



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

Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Trustees

Charles L. Newman..... President
 Charles Grimes.....Vice President
 Kenneth McCannSecretary
 Samuel Bolender Blanchard Campbell
 M. Dale Grooms Stephen Huff
 Donald C. McCarty Sr. William Seaman

Personnel

Bill SwangoGeneral Manager

Erika Ackley	Rodney Little
Alice Baird	Ronald Lynch
Monica Baldwin	Dave McChesney
August Brooks	Kristina Orr
Rex Chapman	John Polk
Joyce Grooms	David Ralston
Keith Grooms	Jack Ross
Ronald Carl Hanson	Donnie Shoemaker
John Hayslip	Kimberly Smith
David Henry	Gary Tolle
Steve Hoop	Mike Whitley
Dave Kirker	Charlotte Willett
Chris Koenig	

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

A matter of principles

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell and produce electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care, and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced Rotch-dale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op's in good financial shape. More than \$550 million has been returned to members by electric co-ops over the past seven decades — nothing to sneeze at. 141530019

Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities and work to make life better in the areas they serve — the heart of the cooperative difference.

You can learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at www.go.coop.

On behalf of the management, staff and employees of Adams REC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

General Manager's Report

by
 Bill Swango



This-N-That

BY ALICE L. BAIRD

Adams has added a third place scholarship award!

Adams Rural Electric Cooperative will again be offering scholarships to graduating seniors from this area who have made the choice to continue their education. To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, the student's parent or guardian must be a member of the cooperative; the student must have all basic credits for college or proper vocational or technical school; the student must have a current career grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4-point scale or better; and be accepted (then enrolled when they receive the award) to an accredited college or proper vocational/technical school.

In 2012, Adams will increase the amounts of scholarship awards, and for the first time, we have added a third place award. A total of six scholarships will be awarded; one each for a boy and a girl in each place. We will award two first-place scholarships of \$1,100 each, two second-place scholarships of \$600 each and, for the first time, we will award two third place scholarships of \$400 each. The deadline for submission of an application to the office is **Jan. 31**.

Students should be able to pick up an application from their guidance counselor or they may access the application online at www.adamsrec.com. Go to the Adams REC Web site; click on Helpful Links; click on Buckeye Power; click on Youth Programs (right side of page, middle); click on OREC Scholarships for Children of Consumers.

The first-place winners from Adams will then be eligible to compete for an Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Scholarship for Children of Consumers, with a chance to win an additional scholarship for an amount of up to \$2,900! You can find more information with rules and regulations within these local pages.

Holiday safety

In the hustle and bustle of the season, take some time to ensure that safety plays a role in your holiday plans. Here are a few tips to help you along:

- ✓ Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them. Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests

- ✓ Inspect all electrical lights, decorations and extension cords for damage. Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices. Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets to prevent children from in-

serting objects into the slots

- ✓ Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments and other small decorations within reach of young children.

- ✓ Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

- ✓ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn — decorations, trees, gifts and curtains. Blow out candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

Merry Christmas!

When I was a child and for several years after I was married, we had real Christmas trees. Sometimes we would have pine and sometimes we would have cedar, but the house always smelled wonderful. I was always fascinated with the lighted star that Mom put on the tree every year. I don't know what happened to it or just when she replaced it with an angel, but it's still there in my memory bank. I have had the same angel on my tree for 38 years. She's a little yellow now and her cottony cloud is a little tattered, but it just wouldn't be the same without her perched on top of the tree seemingly watching and waiting to tell all who come into my home about the good news.

Each year, in October, we start playing Christmas records. Yep, I did say records. I am a throw back from yesteryear. I still play the old vinyl albums. I like the crackly sound of the needle in the grooves. It reminds me of Christmases a long time ago when life didn't seem so hectic. Choirs singing "Silent Night," "Little Drummer Boy," "Carol of the Bells" or even the Chipmunks singing "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" makes this fast-paced world seem just a little calmer.

I hope the joy and peace of the season shines abundantly upon each of you, and I want to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year! Keep in mind that the Adams REC office will be closed on Dec. 23, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 so that our employees can enjoy the holidays with their families and friends. (In the event of an outage, call the office and the answering service will be available to take your call).

If you need information concerning the youth programs, capital credits or 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.

High School Seniors

*Are your parents members
of an electric cooperative?*

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

\$2,900*



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

For information contact

Alice Baird

937-544-2305

Applications must be received
in the office no later
than January 21.

Contact your electric
cooperative for details on
how you can enter

**First place for each division,
boys' and girls'*

Second place:.....	\$2,000
Third place:	\$1,700
Fourth place:	\$1,600
Fifth place:.....	\$1,500
Sixth place:.....	\$1,400
Seventh place:.....	\$1,300

1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of an Ohio rural electric distribution cooperative member living on the lines and receiving service at the time of the statewide competition.
2. All applications must be submitted (typed) on forms obtainable on request from your participating local electric cooperative office or at ohioruralelectric.coop
3. All applications must be submitted to the office of that cooperative by its deadline date.
4. Applicants must have all basic credits for college or proper vocational or technical school" entrance. They must have a current career average of "B+" (3.5 on a 4-point scale) or better and must be accepted, then enrolled (when they receive the award), in the accredited college or proper vocational or technical school of their choice.
5. Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship to the school of his/her choice is not eligible for a scholarship from OREC.
6. All scholarships must be accepted in the first academic year after proof of enrollment is received by OREC.
7. Each electric cooperative is eligible to nominate two candidates (one in each division) to participate in the statewide competition.

*Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Certification of Active Duty Deployment Adams Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The cooperative will not disconnect for nonpayment the electric service to the residential premises of any residential member who is deployed on active duty. Upon return of the residential member from active duty, the cooperative will offer the residential member a period equal to at least the period of deployment on active duty to pay any arrearages incurred during the period of deployment. If the period the cooperative offers the residential member for repayment presents a hardship, the member may request a longer period to repay the arrearages. No late-payment fees or interest will be charged to the residential member during the period of deployment or the repayment period.

“Active duty” means active duty pursuant to an executive order of the president of the United States, an act of the Congress of the United States, or section 5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The residential member must resume the timely payment of all charges for electric service provided by the cooperative after the return from active duty deployment.

In order to avoid disconnection of electric service for nonpayment for electric service during a period of active duty deployment, a completed Certification of Active Duty Deployment form must be submitted to the cooperative. Certification of Active Duty Deployment forms are available from the cooperative upon request.

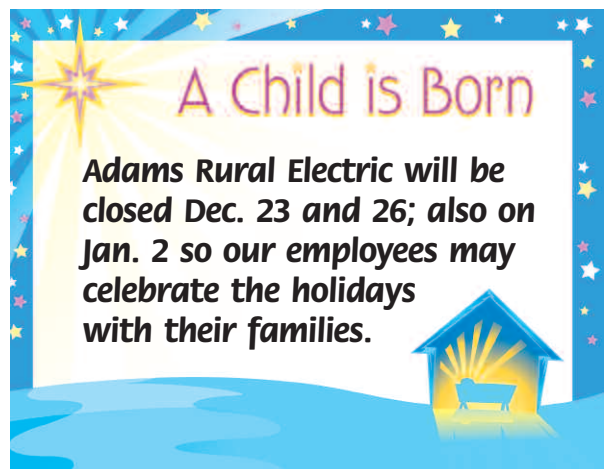
Capital credits

Capital credits refunded to the estates of Adams Rural Electric Co-op members for October 2011 totaled \$12,690.27. Estates paid in 2011 total \$90,437.83.

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

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.



Adams County area calendar of events

December

- 2 **Manchester Hometown Christmas** at the Manchester Community Building from 6 to 9 p.m.
Contact Heidi Huron at 937-549-2516
- 3 **Peebles Christmas Celebration** lighting of the Christmas tree and other events starts at 6 p.m.
Contact 937-587-2417
- 10-11 **Page One-Room School House** Christmas event off Vaughn Ridge Road. From 2 to 4 p.m.
Contact Mary Fulton at 937-587-2043
- 17 **Adams County Audubon Christmas Bird Count.**
Contact the Cincinnati Museum Center's Edge of Appalachia Preserve at 937-544-2880.
- 21 **Lighting the Serpent**, 4 to 8 p.m. Celebrate the Winter Solstice by helping volunteers light more than 900 luminary candles outlining the serpent effigy.
Contact F.O.S.M. at 937-587-3953 (Rain date: Dec. 22)