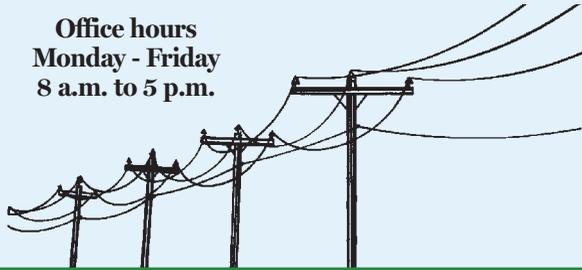


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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	Charles Weagley

EMPLOYEES

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

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!

Harry Norris of rural Swanton reported spotting his hidden account number in the November issue of *Country Living* and won half the jackpot. He received a check for \$30.

David Clapp of rural Liberty Center would have won the same amount if he had reported finding his account number.

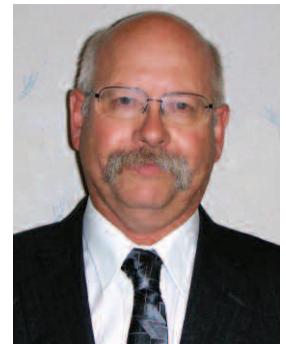
Your account number is on your bill statement. Disregard the zeros at the left in the number, but consider any zeros at the right in the number when converting your number to words.

The hidden account numbers always are in the local pages of the magazine. The jackpot now stands at \$60. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Ritz receives CCD award

Johne Ritz, representing District III on the board of trustees, has completed requirements for the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative trustees, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, governance skills and working knowledge of cooperative principles. Ritz was required to complete and demonstrate understanding of the competencies contained in five core courses, which included Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Roles and Relationships, Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making. He was elected to the board of trustees in 2010. One Four Six Three Two Zero One.



Johney Ritz

Facility charge — what is that?

Each month we receive a few calls from members inquiring about the monthly facility charge on their bill. The facility charge is the average cost for your cooperative to have electric service available for your use at your home or business when you want it, 24 hours a day.

It includes the substation equipment and property, underground and overhead lines with poles, transformers and related equipment that delivers the electricity from the substation to your location, the services and metering, line clearing, property taxes and 24-hours-per-day outage restoration.

Tricounty members have more than \$15 million invested in the utility plant and paid \$222,000 in property taxes on it in 2012.

Safe use of electric heating products add warmth

When used properly and safely, electric blankets and other heating devices can help keep you toasty during cold winter months. Here are a few safety tips for electric blankets and heating pads to keep in mind:

- Purchase items only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are a huge fire and injury hazard. Replace blankets or heating pads with faulty cords.
- Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface.
- Do not put another cover on top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state it's safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.
- Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat — a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that's been tucked in (which can bend wires).
- Never use heated bedding while asleep — look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.

Space heaters

If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home's heating system, some of the same rules of thumb apply, including purchasing a safety-certified model and reading the included safety instructions. More tips for space heaters:

- Keep units three feet away from combustible materials — such as bedding, drapes, clothes and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids like kerosene and gasoline.
- In general, plugging space heaters directly into a wall outlet is best. If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's the correct type and boasts the right wire gauge size for your particular space heater. Otherwise, use a wall socket that can handle the load.
- Check safety instructions before using a space heater around water — some models are not intended for use in bathrooms.
- Be sure children are supervised around space heaters. Curious exploration can lead to electrical shock and burns. Four Six Six Zero Zero Five.
- Finally, unplug and store the space heater in a safe place when you're not using it.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

At least once a year, we print the Continuity of Service notice listed below. We encourage you to carefully read this notice. 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.

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 the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and your local electric cooperative 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 nearly 1,500 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, plus you'll get to see all the sights and visit a bunch of really cool places.



June 14-20



What are the entry requirements?

You must be a high school sophomore or junior, and your parents or legal guardian must be members of an Ohio electric cooperative. Selected students should be energetic and eager to make the most out of this fun opportunity to learn.

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 Theater | Vietnam Memorial |
| Boat cruise on the Potomac | National Zoo |
| Capitol Hill | National Cathedral |
| | Arlington National Cemetery |
| | and much more!!! |

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 15.

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**

High School Seniors

*Are your parents members
of an electric cooperative?*

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

**Contact your electric cooperative for
details on how you can enter**

\$3,000*

**First place for each division, boys' and girls'*

Second place:.....\$2,060 Fifth place:.....\$1,545

Third place:.....\$1,750 Sixth place:.....\$1,440

Fourth place:\$1,650 Seventh place:\$1,340



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 described above.

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

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and their parents receive service from Tricounty.
 2. Have a 3.50 or higher grade-point average through the first semester of their senior year.
 3. Request an application on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative's website at www.ohioruralelectric.coop or contact Tricounty's office to have an application mailed to them.
 4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by February 15.
- 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 scholarship from Tricounty.