



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

The power behind YOUR POWER

The old saying declares that April showers bring May flowers. But April's showers often arrive as part of spring storms, which can also bring the less-welcome companions of thunder, lightning, high winds, and the power outages they cause. While Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, one group of professionals springs into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst — co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb up 40 feet or more, carrying heavy equipment, to restore power. Doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Lineworkers also wear both insulated and rubber gloves, sleeves, and boots to protect them from electrical shock.

Family support system

To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience, and each other to get

the job done safely. Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. This means that, in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be even more difficult.

Community commitment

In our community and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local churches and charities, and serving on local advisory boards.

As we celebrate lineworker appreciation this month, I encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see one of our lineworkers or their family members in the grocery store or at the next community event, please offer them a "thank you."



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

Pictured below: HVEC Lineworker Bowe Firebaugh

On cover: HVEC lineworkers Steve Asbury and Matt Morris





HWEC 2023 OPERATIONS PLAN

Tree Trimming

Killbuck
Stillwell
Drake Valley
Buckhorn



Vegetation Management



Clear Creek
Golden Corners
Mohican
North Wayne
West Salem



Alpine
Trail
Winesburg
Hefferline

Pole Inspection

6264 poles

2.8 miles of three - phase line
16.4 miles of single - phase line



\$1.4 Million Line Rebuild

2023 will be an extremely busy year for your electric cooperative. Our infrastructure includes over 2,312 miles of line, 19 substations, and more than 44,000 poles, and it's critical to strategically plan for the maintenance and improvement of that infrastructure. Additionally, in the past few years, we have seen a booming economy in our southern service territory. To meet the continual needs of the growth of our community, the construction of new services has become a significant portion of our operations management, as well.

This year, we begin a new four-year work plan. This plan includes \$23 million in investments in cost-savings technology, enhanced system reliability, and future growth preparation. This year, we will rebuild 2.8 miles of three-phase line and 16.4 miles of single-phase line, at a price tag of \$1.4 million.

To your left, you will find the tree-trimming and vegetation management plans for this year. Davey Tree company was awarded the bid for tree-trimming, and Protec Terra will be applying necessary spray in the rights-of-way. Each substation area of your cooperative is trimmed and sprayed in a four-year cycle to reduce tree-contact-related outages. You, as a member, can help by contacting us if you see a leaning tree or dead tree near our lines, as high winds like we had last June can often cause these scenarios. You can also assist by not planting trees near our power lines. We love the beauty of our rural area, too, but we all like our electricity to be flowing with no interruptions. Trees are the No. 1 reason for power outages. So please remember to plant trees to shade your home, not our lines.

You may notice some of our utility poles have red markings on them. That is because 6,264 poles in the Alpine, Trail, Winesburg, and Hefferline substation areas will be inspected this year. Any poles marked will be scheduled for replacement in the coming year.

Like everyone, we have seen the increased cost in material in our industry, but we continue to be strong stewards of your cooperative. A staff with a dedicated, strong work ethic that properly manages resources and time is critical to cost management and the overall success of the organization.

You, the members, are also a key component in cost management. Every month, you read your meter, preventing the need for a staff member with a truck to read our 17,800+ meters in eight counties. Additionally, this allows you to see the exact amount of electricity you have consumed in the past month, prepare your budget for the next month, and contact us if you would like assistance with reducing your energy consumption or to utilize programs like budget billing.

Cooperatives are so much more than a member-owned utility. We work as team to help keep rates affordable and power reliable for you and your neighbors. It's a business model that has been successful in many industries, and has served Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative well for 88 years!

Holmes-Wayne Electric welcomes new member to Operation Round Up Foundation

In January, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative welcomed Michelle Wood to the HWEC Operation Round Up Foundation Board. The board consists of five members, who live in different areas of the cooperative service territory and have diverse backgrounds and experiences. These members volunteer their time to serve on the Operation Round Up Foundation board and are driven to improve our community.

Michelle, her husband, Duane, and their son live in the Moreland area. She is a graduate of Mount Union University and recently retired as the program administrator at the Holmes County Soil and Water Conservation District. The foundation is looking forward to Michelle's valuable contributions to the board.

HWEC Operation Round Up Foundation was established in 2006 and is a community service program

that provides funding for charitable and benevolent purposes for individuals, families, and organizations in our community. Holmes-Wayne Electric members choosing to participate have their electric bill rounded up every month. These pennies from each member are placed into the foundation. Over the 17-year period, more than \$900,000 has been distributed back to the community.

There is always a better way.

-T. Edison



Operation Round Up board: Standing (left to right), Jonathan Berger, Matt Johnson, and Dan Mathie; sitting (left to right), Michelle Wood and Glenn Miller.



THE POWER OF *Education*

HWEC is proud to announce our Power Student winners!

Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is recognizing students in grades six to eight for their hard work and dedication to education. These students had a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and were the lucky winners of our drawing for \$30 gift cards. If you have a power student, submit his or her report card for the next drawing on May 10.



**Breck
Sheldon,**

son of Brent and
Tara Sheldon of
Holmesville, is a
sixth grade student at
West Holmes Schools.



**Leonora
Zemancik,**

daughter of Joseph
and Lisa Zemancik of
Wooster, is a sixth grader
at Northwestern Schools.



**Jesse
Hanshaw,**

son of Rick and Julia
Hanshaw of Burbank,
is a seventh grader
at Northwestern
Schools.



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