

ADAMS



Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 247, 4800 St. Rte. 125
West Union, OH 45693
Phone: 937-544-2305
Toll-free 1-800-283-1846

Trustees

Stephen Huff President
Donald C. McCarty Sr. Vice President
Kenneth McCann Secretary
Blanchard Campbell ..M. Dale Grooms
Charles L. Newman ... William Seaman
William Wylie John Wickerham

Personnel

Bill Swango **General Manager**

Erika Ackley	Dave Kirker
Alice Baird	Chris Koenig
Steve Campbell	Rodney Little
Kacee Cox	Ronald Lynch
Chad Daniels	Dave McChesney
Joan Drummond	Kristina Orr
Joyce Grooms	John Polk
John Hayslip	David Ralston
David Henry	Andrew Seaman
Steve Hoop	Kimberly Smith
Matt Isaac	Gary Tolle
Jared Johnson	Mike Whitley

Pay stations

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact the office before the due date and we will issue another.

For the convenience of Adams REC members, we have established several ways to pay your bill:

- online at www.adamsrec.com.
- by phone at 1-800-809-6352.
- directly from your bank account.

Pay at these collection points:

The First State Bank
Georgetown, Hillsboro, Manchester,
Peebles, Ripley, Seaman, West Union,
and Winchester

The National Bank of Adams County
218 N. Market St., West Union

Hidden account number credit

Find your account number in the Adams REC local pages (the four center pages of this magazine), then call our office, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill. You must call by the end of the month in which your account number appears. Your call affirms permission to publish your name as a winner in an upcoming issue of *Country Living*.

We are ready to work with elected officials

AS THE NATION PREPARES to welcome a new Congress and administration, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

We have reason to believe this message will be well-received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide, a sizable constituency by any measure.

Moreover, whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: Many, many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For member-owned cooperatives, listening to people is at the heart of our business model. And we carry our members' concerns to public officials every day.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas. Co-ops Vote did more than register voters. 1130850025. This initiative sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

And co-ops will be reinforcing this message with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs

such as funding for infrastructure — especially transmission lines and access to natural gas, increasing the efficiency of the electric system, and determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf.

Here at Adams Rural Electric, we will be reaching out to local, state, and federal officials. In initial conversations, we will be explaining the unique member-owned, not-for-profit co-op business model. And we will remind long-time politicians of our co-op's commitment to its members.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration. It is likely many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers and protecting access to safe, reliable, and affordable electric power will be a bipartisan effort. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's capital and in statehouses across the country.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops do best! ☺

General Manager's Report

by
Bill Swango



This-n-that

BY ALICE L. BAIRD

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Ready or not, 2017 has arrived! I hope your Christmas was very happy and blessed, and your New Year is prosperous and productive.

If you are anything like me, the most productive thing you can accomplish right now is to get the tree down and decorations put away. I know some of you take yours down the very next day — some even on the same day — but I am one of those that like to leave things up until at least New Year's Day. I guess it's because that's what my Mom did.

Scholarships for members' children

Last month's issue of Country Living contained information concerning our scholarship program. Adams REC scholarship awards for 2017 will total \$4,200. A total of six scholarships will be awarded: two first-place scholarships of \$1,100 each will be given to a boy and a girl, two second-place scholarships of \$600 each will be awarded to a boy and a girl, and two third-place scholarships of \$400 each will be awarded to either boys or girls. The deadline for submission of an application to the office is Jan. 31.

Students may obtain an application and rules from their guidance counselor, pick them up at the Adams REC office, or access them online at www.adamsrec.com. Keep in mind that you may complete the application online and print it out, but you cannot save it. After I have received all of the applications, I will send out packets to each qualifying applicant with interview times and "The Cooperative Difference" booklets. The interview date is set for February 24.

The first-place winners from Adams will then be eligible to compete for an additional statewide scholarship from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, up to \$3,500. See the full-page ad within these local pages for more information.

Payment options

For your convenience, Adams REC provides several ways to pay your bill. You can pay your bill online, by phone, or directly from your bank account to avoid the hassle of using stamps, envelopes, or driving to the office. You can also pay by mail, in person at the office, in the drop box, or at the National Bank of Adams County and all branches of the First State Bank. Contact the office if you are interested in having your payment taken directly from your bank account each month.

When sending in one payment for multiple

Paying your bill has never been easier!

3 ways to pay with:

NO ENVELOPES!

NO STAMPS!

NO DRIVING!

ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE

BY PHONE

DIRECT PAYMENT

FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

*Pay online at www.adamsrec.com; just click on the "Pay Your Bill" link and follow the instructions. You can pay by credit/debit card or from your checking/savings account.

*Pay by phone with our payment hotline. Dial 1-800-809-6352 and follow the directions. You can pay by credit/debit card or from your checking/savings account.

*Sign up for Direct Payment to have your payment automatically drafted from your bank account — call the office for questions or to find out how to sign up.

If you have any questions about which payment method is the best one for you, please call Adams REC at 937-544-2305.

accounts, please enclose a payment stub for each account. If you pay for several accounts with one check, but send only one account payment stub, the entire payment will go to just that one account.

It seems that economic pressures are felt more keenly during the winter months when budgets seem to be stretched to the limit. If you find yourself facing disconnection of service, please call the office to inquire about payment arrangements or an extension before the disconnect date.

Remember that failure to receive your bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact the office billing department, and we will issue another.

Outage reminder

If you experience an outage, please call the office at 937-544-2305 or 1-800-283-1846. If you post on Facebook, or e-mail your outage information, it could prolong the restoration time. E-mails and Facebook are not continuously monitored, especially in the evenings or on weekends.

If you need information concerning the scholarship program, capital credits, or have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me in the office by phone at 937-544-2305 or e-mail aliceb@adamsrec.com. ☺

2017 GRADS: ARE YOUR PARENTS ADAMS REC MEMBERS?

IF SO, YOU COULD WIN UP TO \$4,600 IN SCHOLARSHIPS!

- * First-place winners in both girls' and boys' divisions receive a \$1,100 scholarship from Adams REC and will go on to compete for a \$3,500 statewide scholarship through Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.
- * Ohio's Electric Cooperatives will distribute a total of 18 scholarships.



TO OBTAIN RULES AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE
CHILDREN OF MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP:

- Stop by the co-op office or contact Alice Baird:
Adams REC, P.O. Box 247, West Union, OH 45693
aliceb@adamsrec.com; 937-544-2305
- Contact your guidance counselor
- Visit Adams REC's website at www.adamsrec.com
- Applications due in office Jan. 31; interviews on Feb. 24

**OHIO'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

Digital devices can have a **BIG** impact on your bill

AH, THE DIGITAL AGE. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new ways, brilliant entertainment options, and, of course, the Internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. But these cool new capabilities come with a few pitfalls: “vampire” loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions, computers, cellphones, and gaming devices.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So trying to plug your brand-new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts” take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Adams REC and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called a “vampire” load. Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips. These look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. This is perfect for home entertainment systems, computer setups, and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have increased energy effi-

ciency and reduced purchase prices. This sounds like a good thing, but when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger and continue to use the old tech — technology reincarnation.

For example, flat screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved, and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their favorite show or sports event in near-life size? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller

TV, which likely ends up in another room — “reincarnated” in another setting — still using power. This often happens with refrigerators, which end up in the basement or garage.

Here are a couple words of advice to help you avoid, or at least reduce, the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when the devices plugged into it are not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear, unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less. ☺



Happy New Year!

Out with the old, in with the new — wishing you a happy and safe year the whole way through.

The office is closed Jan. 2. Emergency service is available at 937-544-2305 or 1-800-283-1846.

Capital credits retirements

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for November 2016 totaled \$8,728.89. Estates paid in 2016 to-date total \$157,230.22.

In case of the death of a member of Adams Rural Electric, contact Kimberly Smith or Alice Baird at 937-544-2305 or 800-283-1846.