

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

Charles Grimes President
Charles L. Newman Vice President
Donald Holton Secretary
Blanchard Campbell M. Dale Grooms
Kenneth McCann Donald C. McCarty, Sr.
William Seaman William Wylie

Personnel

Bill Swango General Manager
Erika Ackley Rodney Little
Alice Baird Ronald Lynch
Monica Baldwin Dave McChesney
August Brooks Kristina Orr
Gary Call John Polk
Rex Chapman David Ralston
Joyce Grooms Jack Ross
Keith Grooms C. Wayne Sears
Ronald Carl Hanson Donnie Shoemaker
John Hayslip Kimberly Smith
David Henry Gary Tolle
Steve Hoop Mike Whitley
Dave Kirker Charlotte Willett
Chris Koenig Betty R. Young

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

Tough economic times require new approaches

Times are tough. You don't have to be reminded of the economic problems weighing down our families, communities, state and nation. Neither do the folks at your electric cooperative. The recession has hit us also. At a time when we projected continued growth in new services and revenues, we've seen home construction stutter and nearly stop, rising unemployment, increased operating costs and reduced demand for electricity.

Corny as it sounds, we're all in this together. We've already taken steps to reduce our costs and become more efficient. Every penny we save and each process we streamline produces bottom-line benefits for the co-op and its member-owners.

Your cooperative has always endeavored to be fiscally conservative. It's the tradition of your electric cooperative program to plan and properly time expenditures, decide thoughtfully and spend carefully. We answer to you, the membership, after all, not to profit-hungry stockholders. The Board of Trustees at Adams Rural Electric Cooperative stands accountable for all purchases and every project launched. However, as times change, we must, through honest self-evaluation, search for every possibility to save money and manpower. 2020007311

Change doesn't have to hurt. Co-ops across Ohio are evolving toward new models of business efficiency to provide better service and reduce overheads. What appears to be emerging are slimmer, quicker and better-operating member-owned utilities.

Every procedure and business practice has been under review. Nothing is exempt except those areas pertaining to the improvement and maintenance of reliable electric service, and even those departments are being studied to identify possible cost-saving measures.

"Things are tough all over," the old saying goes. We don't know when economic conditions will improve. Not even the economists and financial experts can predict when the corner will be turned. We've entered new and unfamiliar territory.

Adams REC, its Board of Trustees and its employees are committed to working smart and in a cost-effective manner. People are struggling to make ends meet and wondering how they will pay the bills, including the electric bill. Your assurance as a co-op member-owner is that we are doing all in our power to reduce operating and administrative expenses so that what you pay for electricity is as close as possible to the actual cost of generation, transmission and distribution.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

General Manager's Report
by
Bill Swango

Stealing electricity and meter tampering are crimes

Since August 1978, a revised Ohio law has been in effect covering theft of utility service and tampering with utility equipment. The statute provides that a person does not have to be seen tampering with a meter to be held responsible for such action. Prior to the revision in the law, it was difficult to prosecute a person for meter tampering unless the action was witnessed.

In addition, in prosecution for a user's reconnecting a device that was disconnected by a utility, such activity is now considered prima facie evidence that the user intended to defraud the utility.

The law defines theft of a utility service as a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electricity, plus any utility equipment repair, is less than \$150. It's a fourth-degree felony if the value is more



than \$150 or if the offender was previously convicted of the charge. Tampering convictions carry similar penalties.

Tampering is defined as "to interfere with, damage or bypass a utility meter, conduit or attachment with intent to impede the correct registration of a meter or the proper function of a conduit or attachments."

Conviction can bring from six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine to five years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Meter tampering costs all of us. It costs the cooperative, and it costs you. And it's downright dangerous. If you witness someone tampering with their electric meter, contact your cooperative office. Stealing electricity is a crime, and anyone caught violating the law will be prosecuted.



November 11, 2009

Adams Rural Electric remembers and thanks America's veterans for their sacrifice.

Adams Rural Electric Cooperative wishes you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

As a reminder, our office will be closed for Thanksgiving to allow our employees to enjoy the holiday with their families.



MEDICAL CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE

Residential consumers of Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., who are facing termination of service due to nonpayment of their account can apply for a **30-day Medical Certification** in order to retain electric service.

Prior to termination, the consumer must provide proper certification from a healthcare professional which includes a licensed physician, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife. The healthcare professional must complete a form provided by Adams REC stating that termination of electric service would be **Especially Dangerous or Life Threatening** to the health of a permanent resident of the premises.

The cooperative will accept no more than two renewal certifications regarding the health of any resident, for a total maximum certification period of ninety (90) days within any 12-month period. For additional information, please feel free to call the office.

This-N-That

by ALICE L. BAIRD

Annual Meeting

Brrrrr – I am writing this on Oct. 1 and it was cold this morning. Well, about 40 degrees, but to me that's pretty chilly. It's hard to believe that this year is almost over! I love Thanksgiving and Christmas, but I feel like it should just now be Easter. I need to step it up, I guess.

Thanks to everybody who attended the 69th Annual Meeting of the Members! I have come both to look forward to it and to dread it. Preparation gets a little tense, and I am a nervous wreck for several days before, but everything always manages to turn out OK. I always enjoy seeing all the people—the regulars and the new ones. I hope everyone had a good time and I hope to have some pictures in next month's issue.

Several of you called in concerning the absence of the hidden account number for last month's *Country Living*. There was simply not enough room for our regular items due to the material for the annual meeting; however, go ahead and search the pages this month and you will find one this time.

Ready for winter?

So, winter is here. If you are like me, you may not be quite ready for it. I have been doing some preparation. We replaced a storm door and are getting ready to put in some insulation where it is needed. There seems to be so much to do, but the payoff in lower heating costs makes it worth it.

Here are some tips for getting ready for the cold, cold air:

- Check the insulation in your attic and crawl space
- Plug any leaks in your basement where plumbing or electric wiring enters the home
- Caulk windows and doors and install door sweeps
- Check your ductwork and make sure the seams are sealed
- Have your heating and cooling units serviced regularly
- Change your furnace filters regularly
- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter (a little chilly for me, but I can always put on a sweater). Consider installing a programmable thermostat
- Close foundation vents in the winter
- Install foam insulators and plug caps in electric outlets
- Add an insulation blanket to your water heater if it is in an unheated area
- Avoid using space heaters. A 1,500-watt space heater can add \$50–\$80 to your monthly electric bill—depending on use and equipment.

There are several other ways to prepare for the cold drafts this winter, but these tips will get you started.

Another little tip: Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 1; when you set your time back, take a little time to check your smoke alarms and make sure they are in good working order.

Veterans Day & Thanksgiving

November 11 is Veterans Day. Make it a point to thank a veteran for their service. Please keep in mind that our office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, so our employees can enjoy Thanksgiving with their families and friends.

I did mention that I love Thanksgiving, didn't I? The gathering of family, reflecting on the blessings we've enjoyed and of course the food! In these changing times, nothing seems stable or sure except our faith and the love of family and friends. So enjoy your Thanksgiving and cherish your loved ones.

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. Just ask for Alice. Or you may e-mail me at aliceb@adamsrec.com.

WE MADE PAYING YOUR BILL EASIER

3 ways to pay with:

NO ENVELOPES!

NO STAMPS!

NO DRIVING!

• ONLINE AT OUR WEB SITE

• 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, you may call the office at 937-544-2305.

Get permission first

The landowner's written permission is required for hunting and trapping on private land, regardless of whether the land is posted. Permission slips are available at Division of Wildlife district offices and some license outlets.

The maximum penalty for hunting without written permission of the landowner for a first offense is 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. The maximum penalty for a second offense is 90 days in jail and a \$750 fine.

A person must carry written permission at all times while engaging in hunting or trapping on private land and exhibit it upon request to a state wildlife officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, other law enforcement officer, owner of the land or the landowner's authorized agent.



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 each month in which your account number appears.

Capital credits

Capital Credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for August 2009 totaled \$27,549.55; and for September 2009 totaled \$5,936.11. Estates paid in 2009 total \$102,241.92.

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

Adams County area calendar of events

NOVEMBER

- TBA** Jefferson Twp. Fire Department Chili and Bean Donation Supper and Auction — 4-7 p.m. Jefferson Twp Fire House, Blue Creek. Contact: 544-5391.
- 11** Veterans Day Parade — 2 p.m. Lineup at 1:30 p.m. West Union. Contact: Kenneth Moore 937-544-3094.
- 27 & 28** Miller's Thanksgiving Day Sale — Unity. Contact: Miller's 937-544-8524.
- 27-** Miller's Christmas Tree Farm — Open daily, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. West Union.
Dec. 24 Contact: Eileen Miller 937-544-2220.

DECEMBER

- 12** Holiday Heritage Sale — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. SSCC South Campus. Contact: Amanda Lewis 937-695-0307, ext. 3520
- TBA** Peebles Christmas Celebration — 6 p.m., Lighting of the village Christmas tree & other events. Downtown Peebles. Contact: Ruth Smalley 937-587-2417.
- TBA** Manchester Hometown Christmas — 6-9 p.m. Community Building, Manchester. Contact: Mayor's office 937-549-3330.
- 19** Edge of Appalachia Christmas Bird Count — Edge of Appalachia, West Union. Contact: Chris Bedel, Cincinnati's Museum Center's Edge of App., eoa@bright.net or 937-544-2880.
- 20** Winter Solstice "Lighting the Serpent" — Sunset. Celebrate the Winter Solstice at Serpent Mound. Help volunteers light over 900 luminaria candles that will outline the effigy mound. Contact: Delsey Wilson 937-205-0094. (21st as a rain date)
- 26-** Miller's Clearance Sale — Miller's Bakery & Furniture, Unity. Contact: Miller's 937-544-8524.
Jan. 1