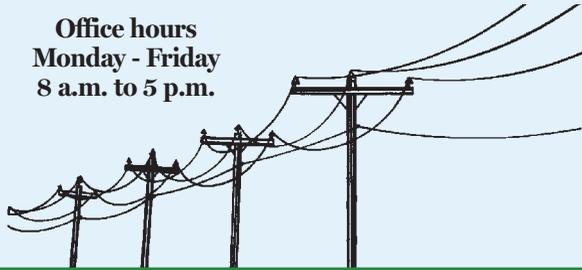


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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
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!

Albert Swany Jr. of rural Swanton reported spotting his hidden account number in the September issue of *Country Living* and won half the jackpot. He received a check for \$45. Amy Labie of Malinta would have won the same amount if she had reported finding her 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 \$110. So read *Country Living*, find your hidden account number, report it and win!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative
wishes you and your family a happy, safe
and bountiful Thanksgiving.

Our office will be closed

Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29.

EMERGENCY SERVICE ALWAYS IS AVAILABLE
24 HOURS A DAY BY CALLING 419-256-7900

See inside pages for highlights of your 76th
Annual Meeting.

2013 Annual Meeting Highlights

About 350 members and guests of Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative made their way to Delta High School on Wednesday, Sept. 18, to participate in the co-op's 76th annual meeting.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting was the chance for members to use the democratic process to elect two of their own to represent them on the Tricounty Board of Trustees.

In District IV, Dustin Sonnenberg was re-elected while John Schuchert won election for the open



General Manager Brett Perkins



President Steve Hoffman

seat serving District VII.

Board President Steven Hoffman told the members that Tricounty had invested \$1.5 million upgrading equipment, building new lines and rebuilding older sections of line. "We have also invested \$360,000 in maintenance on our 616 miles of distribution lines, transformers and for our right-of-way maintenance program. These maintenance and tree trimming programs are vital for Tricounty to provide you with the reliable electric service you have come to expect."

Hoffman also shared that in December, the cooperative will return capital credits earned in 1999 to members and former members. Capital credits are a member's share of the margins—money left after all bills have been paid—earned in a particular year. The cooperative uses that money to fund operations until the cooperative's finances allow the capital credits to be refunded.

Tricounty will retire 50 percent of the allocated capital credits from 1999, or approximately \$487,000.

"In addition, we retire approximately \$125,000 to the estates of deceased members each year," Hoffman said. "Since 1950, Tricounty has returned over \$14 million to our member-owners."

"Neither investor-owned electric utilities nor municipal electric systems return the profits they make to rate payers."

General Manager Brett Perkins took some time during his address to thank Tricounty's employees. He said severe storms this past summer brought out



the best in the employees.

“I was able to witness first-hand the employees’ resilience, commitment and dedication to Tricounty and its members,” Perkins said. “Many times their efforts go unnoticed as they work through the night, when most are asleep.” Five zero three two zero one.

“During times like these, it reminds me of how great it is to be a part of Tricounty, its staff and a cooperative-based network,” he added.

Perkins also highlighted some of the accomplishments of the past year.

- Tricounty has partnered with the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) and established a toll-free outage hotline. “CRC can answer multiple calls at one time during power outage situations and communicate this information with the crews more efficiently,” Perkins said.

- The board and management created a strategic plan to provide guidance and establish goals for Tricounty for the next several years.

- Tricounty worked



Elected to the Tricounty Board of Trustees were (left) Dustin Sonnenberg (District 4) and John Schuchert (District 7).

and requirements.

“The board and I have a fiduciary responsibility to you, the members, to maintain the financial integrity of Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative and are committed to providing you, our members, with reliable, affordable and safe electricity,” Perkins said. “I am proud to say that Tricounty has some of the lowest rates in the state of Ohio.”

Maintaining those low rates isn’t without challenges as the cooperative contends with increasing costs such as taxes and the cost of power. About 65 cents of every dollar paid by a Tricounty member covers the cost of wholesale power from Buckeye Power.

“Buckeye Power has one of the cleanest coal plants in the world, at a cost of approximately \$1 billion,” Perkins said. “This alone equates to about \$20 per month on your bill.

“Keep in mind, we do not generate excess profits to pay outside investors. Tricounty is a not-for-profit cooperative; our rates are designed only to meet our financial requirements.”

Tony Ahern, president and CEO of Buckeye Power and the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., updated members on their cooperative-owned wholesale power supplier.

Buckeye has invested \$1 billion on environmental controls at the Cardinal Station, which uses coal to generate most of the wholesale power used by Ohio’s cooperative members. “We have really lowered emissions,” he said. “These emissions are on the same level as some of the newest coal units.”



Tony Ahern, Buckeye Power

with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to conduct a member attitude survey. “The survey informed the board and management about what aspects Tricounty was doing well and, more importantly, what aspects you, the members, felt we needed to improve,” Perkins said.

Tricounty rated the highest in member satisfaction among Ohio’s electric cooperatives with a score of 89 on a 0 to 100 scale. “That’s 12 points higher than the national average for investor-owned utilities and 13 points higher than the national average for municipalities,” Perkins said.

The cooperative also worked with the Cooperative Finance Corporation to complete a cost-of-service study, which helps determine what the cooperative’s rate structure should look like to meet financial goals



Secretary-Treasurer Bradley Haupricht



Karigan Blue, Washington Youth Tour representative.

Ahern said Ohio's electric cooperatives face a challenge from proposals by President Obama to lower the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted at locations such as power plants. "The problem with what the president is proposing is that the U.S. is the only one looking at this," he said. "China is going full-tilt" with the development of coal-fired power plants.

"If you're going to lift an economy out of poverty, you need energy," he said about why the Chinese are focused on developing new power sources and not worried about greenhouse gas emissions.

"We need your support," Ahern told the members. One seven one nine five zero two.

He encouraged them to stay informed about the issues by reading *Country Living* magazine each month, contacting their cooperative to learn more about the issues and supporting the efforts of their cooperative's leaders.

Greg Steyer, CPA, reviewed the cooperative's financial report with members, and Karigan Blue, a student at Patrick Henry High School, shared her experience repre-

senting Tricounty on this past summer's Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

The meeting concluded with 22 lucky members walking out a little richer when cash door prizes totaling \$600 were awarded.

Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative serves more than 4,300 members in Henry, Fulton, Putnam, Wood and Lucas counties. ☞

