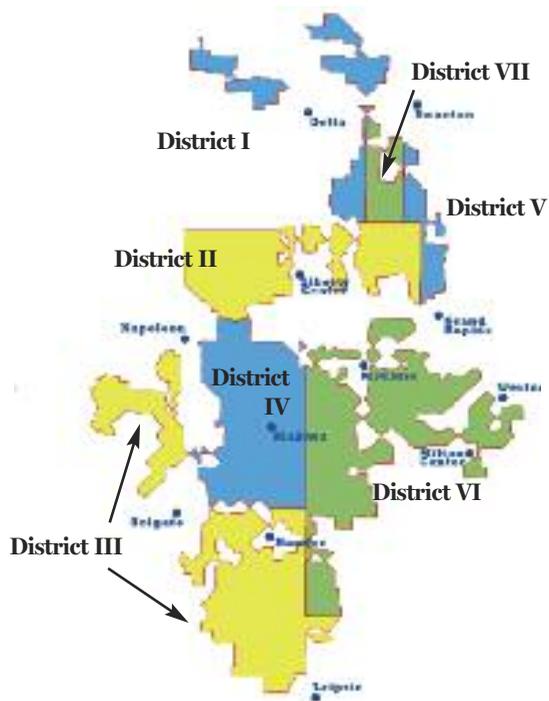
Providence Township, Lucas County; Sections 1, 12, 25 and 36 of Swan Creek Township SE; and Section 24 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County.

### District VI —

Damascus, Richfield and Bartlow townships, Henry County; and Grand Rapids, Milton and Weston townships, Wood County.

### District VII —

Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 26, 27, 34 and 35 of Swan Creek Township SE, and Sections 10, 15, 22 and 23 of Swan Creek Township NE, Fulton County. ☎



# High school sophomores and juniors – you could win the trip of a lifetime!

## What is Youth Tour?

It's not just another trip! Youth Tour is an annual contest sponsored by Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative and Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., that gives deserving high school sophomores and juniors the opportunity to use their knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

You'll meet up with 1,600 of these students in Washington, D.C., in June if you win. Once there, you'll get a chance to meet and talk to congressional leaders from Ohio at the U.S. Capitol and see many of the famous sights.



**June 13-19**



## What are the entry requirements?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of Tricounty REC. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this opportunity.

## While on the Tour, you can visit:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gettysburg                      | Kennedy Center              |
| WWII Memorial                   | White House                 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial | Supreme Court               |
| Jefferson Memorial              | Hard Rock Cafe              |
| Mt. Vernon                      | Library of Congress         |
| National Portrait Gallery       | Smithsonian                 |
| Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum     | Lincoln Memorial            |
| Ford's Theatre                  | Vietnam Memorial            |
| Boat cruise on the Potomac      | National Zoo                |
| Capitol Hill                    | National Cathedral          |
|                                 | Arlington National Cemetery |

## How will the finalists be chosen?

Tricounty will sponsor one student on the Youth Tour. Interested students should complete and return a test on rural electric cooperatives to Tricounty by March 31.

*Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, D.C., this summer.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sophomore  Junior

Mail to:

**Tricounty REC, Inc.  
P.O. Box 100  
Malinta, OH 43535**

# How to fight plug parasites

## Costs from always-on electronics can add up

BY BRIAN SLOBODA  
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK

AS CHILDREN, MOST OF US were told to turn off the TV when no one was in the room to keep from wasting energy. But with today's televisions, turning off the set doesn't save as much energy as you think. Off doesn't really mean off anymore.

Lights, air conditioning and heating use most of your home's electricity. However, all of the TVs, computers, printers, phone chargers and other devices add up. Many gadgets use energy even when you are not using them. These devices are commonly referred to as "parasitic loads," "phantom loads" or "energy vampires" — consuming electricity even when switched off. Phantom loads can be found in almost every room, but a favorite "coffin" is your entertainment center.

Most televisions slowly sip electricity while waiting for someone to turn them on. They use energy to remember channel lineups, language preferences and the time. DVD players, digital video recorder (DVRs), and cable or satellite boxes also use energy when we think they're turned off.

In an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electricity consumption stems from small devices that drain energy even when no one is using them. To put that in perspective, the average North American household consumes roughly 10,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. If you estimate that 6.5 percent of your total electricity consumption comes from phantom loads, the amount drained by these vampires equals about 700 kWh annually — or \$70 every year.

So how can you tell which devices are okay to leave plugged in and which need to have a wooden stake driven through their hearts? Find plug parasites and use smart strips.

### Identify plug parasites

Microwave ovens and alarm clocks, which use relatively small amounts of standby power, are acceptable to leave plugged in. A DVR uses a fairly significant amount of power when turned off, but if you record programs frequently you will want to leave it plugged in.

You don't have to worry about unplugging items with mechanical on/off switches, such as lamps, hair dryers or small kitchen appliances like toasters or mixers; they don't draw any power when turned off.

How do you save energy on the other devices in your home? Try plugging personal computers, monitors, printers, speakers, stereos, DVD and video game players, and cellphone chargers into power strips. Not only do power strips protect sensitive electronic components from power surges, but you can also quickly turn off sev-

eral items at once. Routers and modems also can be plugged into power strips, although they take longer to reactivate.

### Smart strips = easy savings

The problem with power strips is they're often hidden behind entertainment centers or under desks and forgotten. A better solution may be found in "smart strips."

Most smart strips feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. The blue outlet serves as a control plug and is ideal for a heavily used device like a TV or computer. Anything plugged into red outlets stays on — electricity to these receptacles never cuts off — making them perfect for satellite boxes or other appliances that need constant power.

The remaining outlets, generally neutral or green in color, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue outlet, so turning off the TV or computer cuts power to them as well. Some smart power strips can be made even smarter with timers or occupancy sensors that determine when to cut power to various devices.

Smart strips are available online or at specialty electronic retailers. Payback generally can be achieved in less than one year, depending on the type of equipment the strips control and how often they are used. ☞

*Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. CRN monitors, evaluates and applies technologies that help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity and enhance service to their consumers. Additional research provided by ESource.*

