

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2023

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

Rate increase planned for late summer



Matt Berry, CEO
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As I write this (mid-March) it looks like our rate increase later this summer will be less than 10% total, or around \$2.4 million in additional revenue. This is a preliminary estimate. (This would be similar to our last rate increase. That one, 13 years ago in 2010, was an 8% increase for an additional \$2 million in revenue.)

Each rate class (residential, seasonal, small commercial, large commercial, etc.) will see an increase. But they will

be of varying degrees. Our goal is to design rates that are close to what it actually costs us to make service available. This helps reduce the subsidies between rate groups.

Why \$2.4 million (preliminary estimate)? How did we come up with that number?

In simple terms, we're running low on money. Annually we do detailed financial forecasts, and our forecasting shows us running short in the near future. We haven't had a rate increase in 13 years, and the expenses and inflation have caught up with our number one goal of providing reliable electricity. If we want to continue to provide reliable electricity, we have to continue to invest in our electric system. We spend \$3-4 million every year on electric

system maintenance and improvements, not including labor, taxes, interest and other growing expenses. If we don't do the rate increase, we would need to stop electric reliability maintenance and upgrades. Which means your power would go out more often, and for longer periods.

While most other utilities have had big increases, we're unique, being able to say it's been 13 years since our last increase; which means our upcoming increase averages out to less than 1 percent per year.

Please take advantage of our savings and energy efficiency programs, outlined in this month's *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and on our website. We have rebates to help you buy more energy efficient appliances, water heaters, heat pumps, and geothermal. We have billing discounts if you use our AutoPay or our paperless methods. We provide free energy audits. Our online program, called SmartHub, has your monthly, daily, and hourly electric use data and you can even get high use alerts. Our online energy calculators help you identify what uses the most power.

Please plan to attend our June 3 annual meeting, where the rate increase will be discussed in greater detail. Keep an eye on the magazine, this newsletter, and our other communications for updates.



Please contact me if you have any questions.
You can call 800-962-3830 or email mberry@midwestrec.com.

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR DIRECTOR ELECTION BALLOTS

Watch your mail around mid-May for your ballot for the 2023 Midwest Electric Board of Directors election. If you're a member, you're allowed to vote for all districts.

You may vote by mail with the ballot and return envelope that will be sent to you. Alternately, you may vote online at www.midwestrec.com. The ballot will include instructions for online voting.

Your ballot must be received by our voting firm by 8 a.m. on May 31 in order to be counted.

Do not include any payments with your ballot. Do not send your ballot to our St. Marys office.

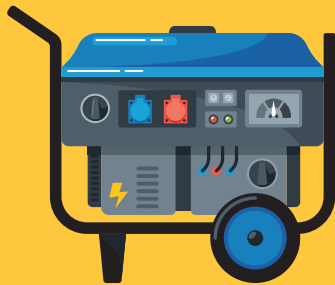


Community Calendar

- ◆ **May 4-7th ; 11-14th – Ghost, The Musical,**
Van Wert Civic Theatre, www.vwct.org
- ◆ **May 5th – First Fridays St. Marys-Cinco de Mayo,**
W. Spring St, St. Marys www.stmarysohio.org/events-calendar
- ◆ **May 5-6 – Spring Fest: Plants, Crafts, Cars etc,**
Van Wert County Fairgrounds, www.vanwertcountyfair.com
- ◆ **May 6th – Landen's 5K – For SIDS Awareness**
Mill Park Shelter House, St. Marys, <https://tinyurl.com/4swry77w>
- ◆ **May 6th – 2nd Annual Diabetic Kid Fund**
Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #1473, Celina
- ◆ **May 6th – Celina Farmers Market Opening Day**
Mercer County Fairgrounds, Celina, www.celinafarmersmarket.com
- ◆ **May 6-7th – Tri State Gun Show**
Allen County Fairgrounds, Lima, www.allencofair.com/events
- ◆ **May 7th – 22nd Annual Blessing of the Bikes**
Shawnee United Methodist Church, Lima, www.shawneem.church
- ◆ **May 7th – LeAnn Rimes**
Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, www.vanwertlive.com
- ◆ **May 13 – GSCA/Midwest Specialties**
Lima Kennel Club Show grounds, www.limakennelclub.org
- ◆ **May 13 – My Prince & Me Dance**
Local Union 329, Lima, <https://tinyurl.com/5h7shwac>
- ◆ **May 19 – Run for the Rabbit**
Limaland Motorsports Park, Lima, www.vanwertlive.com
- ◆ **May 19 – Party in the Park**
Heritage Park, Wapakoneta, www.wapakoneta.com/event/party-in-the-park
- ◆ **May 19-21 – Wapak Tug Fest 2023**
Auglaize County Fairgrounds, www.auglaizecountyfair.org/event/wapak-tug-fest
- ◆ **May 20 – Family Fireworks Night #1**
Eldora Speedway, New Weston, www.eldoraspeedway.com

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

USING A PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFELY



1. Always use a generator at least 20 feet away from your home.
2. Never operate one inside a home, on a porch or near windows and doors.
3. The 20-foot rule also applies to other locations, such as a shed, cabin, camper or trailer.
4. When shopping for a generator, look for one that produces reduced emissions.
5. Also look for one that shuts off automatically when high levels of CO are present.
6. Keep your generator well-maintained and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
7. Ensure CO detectors are installed on every level of your home and near or in bedrooms.
8. Test CO alarms monthly; also track their age. They need to be replaced every seven years.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 3

St. Marys Memorial High School, State Route 66 and U.S. 33

Annual meeting

- 8:00 a.m. — Registration and breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. — Meeting
- Only last 45 minutes!
- Hot air balloon tethered rides
- \$2,000 in cash prizes
- Kids' games, bounce houses, and activities.
- Free breakfast buffet
- \$1,000 scholarship drawing
- Business Meeting 9 a.m.
Energy industry update; Q&A with co-op leaders
- Co-op Owners for Political Action: learn how you can influence legislation that affects your co-op
- Grand Lake Health System health fair
- More information on inside of your May *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine



Hot Air Balloon Tethered Rides



Join Midwest Electric and the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon at the 200th anniversary celebration for St. Marys on Friday evening, June 2. Members will have another chance on Saturday morning from 8-10 at the school during the Annual Meeting. *Tethered rides will be weather dependent.*

Memorial Day is May 29.

Our office will be closed as we honor the brave men and women lost in the pursuit of freedom.

