

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2020

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

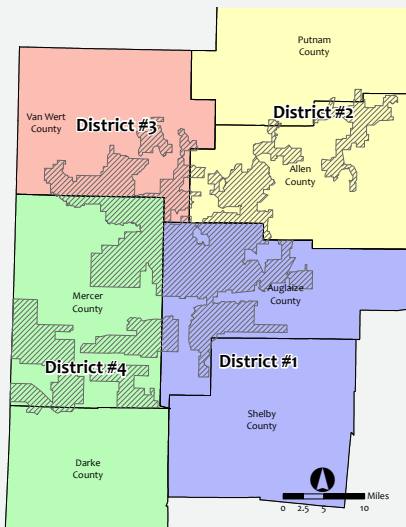
IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



HEADS UP: *your bill will look different!*

Starting this spring, the \$35 flat monthly service charge will be listed as a separate line item on your bill. **This is not an increase or a new charge.** It's been the same since Aug. 2010! It was previously "rolled into" your total energy charge, but with the upcoming bill redesign, we want members to know what they are paying for and what each charge means.

Check out the March and April issues of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine for more details, or give our office a call.



VOTING RESULTS...

Thanks for everyone's vote in January to change the co-op Code of Regulations by removing the "at-large" board seat.

The membership voted to accept the proposed amendment, meaning there are now eight seats on the co-op board of directors (not the previous nine). This will save the co-op in future costs and better aligns us with co-op averages for our size. Members will continue to be democratically represented by two directors for each district.

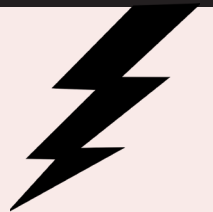
DISCONNECTS:

Electric bills are due by the 10th of each month. If your bill is unpaid by the time of the next monthly billing, then that month's printed bill will include wording which says ****Disconnect Notice.****

Payments to avoid a disconnection of service must be received in our office or through our website by the date listed on that ****Disconnect Notice.**** In addition to the printed notice on your bill, we will make many attempts to contact members who are behind on payments, sending automated phone calls as well as emails and personal calls.

We are flexible about making payment arrangements with members who respond to our contact attempts. However, once an employee visits your home to collect, no payment arrangement can be made. **The full amount due, plus fees, must be paid at this point.**

A collection fee will be added if an employee is sent to your home to collect a delinquent bill or disconnect service for non-pay. Accounts disconnected for non-pay will be sent to a collections agency, with appropriate information sent to reporting agencies. Collections, legal, and other fees may be added.





We want to hear from you!

Member satisfaction surveys in April

If you are contacted by phone or email, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative so we can keep improving.

Someone you know could have unclaimed cash waiting for them!

Check at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Coop" tab, then "Patronage Cash Back."



TREE SEEDLING REIMBURSEMENT

Midwest Electric has a special offer to help you plant trees in the right place this spring. We will reimburse you for buying a tree seedling packet from your local Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

- Purchase must be from the SWCD. Offer limited to the first 300 members.
- The reimbursement will be in the form of an electric bill credit (limit \$15). You must send your receipt or proof of purchase.

Instructions:

Contact your local SWCD. Typically, they require an order form that can be mailed or downloaded from their websites, and they require payment

when your order is placed. Deadlines are usually in early March. Delivery is normally mid-April.

- Allen County SWCD, 419-223-0040
- Auglaize County SWCD, 419-738-4016
- Mercer County SWCD, 419-586-3289
- Van Wert County SWCD, 419-238-9591
- Darke County SWCD, 937-548-1752
- Shelby County SWCD, 937-492-6520
- Putnam County SWCD, 419-523-5159



Starting a digging project? Call 811 first!

It's the law to call at least 48 hours beforehand to identify underground lines.



Run for our board of directors

Two of the eight seats on the co-op board of directors are up for election. Any member residing in a district up for election may become a candidate by obtaining a petition form from the co-op's office and getting at least 15 valid signatures of members residing in that district.

Learn more about the board process at midwestrec.com > My Coop > Annual Meeting and Co-op Board.

For 2020's elections, petitions may be filed by members who reside in the following districts:

District 1 (3-year term): Auglaize and Shelby counties

District 2 (3-year term): Allen and Putnam counties

To obtain a petition form or learn more, call our office at 800-962-3830. Petitions are due by May 4 at 8 a.m. in our office.

Community Calendar

- ◆ March 6-8 **Angry Jurors**, Encore Theater, Lima (419-223-8866)
- ◆ March 8 **Spring Forward Cabin Fever Hike, 1-3 pm**, meet at Noble Township Hall at 1 pm
- ◆ March 8 **Lima Symphony Family Concert: A Pirate's Life for Me**, Lima Civic Center, 7:30 pm (419-222-5701)
- ◆ March 9 **Blue Man Group**, Lima Civic Center, 7:30 pm (419-222-5701)
- ◆ March 14 **Canvas Project Class**, Lima Mall, 1 & 2 pm (419-331-1311)
- ◆ March 14 **Lima Irish Parade**, downtown, 12-1 pm (419-860-0072)
- ◆ March 14 **Indian Lake 34th Annual Maple Syrup Pancake Festival**, Indian Lake Campground, 8 am - 1 pm (937-842-1934)
- ◆ March 15 **Songs and Stories of Neil Diamond**, Lock One Theater, New Bremen, 3 pm (567-356-2048)
- ◆ March 15 **St. Patrick's Day events**, St Henry American Legion, 11:30-8 pm
- ◆ March 21 **Coffee with a Cop**, Dunkin Donuts, 751 N. Cable Road, Lima 11 am - 1 pm (419-221-5177)
- ◆ March 28 **Hog Roast Fundraiser**, Noble Community Park, 16496 St. Marys River Road, starts at 4:30 pm with pulled pork, games, cake wheel & face painting, auction at 7:15 pm (419-953-6452)