

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 278 • Greenville, OH 45331
937-548-4114 • 1-800-776-5612

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



Darke Rural Electric Cooperative presents *Jim Greer and the Mac-O-Chee Valley Folks* at the 2009 Annual Meeting of Members

Date: Thursday, March 19
Time: Lunch — 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Meeting: Promptly following lunch
Location: Lighthouse Christian Center
Greenville

- * Election of trustees in districts 2 and 6
- * Business meeting
- * Entertainment
- * Attendance and door prizes

**Don't miss this opportunity to see
*Jim Greer and the Mac-O-Chee Valley Folks***

TRUSTEES

Jack L. KitchelPresident
Keith Daugherty ...Vice President
Judith FasnachtSecy.-Treas.
Robert BuschurTrustee
Virgil HaleTrustee
Michelle MarkerTrustee
Donald MuhlenkampTrustee
Ted HolsappleGen. Manager

**Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays**

Failure to receive your electric bill in no way relieves you, the member, from paying it. If you do not receive your bill, contact us before the due date.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless you built a fire. An open damper allows as much warm air to escape as a fully open window. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

High school seniors

Are your parents members of Darke Rural Electric Cooperative?

If yes, you qualify to participate in the **Darke Rural Electric Scholarship Program**. Darke REC gives three scholarships (\$1,000, \$700 and \$500) in each the girls' and boys' division. The first-place winner in each division qualifies to participate in the **Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Scholarship Contest** where you could win up to \$2,625.

If you are interested in a scholarship application, call the cooperative office to request an application at 800-776-5612 or 937-548-4114. Also, there are applications available at your high school guidance office. *All applications are due in our office by March 16.*

Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship

*Did you overcome adversity, obstacles or
personal challenges on your way to excellence?*

Tell us about it, you may win a scholarship!
Darke Rural Electric will award one \$500 scholarship and
that student will qualify to win one of four \$1,550
scholarships from Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives.

You must be a graduating high school senior whose
parents are members of Darke Rural Electric Cooperative.
Call the cooperative office for an application!

ATTENTION: High school sophomores and juniors: Enter to win and be part of the **2009 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour** **June 12 - 18**

The cooperative will sponsor two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school sophomore or junior and your parents must be a member of Darke REC.

For information on how you can be part of this trip, call the cooperative office at 937-548-4114 or 800-776-5612.

Miscellaneous fees

The purpose of miscellaneous fees is to reduce the cooperative's expenses for all members and to match expenses with those parties involved.

1. Trip Charges (reconnects, collections, bad check collections, member problems — includes outage trip due to member's breakers or electrical problems, etc.)
The member will be charged a fee of \$25 during normal working hours and \$60 fee before or after normal working hours when it is necessary for cooperative personnel to go to a member's home or business for the above conditions.

2. Bad Check Fees
The member will be charged \$30 for checks that are returned by the bank.

3. Meter Reading Fees
There is a \$15 charge for reading electric meters after second estimated bill.

4. Meter Check Fees
The cooperative will check any meter for accuracy when requested to do so by the consumer. The charge to check a meter for accuracy is \$25. This charge will be waived if the meter is found to be more than 2 percent ± inaccurate. The meter check fee and a written request are required in advance.

5. Security Deposits
a. Electrically heated rentals and mobile-style homes — \$140
b. Nonelectrically heated rentals and mobile-style homes — \$90

6. Membership Fees
The cooperative concept requires that membership be encouraged. The membership fee will be \$10.

7. Security Lights
a. The cooperative will install security lights at no initial charge where the lights can be installed using an existing pole that is approved by the cooperative.
b. Reinstalling or reconnecting a security light fixture within 6 months — \$50
c. Installation of a security light and pole — \$120

8. Purchase and installation of a security light pole or meter pole for member's own use
Security light pole — \$150
Meter pole — \$180

Security lights

The Energy Act of 2005 states that mercury vapor lights no longer could be manufactured after January 1, 2008. In order to comply with the Energy Act, the cooperative provides a high-pressure sodium light to members requesting a new security light or replacement of an old light.

Eventually, all old mercury vapor lights will be phased out and replaced with high-pressure sodium lights. The high-pressure sodium lights cast a more yellow glow and have a much longer life than the mercury vapor lights. The average number of lumens, which are units of measure for the flow of light, for a mercury vapor security light are 7,000 lumens and 8,190 lumens for a high-pressure sodium light, producing more light.

If you would like the cooperative to install a new high-pressure sodium security light, please contact the cooperative. The monthly fee for a security light is \$7. Call the cooperative at 937-548-4114 or 1-800-776-5612.

Rebate programs continue in 2009

Darke REC Geothermal and Dual Fuel programs

The most efficient and economical resource for heating and cooling your home is right in your back yard, using geothermal. You can qualify for a \$600 rebate if you install a geothermal unit to heat and cool your home. Dual Fuel allows you to heat and cool your home while saving money with an add-on electric heat pump. You can qualify for a \$600 rebate if you install an add-on electric heat pump unit to an existing fossil fuel furnace.

***Effective Jan. 1, 2007 Darke REC no longer offers the 1-1/2 cent/kWh incentive for new geothermal or Dual Fuel (add-on heat pump installations). Any installations prior to January 1, 2007 that already received the 1-1/2 cent/kWh incentive will continue to receive it through Dec. 2010.*

Darke REC Water Heater Rebate Program requirements

The installation of a new electric water heater in a home, office or other building which uses electricity from Darke Rural Electric Cooperative (Darke REC) may qualify for a rebate from Darke REC. The new heater may be placed in a new or existing building.

A. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Qualified Equipment and Installation
 - a. The minimum manufacturer's tank warranty shall be 6 years
 - b. The minimum tank capacity shall be 50 gallons.
 - c. A unit must have a minimum of two inches of foam insulation (approximate R-16).
The use of an insulation blanket will not qualify for the R-16 rating requirement.
 - d. The maximum element size should not exceed 4,500 watts.
 - e. The water heater shall comply with all applicable local and Ohio plumbing and electrical code requirements.

B. ELIGIBILITY FOR REBATE

1. Building — Residential/commercial (including agricultural)/institutional structure which uses electricity from Darke REC.
2. Who — Cooperative member who owns the building.
3. Qualified water heaters. An electric water heater for original installation (in new construction) or that replaces an existing fossil fuel water heater. Also an electric water heater replacing an existing electric water heater that does not currently have a radio-controlled switch installed.

C. CONDITIONS OF REBATE

1. The installation of the water heater must be approved by the cooperative.
2. Member must allow Darke REC to install a radio-controlled switch (RCS) for load management purposes during peak loading periods. There is no charge for the RCS.

D. REBATE

	<u>50-70 Gallons</u>	<u>Over 71 Gallons</u>
6-10 Year Warranty	\$250	\$300
11-Year or more Warranty	\$300	\$400

All rebate programs will be reviewed each year to determine their continuation.

Darke members give \$12,350 to area causes through Operation Roundup

Members of Darke Rural Electric Cooperative recently donated \$12,350 to local charities and community projects, and individuals through the **Operation Roundup** program. **Total contributions exceed \$132,294.**

Recipients of funds are as follows:

Pittsburg Fire Department.....	\$2,200
Cub Scout Pack 149.....	\$2,000
Western Ohio Education Foundation	\$1,000
Strides 'n Stirrups	\$1,250
Bear's Mill.....	\$700
Darke Co. Ag. Society Swine Committee	\$1,700
Ft. Recovery High School Band Boosters	\$2,000
Darke Co. Emergency Medical Services	\$1,500

The Operation Roundup is a voluntary charitable program. Participating members' monthly electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar, with the additional pennies put into the "Trust" fund.

A Board of Trustees, made up of Darke Rural

Electric Cooperative members, oversees the Operation Roundup process. Those serving as trustees are Dan Gehret — chairman; Susan Scheips — vice chairman; Jim Faller — treasurer; Susan Smearsoll — secretary; Jane Braund, Charles Hoover and Ronnie Neenan.

They volunteer their time and meet twice a year to review applications and decide if an application should be funded. The decision can be very difficult when the request exceeds the available monies. The goal is to disperse funds to best serve the communities of the cooperative members.

Organizations or individuals can contact Beth Davenport at Darke REC (937-548-4114 or 1-800-776-5612) to receive an application.