

Darke Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Darke REC will refund capital credits in December



Watch for capital credits checks arriving in the mail in December!

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY to co-op members once again this year. Recently, the board of trustees approved payment of capital credits totalling \$1,018,374 to about 4,100 members and former members who received electric service from Darke Rural Electric Cooperative in the year 2001.

Some of you may wonder — what exactly are capital credits? As an owner in your electric utility, capital credits are your share of ownership. Since Darke REC is a not-for-profit co-op, any profit left over, after expenses, is allocated back to the members based on their electric use that year.

Until the board votes to refund capital credits to members, the money is used by the cooperative for upgrad-

ing equipment and rebuilding power lines. This allows the co-op to provide more reliable service to its members.

With this year's refund, the total amount of capital credits that has been returned to members is almost \$18 million. It really does pay to be a cooperative member!

Checks will be mailed out the first week of December. If you do not receive your check by mid-December, please call the co-op office. ☎



Ted Holsapple,
General Manager

TRUSTEES

Jack L. Kitchel President
Keith Daugherty Vice President
Michelle Marker Secy.-Treas.
Tod Carroll Trustee
Dan Gehret Trustee
Neal Siefiring Trustee
Matt Webster Trustee
Ted Holsapple Gen. 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.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The office will be closed
Dec. 23 & 26
for Christmas and
Jan. 2
for New Year's Day.

We wish you a safe and
happy holiday season!

Emergency service is available
24 hours at 937-548-4114.



The **Operation Round Up**® Board of Trustees will review applications for grants on December 13, 2016. Applications are due at the cooperative office by Dec 1.

2017 GRADS: ARE YOUR PARENTS DARKE REC MEMBERS?

IF SO, YOU COULD WIN UP TO \$1,200 IN SCHOLARSHIPS!

* Darke REC will award six scholarships totaling \$5,400.

* First-place winners in both the girls' and boys' division will go on to compete for a \$3,500 statewide scholarship through Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.



CHILDREN OF MEMBERS SCHOLARSHIP:

- First place Darke REC Scholarship: \$1,200
- Second place Darke REC Scholarship: \$900
- Third place Darke REC Scholarship: \$600
- Applications due Feb. 15, 2017 to Darke REC office
- Visit www.darkerec.com for applications and rules
- Pick an application up from your guidance counselor

OHIO'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 



HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:



YOUTH TOUR 2017

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?

What is Youth Tour?

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is an annual leadership program coordinated by Darke Rural Electric Cooperative and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Electric cooperatives from 43 states will send about 1,600 students this year for the annual tour. **Will you be one of them?**

To apply for Youth Tour...

Successful applicants:

- must be a high school sophomore or junior.
- must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Darke Rural Electric member living on the cooperative's lines and receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time of selection.
- must submit an application from your high school guidance office, call the cooperative office or go online to [www.darkerec.com\(youth programs\)](http://www.darkerec.com(youth%20programs))

Applicants will be required to take a test consisting of true/false and short essay questions about rural electrification. Applicants will receive a "Cooperative Difference" book to study for the test along with their application.

While on the tour, you will visit:

- Gettysburg, Pa.
- World War II Memorial
- Jefferson Memorial
- White House
- U.S. Capitol & Supreme Court
- Smithsonian Institution
- Lincoln Memorial
- Washington National Cathedral
- Arlington National Cemetery
- ... and much more!

Tour dates: June 9-15, 2017

Application deadline: March 1, 2017

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the 2017 Youth Tour June 9-15 to Washington, D.C., this summer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Sophomore Junior

Male Female

Mail to: Beth Davenport
Darke Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 278
Greenville, OH 45331

Digital devices can have a **BIG** impact on your bill

Watch out for “vampire loads” and “technology reincarnation”

AH, THE DIGITAL AGE. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new ways, brilliant entertainment options, and, of course, the Internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. But these cool new capabilities come with a few pitfalls: “vampire” loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions, computers, cellphones, gaming devices, and cable or satellite boxes.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Darke Rural Electric Cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters

plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn't charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire” load. Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home's energy use is from vampire loads, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips. These look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to it turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power too. This is perfect for home entertainment systems, computer setups, and a va-

riety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This sounds like a good thing, but when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old tech — technology reincarnation.

For example, flat screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved, and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls

of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn't want to see their favorite show or sports event in near-life size? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won't benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room — “reincarnated” in

another setting — still using power. This often happens with refrigerators, which end up in the basement or garage.

Here are a couple words of advice to help you avoid, or at least reduce, the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when the devices plugged into it are not in use. Don't oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear, unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less. ☞

