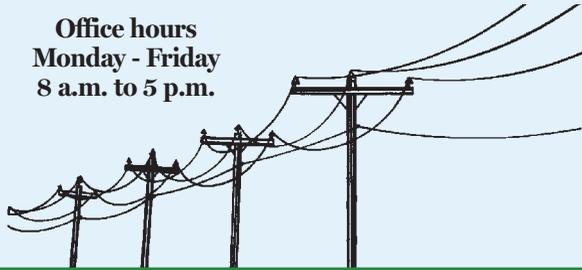


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 100 Malinta, OH 43535
Office Calls: 419-256-7900
www.tricountyelectriccoop.coop



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Steven Hoffman.....	President
Lawrence Weirich	Vice President
Bradley Haupricht Sr.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Brubaker	Johney Ritz
Dustin Sonnenberg	John Schuchert

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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!

Neither **Estel Bullock** of rural Napoleon nor **Christopher Diem** of rural McClure reported spotting their hidden account number in the February issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, they 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 always are in Tricounty's local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$70. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

A day in the life of a lineman

OUR LINEWORKERS FORM a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power — and the men and women who provide it — for granted. Let's take a moment to stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smartly and efficiently, all while 40 feet in the air wearing thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, Tricounty's lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses. They have a lot on their plates. But when you call with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineworker's to-do list. These dedicated employees are always on call. We have a crew standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, not to mention weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to meet a storm head on, and Tricounty lineworkers face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Lineworkers also focus on safety — the lives of co-workers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip-ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is cooperation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their times of need, and they extend that aid to us, too. It's reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a na-

(Continued on page 21)



Brett Perkins
General Manager

Storm safety

WHAT TO DO WHEN THUNDERSTORMS AND TORNADOES STRIKE

BY B. DENISE HAWKINS

SPRING CAN USHER IN more than April showers. Now through the summer months, thunderstorms can quickly roll in and tornadoes can touch down, often during the afternoon and evening hours, according to researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Severe Storms Laboratory.

Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way.

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.

- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.

- If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.

- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.

- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.

- Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to



safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning are occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

One Four Three Seven Five Zero Three

- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

- Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas — power lines could be sub-

merged and still live with electricity. Report them to Tricounty at 1-888-256-9858 immediately.

Learn more about storm safety at www.nssl.noaa.gov/education/svrwx101/thunderstorms. ☞

Sources: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Severe Storms Laboratory, American Red Cross

B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Capital credits are the cooperative way

THE 2013 NOTICE of Capital Credits Allocation recently was mailed to all members who received service from Tricounty last year.

Tricounty is organized as a nonprofit cooperative for the purpose of providing electric service to its member-consumers. When you sign up for electric service for your home, farm or business, you become part of a special group of people who actually own the power company from which they receive service.

Like any other business, we must make a profit to stay in business. But for a cooperative, the profits, or the difference between revenues received and money paid out for expenses, are called margins. Because those margins were provided by you, the co-op members, they are allocated back to you based on the amount of your electrical use, or patronage. The margins that are allocated to your account are called capital credits.

The notice you received showed total patronage (billing) and the amount of your capital credits allocation. That is your share of the Tricounty 2013 margins and represented more than 11 percent of your billing for the year. Your total unretired capital credits balance is also shown on the notice.

Your unretired capital credits are used by your co-

op to provide financing for electric plant extension as well as repairing and replacing older sections of line. Substation equipment upgrades and maintenance and replacement of vehicles are very important to the operation of your co-op. And reserves must be maintained to provide for repairs in the event of major storm damage.

Capital credits are refunded, or paid back, to you as the financial condition of the co-op permits. Each year your board of trustees reviews the co-ops's financial condition and cash flow and determines how much can be refunded to the members. Tricounty's Code of Regulations provides for a first-in, first-out method of refunding capital credits. Capital credits refunds have been made in December of each year since 1978.

Last year, \$486,000 was refunded to members who received electric service from Tricounty in 1999. Upon the death of a member, application can be made for a full refund of all unretired capital credits allocated to an account. Six Eight Eight Six Zero Zero Zero

Your capital credits are a very important part of your membership in and service from Tricounty. It's one of the "cooperative" ways of doing business. ☺



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

Hey Tricounty Rural Electric Co-op Members!

MetaLINK High-Speed Internet Deals - Just for you!!!

As a Tricounty Rural Electric Co-op Member, you are able to get a reduced rate on your high-speed internet through MetaLINK Technologies!

MetaLINK Technologies
417 Wayne Ave Defiance, OH
www.metalink.net



888-999-8002

A day in the life (continued from page 19)

tional team of lineworkers stands ready to answer the call.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At Tricounty, lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment is tested regularly, too.

Tricounty employees light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours. Please take a moment to thank them when you have the chance. ☺



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs and bushes can create a wind break that lowers home heating bills in the winter and insulates your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for your climate at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Organ donation saves lives

APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH, and those responsible for increasing organ and tissue donation in the U.S. are renewing the call for donors who can help save the lives of people in need of transplants.

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, which maintains the nation's transplant waiting list, reported that more than 121,000 candidates were on the list in the first nine months of 2013. New names are added every 10 minutes, and about 18 people a day die while waiting for new organs.

The gift of life, now and later

Most organ and tissue donations come from deceased donors; one person can save up to eight lives. But as the need for organs grows, more people are becoming living donors. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that about 6,000 living donations are made annually; the most frequent procedure is a single kidney transplant. Other common living donations include a lung or a part of the lung, pancreas and intestines.

Of those on the nation's waiting list for kidneys, more than one-third is African-American, accord-

ing to the National Kidney Foundation.

African-Americans suffer disproportionately from high blood pressure, diabetes and certain genetic diseases, which puts them at high risk for kidney disease.

Becoming a donor: The process

- Place your name on the Ohio organ donor registry — learn more and register at www.donatelifehio.org.

- Designate your decision to donate on your driver's license.

- Share your decision to be a donor with your family, physician, religious leader and friends.

When you die, a family member must indicate that it was your desire to donate your organs.

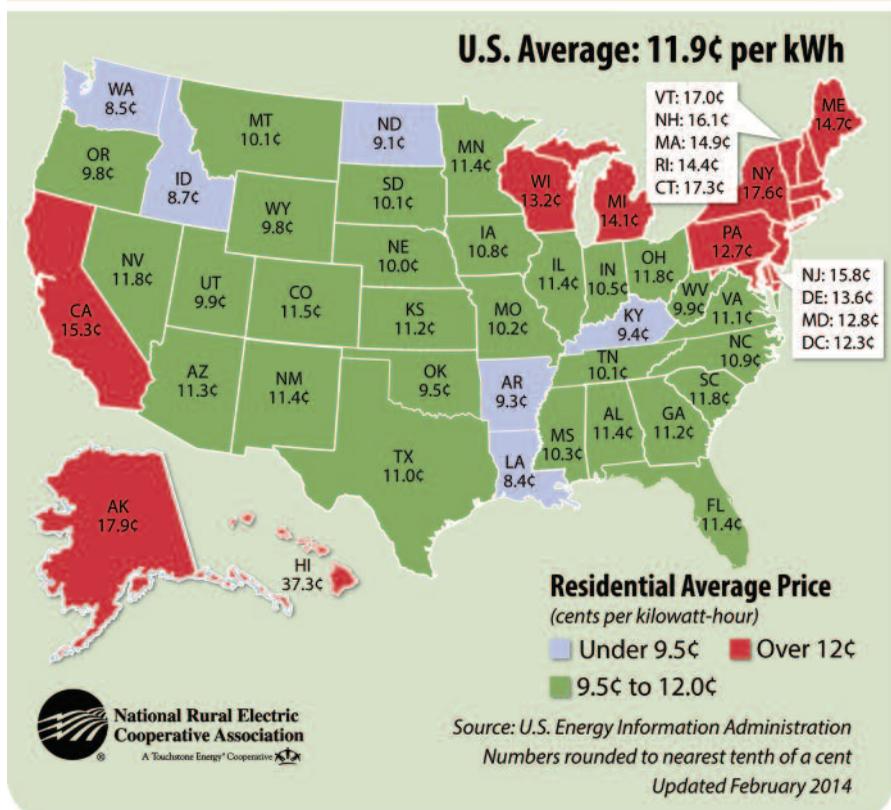
- Include organ donation in your advance directives, will and living will. ☺

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, OrganDonor.gov, Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network



Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2012 figures, in cents per kWh



The Tricounty office will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday.

For emergency services, call 888-256-9858. Have a safe and happy Easter.

