

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

June 2023

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

CALL TO
RSVP BY
JUNE 1!

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 3 at St. Marys Memorial High School
8 a.m. — Registration and breakfast • 9 a.m. — Meeting

- Tethered Hot Air Balloon rides (weather dependent)
- \$2,000 in cash prizes
- FREE breakfast buffet, Kids' activities and games
- Energy efficiency advice; talk one-on-one with our energy advisor
- \$1,000 scholarship drawing
 - Any member or child of a member is eligible who will be a college or trade school student in the fall of 2023. Not eligible if you've received a scholarship from Midwest Electric in the past. Entrants must enter themselves AT the annual meeting and must be present to win.
- Energy industry update; Q&A with co-op leaders



DID YOU VOTE YET?

A ballot was mailed to you in mid-May for the annual director elections. Results will be announced at the meeting.

Your ballot must be received by our voting firm by May 31. Do not include payments; do not send to our St. Marys office.

You can also vote online at midwestrec.com.

Eight percent rate increase planned for September

The Board of Directors, based on recommendations from management, has approved an 8% rate increase to take effect starting with the electric bill you receive at the end of September. The Service Availability charge has been \$35 per month since our last rate change in 2010. It will increase to \$45 per month. The other part of your bill – the kilowatt hour (kWh) rate – is increasing only slightly, from the current average of \$0.1064 per kWh, to \$0.1104 per kWh.

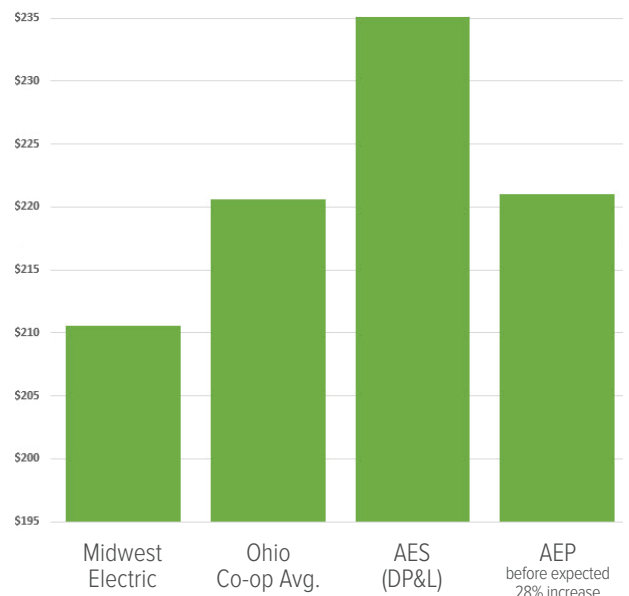
The reason for this is that most of the costs we pay to build, operate, and maintain a reliable electric system are fixed. Whether you use 1 kWh or 1,000 kWh, we still have to build, operate, and maintain the same amount of equipment and back office support. Even after the upcoming increase, we will continue to have the lowest rates among Ohio's 24 electric cooperatives.

Please plan to attend our Saturday morning, June 3, annual meeting where I'll discuss the increase in greater detail. If you are unable to attend you can watch the live stream as it happens or recording of the meeting that will be posted after the meeting. **You can also read more in this month's issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living*.**

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns by e-mailing mberry@midwestrec.com or call 800-962-3830.

How our new rates compare

Based on residential use of 1,500 kWh



Community Calendar

- ◆ June 3 **Van Wert Peony Festival**, Downtown Van Wert 9:00AM-7:00PM, www.visitvanwert.com
- ◆ June 8-10 **29th Annual Dirt Late Model Dream**, Eldora Speedway, New Weston, www.eldoraspeedway.com
- ◆ June 9-11 **Botkins Carousel**, Botkins www.botkinscarousel.com
- ◆ June 9-11 **Versailles Poultry Days**, Versailles, www.versaillespoultrydays.com
- ◆ June 14-18 **Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee**, Fort Recovery
- ◆ June 17 **Chapel Hart, Niswonger Performing Arts Center**, Van Wert 7:30 PM, www.vanwertlive.com
- ◆ June 23-25 **Maria Stein Country Fest**, Maria Stein Shrine of Holy Relics, 419-586-1146, www.mscountryfest.com
- ◆ June 22-24 **Spencerville Summerfest**, Spencerville
- ◆ June 23-24 **New Knoxville Independence Celebration**, New Knoxville Community Park, www.nkJuly4.com
- ◆ June 24 **Fly Me To The Moon 5K On The Runway**, Neil Armstrong Airport, New Knoxville 9:00PM
- ◆ June 29 - July 1 **Old Fashioned Farmer Days**, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, www.vanwertcountyfair.com

Have an event you want to promote? Send it to us at info@midwestrec.com

Looking to upgrade your appliances or HVAC System?



Celebrate NATIONAL Family MONTH

To strengthen local families and promote quality time spent together, we're giving away prize packs to:



fort wayne children's
ZOO



WINONA LAKE



**PLA-MOR
LANES**



Par-Tee
Golf Lounge & Bar



Winners will be selected each week of June on our Facebook page: @MidwestElectric or by clicking to enter on our website www.Midwestrec.com

PEAK ALERT SEASON IS HERE

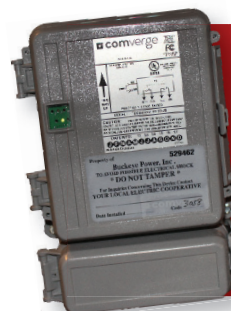
A peak alert occurs when all of Ohio's electric cooperatives approach a new peak demand for electricity usage. This is important because Midwest Electric purchases the electricity we use based on the total kilowatt hours of electricity our members use. When we set a new usage peak it can mean a higher rate for electricity next year.

We share peak alerts on our social media channels and website. We ask members to help out by reducing usage during those times (reducing the demand) when everyone is using more electricity. A peak alert is not a shortage of electricity. It is a way to manage the cost of purchasing higher cost electricity. By lowering usage during times of peak demand, members reap the benefit in the form of a lower cost for power.

How you can help!

- Raise your thermostat if possible to where comfortable. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 78 degrees.
- Turn off lights and appliances you aren't using. It's a waster of energy and your money.
- Delay doing laundry, running the dishwasher or using other major appliances until later in the evening.
- In the summer, take advantage of using the outdoor grill to keep cooking heat outside.

By working together, we can curb the demand for electric power. This teamwork is a win-win for everyone, as the cooperative consistently works toward the goal of keeping the cost of power as low as possible



Get a \$50 initial account credit + \$5 account credit per month during peak months (June-September) by having a Radio Controlled Switch device installed on your HVAC system or hot water heater. Visit www.midwestrec.com/cool-returns to learn more and sign up.