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 West Union, OH 45693
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Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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David Henry	Kimberly Smith
Steve Hoop	Gary Tolle
Dave Kirker	Mike Whitley
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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:

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

Pay at these collection points:

The 5/3 Bank of Southern Ohio
 Manchester, Peebles, West Union

The First State Bank of Adams County
 Manchester, Seaman, Winchester,
 Peebles and West Union

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Keeping you informed

As a big Cincinnati Reds fan, sometimes I'm upset by an umpire's decision. I know umps are needed to enforce rules of the game, but I've seen quite a few blown calls in my time.

In many ways, umpire mistakes mirror what's going on with government regulation regarding electric utilities and electricity production. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) writes the rulebook for power suppliers such as Buckeye Power, and EPA also serves as an umpire, enforcing the rules of the game.

At Adams Rural Electric, we're committed to keeping your electric bill affordable. So you can understand why I get upset when I see EPA folks make bad calls that put pressure on how much you pay for power.

Over the last two years, Congress debated, but never passed, a comprehensive climate change bill. Into this void, EPA has stepped forward and has now fielded a team of new regulations. Out of these "players," three could hit electric bills out of the park. 1420002204



Clean Air Transport Rule

This rule kicks in next year and aims to cap power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide from state to state between 31 eastern states and the District of Columbia. By 2014, EPA claims the rule, when combined with other state and federal measures (such as Maximum Achievable Control Technology, or MACT, rules for mercury emissions), will reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants by 71 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels, but it will cost utilities \$2.8 billion every year to comply.

Cooling Water Intake Requirements

Power plants use water from lakes or rivers to cool generating equipment. While screens and various components prevent fish and other wildlife from entering water intake pipes, EPA thinks this equipment could be improved. We're expecting a rule proposal this month, and the impact could be severe. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, claims if this rule is strictly enforced, one-third of U.S. electricity capacity may need to be retired.

Coal Ash

To ensure the safe disposal of fly ash and other residues (bottom ash, scrubber sludge and slag) produced by coal-fired power plants (known as coal combustion residuals, or CCRs), EPA is considering whether or not to designate the materials — for the first time — as hazardous waste. Complying with this rule

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This and that

BY ALICE L. BAIRD

Each year Adams Rural Electric Cooperative sponsors two youth programs: the Scholarship Program for high school seniors and the Youth Tour Program for sophomores and juniors.

This month you will find within these local pages information concerning the 2011 Ohio Rural Electric Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., from June 10 to 16, as well as the information form. Adams REC will sponsor one student for the all-expense-paid tour. Participants will join sophomores and juniors from across the United States to visit the Capitol, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Vietnam Memorial, Mount Vernon and other fascinating places. To be eligible for consideration, a student must have a parent or guardian who is a member of Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. High school sophomores or juniors who are interested should have their entrance form in the office by March 14.

Last month's issue of *Country Living* contained information concerning the Scholarship Program. Your school should have received an information packet with rules and applications. The deadline for applications to be in the office is March 11. A student may access the application online at www.adamsrec.com. Go to the Adams REC website and click on Helpful Links; then click on Buckeye Power, then Youth Programs (right side of page, middle), then click on OREC Scholarships for Children of Consumers. For more information on either program, do not hesitate to call the office.

Be prepared

This may appear to be a repeat, but I try each year to advise our members to try to be prepared for possible severe weather. Make sure if you or a loved one is dependent upon electricity for life support that you have a backup plan in the event of an ice storm or major or prolonged outage. Keep extra blankets, warm clothing, flashlights and batteries on hand and easily accessible. It's a good idea to have bottled drinking water (about one gallon per person per day for at least three days) and nonperishable foods on hand, as well as a manual can opener. Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. If there is a prolonged outage and you are not sure of the safety of your food, remember the saying "If in doubt, throw it out."

You should also have a Grab and Go box — a container that can be easily picked up and taken out of the home in the event of a disaster such as fire or tornado. A portable fireproof and waterproof con-

tainer that can be locked is recommended. Store important papers in file folders and place the folders in sealed, waterproof plastic bags inside the box. Keep the box accessible and the information up to date. In the event of an emergency, grab the box as you leave, along with the external hard drive for your computer if you have one. While away from your home, be sure to keep your Grab and Go box with you at all times.

Items included in your Grab and Go box could be:

- Passports and copies of your driver's license; auto registration and insurance card
- Copies of health and dental insurance cards with contact information, as well as a list of children's immunizations, list of medications and prescription numbers
- Copies of wills, trusts and power of attorney; list of financial accounts and account numbers; copies of items in your safe-deposit box
- Copies of birth, adoption, marriage, divorce and death certificates; copies of citizenship papers and military service records
- Emergency phone numbers for family members, doctors, pharmacies

In the event of an extended power outage or emergency, remember to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly, who sometimes try to weather the storms without asking for help. Remember that even if it doesn't seem like it at times, we are working hard year-round to provide uninterrupted service to our members. Sometimes that is just not possible. Pre-planning is the best defense against winter weather-related electric outages as well as any disaster or emergency.

Calendar item

Feb. 19 — 7th Annual Chili Cook-Off — Peebles Elementary School, 5:30 p.m., Southern Ohio Trail Association — Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Contest; Pot Luck Dinner at 6 p.m.; Silent Auction; Peebles High and Elementary Karaoke Contest at 7 p.m.; David James Band performing 8:45-10:15 p.m. Contact Tim Applegate at 513-260-2918 or Harmon Sizemore at 937-444-4092.

Keep in mind that Adams REC will be closed on Feb. 14 in recognition of Presidents Day. Happy Valentine's Day!

If you need information concerning the youth programs 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.

Keeping you informed

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could cost billions and would also halt recycling efforts. Right now we use one-third of all fly ash as a Portland cement substitute — and for every ton of concrete replaced by fly ash, a ton of greenhouse gas emissions is avoided. On four prior occasions — most recently under the Clinton Administration in 2000 — EPA determined CCRs do not warrant regulation as a hazardous waste. Not only did EPA find CCRs rarely, if ever, exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic, the agency also concluded states can safely manage CCRs under federal nonhazardous waste rules.

Adams Rural Electric Cooperative is committed to keeping you informed about government regulations that will increase the cost of electricity. We're joining co-ops nationally to ask Congress for a much-needed time-out — a two-year moratorium on EPA regulation of carbon dioxide greenhouse

gases. A delay would give lawmakers the opportunity to fashion climate change legislation that protects you, our consumers, and keeps electric bills affordable.

We're controlling costs through improved efficiencies and innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain; we're working to keep your electric bills affordable. We're Looking Out for You!

Important Notice

We have received reports that some of Adams REC members have received calls promoting cheaper electric service and then requesting personal information.

First, let me note that Ohio electric utilities have set service territories and that Adams REC, as an electric cooperative, is not a participant in deregulation. As a member of Adams Rural Electric, you cannot purchase electricity from another company.

Second, and most important, **no employee of Adams Rural Electric will ever call and ask for your personal information.** If you call the office to discuss your account, make a payment, request disconnection or for any service-related reason, we will verify your identity by the last four digits of your Social Security number. We will never ask for personal information such as your banking information unless you want to initiate a payment.

If you have given out your personal banking information, you should contact your banking facility. Identity theft is still on the rise and you should always be on alert and vigilant about protecting your personal information.

BILL SWANGO
GENERAL MANAGER

Capital credits

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for December 2010 totaled \$11,902.31. Estates paid in 2010 totaled \$120,930.34.

In case of the death of a member of Adams Rural Electric, contact Alice Baird at 937-544-2305 or 1-800-283-1846.

WE MADE PAYING YOUR BILL EASIER
3 ways to pay with:

NO ENVELOPES!
NO STAMPS!
NO DRIVING!

- ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE
- BY PHONE
- DIRECT PAYMENT

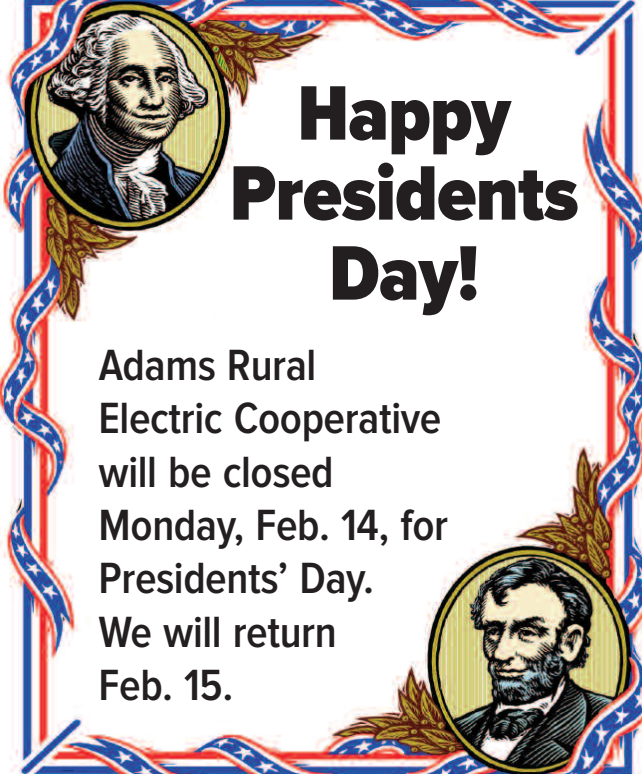
FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

*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.

*Call the office to sign up for Direct Payment from your bank account.

If you have any questions, call the office at 937-544-2305.



Happy Presidents Day!

Adams Rural Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb. 14, for Presidents' Day. We will return Feb. 15.

Hidden account number credit

Find your account number in the 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.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Ninety percent of the energy it takes to wash clothes is used to heat water. If you wash in cold water, you could save \$40 per year if you have an electric water heater and \$30 annually if you have one powered by natural gas.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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 like you the opportunity to use your knowledge and wit to compete for a FREE week-long trip to Washington, D.C.

You'll meet up with nearly 1,500 students from across the country in June if you win. 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.

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.

How will the finalists be chosen?

Send this coupon to your local electric cooperative for its rules and judging criteria.



Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the Youth Tour 2011 to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Sophomore Junior

Male Female

Contact: Alice Baird, Adams REC

P.O. Box 247, West Union, OH 45693

or call 937-544-2305

Applications due in the office no later than March 14.