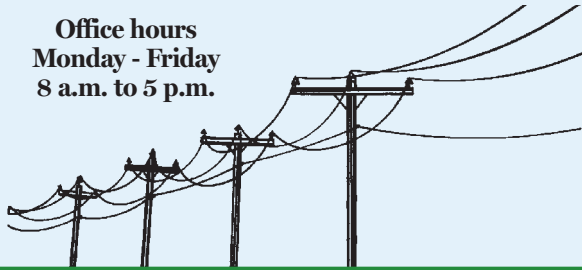


Office hours
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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!

Neither **Dennis Morris** of rural Deshler nor **Alfredo Vallejo Jr.** of rural Swanton reported spotting his hidden account number in the October issue of *Country Living*. Had either done so, he would have won half the jackpot and received a check for \$50.

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 \$120. 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. 25, and Wednesday, 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 an electric cooperative?

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

\$3,200

Contact Tricounty Electric
for details on how to enter.



Second place:.....	\$2,200
Third place:.....	\$1,800
Fourth place:.....	\$1,700
Fifth place:.....	\$1,600
Sixth place:.....	\$1,500
Seventh place: ...	\$1,400
Eighth place:.....	\$1,300
Ninth place:	\$1,200

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, a high school senior must:

1. Live within Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative's service area and your parents receive service from Tricounty.
2. Have a 3.50 or higher grade-point average through the first semester of their senior year.
3. Download an application on the Ohio Rural Electric Cooperative's website at www.ohioruralelectric.coop or contact Tricounty's office to request one via mail.
4. Submit the completed application to Tricounty's office by Feb. 7.
5. 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.

\$486,000 returned to co-op members in December

DECEMBER 2013 MARKS THE 36th consecutive year Tricounty has made a general retirement of capital credits to current and former cooperative members. With this year's \$486,000 refund and payments to the estates of deceased members, more than \$15 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/owners also share in the profits, or margins, that are left at the end of the year after all the expenses are paid. Five Zero Eight Zero Zero Zero Four

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 their own capital credits account. The margins, or patronage capital, is 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.

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 re-

views 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 \$486,000.

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 is one of the numerous advantages to co-op membership. ☺

Last call to claim capital credits

IN DECEMBER 2009, WE mailed capital credits refund checks to current and former members for 50 percent of the 1997 allocation. Of these, about 100 checks totaling \$9,300 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, 2014.

Nicolas L. Acosta	Jeffrey J. Dawley	Mark E. Hess	Robert G. Mugg	Donald G. Shrider
Marc J. Alexander	Mary A. Dewit	Kelly Hollinger	Nathan A. Mund	James C. Smith
American Tower Corp.	Juanita G. Dodd	Mary B. Howard	Cathy Myers	Linda J. Smith
Vicki Baden	Phyllis A. Duggan	Howard S. Hutchinson	Michael E. Nihoul	Mark R. Smithers
Gregory C. Baker	Maria Escamilla	Michael R. Johnson	Michael E. Oakley	John C. Stephens
Stephen R. Bare	Olga L. Escobedo	Lynette Kennedy	John Pauley	Mark Stevens
William N. Bishop	Terry N. Feasel	Joseph C. Kirkman, Jr.	Raymond M. Perkins	Scott A. Sturtevant
Gary J. Bobak	Wayne E. Fischer	John B. Kistner	Chris Pickel	John Thompson
Charlene Boucher	Mark E. Frey	Paul W. Kozbial, Jr.	Jack J. Pojancki	Triax Associates
Robert M. Broadhead	Henry L. Geahlen	Douglas C. Kreinbrink	Mark S. Quinn	Susan M. Turanski
Brooks Contracting Inc.	Marcia Gordos	Brian Kruse	Peggy L. Rettig	Elizabeth Wells
Sue A. Bryan	James M. Gowing	Patrick J. Lasich	Paul Robinson	Robert W. Wheeler
Mario F. Bunster	Thomas P. Gowing	Kathleen Latta	Beth L. Russell	Logan J. Wilburn
Lynn M. Busdiecker	John A. Graham	Sondra J. Majerowski	Terry L. Sager	Jackie Williams
Cablecom Time Warner	Grand Trunk Western	Jo Ann Marino	Danny E. Schetter	James A. Wilmore
Larry Cook	Railroad	John M. Martinez	Mark E. Shank	James W. Wilson
Jeanne Cooper	Calvin S. Griffin	Rod Mathison	Susan A. Shank	Gordon R. Winland II
Norris Coulson	Randy Hall	Harold Mayle	Jose D. Sierra	Duane Wolf
Brenda K. Cowell	Gary A. Haney	Dale R. McDowell	Robert Sims	Joseph Ziarko
Thomas E. Cox	Jacob Harvey	Robert B. Meyers	Larry Skates	
Kenneth L. Cymbola	Linda Hassen	Timothy W. Moore	Howard Sherman	

Help us protect affordable, reliable electricity

America needs 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERS ARE disappointed — but not surprised — that in September, the Obama Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years, cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology doesn't make sense right now. It has never been used on a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimated it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The Administration's switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to a plentiful and affordable resource. I don't think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy. Nine Two Four Zero Zero One

Already worried about making ends meet, many of Tricounty Electric consumer-members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Infor-

mation Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity, our biggest energy source by far.

It seems the Administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas — the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully, Congress repealed its mistake — but not for nine years.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop, and click on "Take Action" to tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy. ☞



Brett Perkins
General Manager

