



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

THE WINTER OF 2018



Bill Swango
GENERAL MANAGER

It has been about three years since we had what I call an “old fashioned winter.” January 2018 jogged my memory real quick. Of course, it started in late December with a 16-day stretch of temperatures that didn’t get above the freezing mark. Several of those nights saw below zero temperatures by early morning. After a brief warm up, it was below freezing temperatures for another stretch, accompanied by multiple accumulating snow falls.

It wouldn’t be Ohio unless we throw in some odd weather, so on Jan. 22 at about 10:30 p.m., we had a thunderstorm roll through our area that caused widespread outages. The temperatures had reached a high around sixty, which help bring in the wind, lightning, and thunder.

Just to reassure you, we did not have a rate increase. We have not had an increase since July 2009. The cold winter temperatures do translate to higher electric bills for consumers, though. Whether your heat is all electric or another source, energy use will go up when the temperature plummets. It is not only our cooperative members whose bills go up; no matter who supplies energy, when it’s cold, everyone’s bills go up. My home electric bill I received in January was over \$425 — and that is

not counting the propane for two fireplaces that we use. My electric supplier is AEP, and there have been a lot of people complaining about their high bills.

Everyone knows that if you heat your home with an electric source, your bill is going to increase in the cold weather. But most are surprised by the increase in their bill if they don’t heat with electric. While the increase won’t be as much, you still have furnace blowers that run more, your water heater uses more energy because the water is colder, and maybe there’s an electric heater that you turn on or plug in for additional heat. During the holidays, you may have Christmas lights and do more cooking. All of these contribute to increases in electric bills.

If you find you are having trouble paying the higher bills, please contact our office. We can direct you to area agencies that may be able to help. In some cases, we can set the higher bill on a payment arrangement that will spread the payment, along with your regular bill, over a three-month period.

The good news is that SPRING is just days away!





NOTES

This-n-That

I must make a confession: I have a little pet peeve. On Facebook, I often see someone sharing pictures with the caption, “Do you remember this?”

I am usually thinking to myself, “What do you mean ‘remember this?’ I still use it.”

For instance, an iron skillet. I love my iron skillets; that’s all I use. The last one I saw online was a metal vegetable peeler. Seriously, y’all don’t still use a vegetable peeler? Then there was a wringer washer. I don’t have one, but I wish I did — at least you could control your wash load. I am not a fan of being locked out of my washer. If I forget to put something in, I want to be able to raise the lid.

Then there was a Crock Pot. What? I have one in my cabinet. Next, a cheese slicer, an iron, and of all things, a Betty Crocker cook book. I use mine all the time! I got one for each of my daughters when they got married.

What’s the deal here? I’m sure I am not the only one who still cooks, does laundry, and irons. Maybe I am a little too retro for some folks, but you know what they say? “If it ain’t broke.....”

Please call in your outages; do not use e-mail or Facebook, as they are not continuously monitored.

Now, if you ask, “Do you remember when there was no electricity at your house?,” then most folks would say they don’t. We are very blessed to be able to say that most of us have grown up enjoying the benefits of flipping a light switch and plugging in appliances. You might even say we are a little spoiled. We forget that there are parts of the world where people cannot enjoy the privileges and conveniences that we take for granted, like turning on the TV, charging cell phones, heating and cooling our homes and businesses, or just lighting up a room by flipping a switch. 3500406500.

Times have changed — that’s for sure. The way we do things has changed, too. Electricity has played a major role in these changes, and Adams REC has been bringing light to this area for more than 70 years. Through all of the changes and ups and downs, Adams REC continues the effort to bring you electricity to meet your ever-changing power needs.

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



CO-OP NEWS

Gary Tolle retires after 21 years of service

Adams Rural Electric trustees, management, staff, and employees celebrated the retirement of Gary Tolle (also known as “Swifty”), along with members of his family, on Jan 9. Gary was presented with a gift by General Manager Bill Swango and Board President Stephen Huff. Everyone enjoyed an abundance of delicious food, cake, and camaraderie.

Gary began his career at Adams REC on Feb. 7, 1996, as a journeyman tree trimmer. He retired on Jan. 10, 2018, after nearly 22 years of service.

Gary and his wife, Regina, are anxious to begin the next chapter in their lives. “It sure is going to be different,” Gary said.

We wish Gary the best and trust that he will enjoy a healthy and happy retirement.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 3** **15th Annual Adams County Amish Bird Symposium.** Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau and the Adams County Amish community gather for a daylong celebration of birds that features speakers, vendors, live raptors from Raptor Incorporated, and other activities. Registration required. For information, contact 937-544-5639.
- 31** **26th Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt** at the Wilson Children's Home in West Union. Registration starts at noon. Festivities start at 1 p.m. Ages: Walking to age 10. Eggs will be exchanged for candy. For more information, contact 937-544-2511.

April

- 7** **Loose Thread Quilters Quilt Show.** Peebles Methodist Church, 1370 Measley Ridge Rd. Runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bed turning will be at 1 p.m. Trunk show, door prizes, and demonstrations run all day long. For more information, call 513-218-3373.
- 14** **8th Annual Quilt Show.** Stone Chapel United Methodist Church, 89 Trefz Rd., West Union. Runs from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bed turning at 2:30 p.m., Door prizes will be given out. For more information, contact Linda Copas at 937-217-4695.
- 28** **Bentonville Anti-Horse Thief Society Banquet.** 7 p.m. at Burning Heart Camp in Bentonville. Contact Verna Naylor at 937-549-3360.



UPDATE

HAS YOUR INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please update your mailing address & phone number.

Member name: _____

Account number: _____

New address: _____

New phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mail to: Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. • P.O. Box 247 • West Union, OH 45693

Capital credits retirements

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for January 2018 totaled \$19,348.54. In case of the death of a member of Adams Rural Electric, contact Kimberly Smith or Alice Baird at 937-544-2305 or 1-800-283-1846.



ADAMS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



The office will be closed on
Friday, March 30,
in observance of Good Friday.



Daylight
Saving Time
begins March
11 at 2 a.m.
Don't forget
to turn your
clocks forward
one hour.



Paying your bill has never been easier!

- 3 WAYS TO PAY:**
1. ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE
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*Sign up for Direct Payment to have your payment automatically drafted from your bank account. Call the office to sign up. If you have any questions, call Adams REC at 937-544-2305.

NO ENVELOPES! NO STAMPS! NO DRIVING!



ADAMS RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT

937-544-2305 | 1-800-283-1846
www.adamsrec.com

OFFICE

4800 St. Rte. 125
P.O. Box 247
West Union, OH 45693

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. – Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PAY YOUR BILL AT 1-800-809-6352

We provide three convenient ways to pay: online, by phone, or directly from your bank account. Failure to receive your bill in no way relieves you from paying it. If you don't receive your bill, contact the office before the due date and we'll issue another one.

Pay at these collection stations:
First State Bank — Georgetown, Hillsboro, Manchester, Peebles, Ripley, Seaman, West Union, and Winchester.
National Bank of Adams County — 218 N. Market St., West Union.

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HIDDEN NUMBER BILL 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 *Ohio Cooperative Living*.