



# Annual meeting summary

The Holmes-Wayne annual meeting returned to an in-person format for 2023. The meeting was conducted June 29 at the Baker Building at Harvest Ridge in Millersburg, Ohio. Members enjoyed coffee and donuts and an update of HVEC latest news and financial status. The highlight of the meeting was recognizing Attorney Dan Mathie for 40 years of service. The following pages provide detailed information shared with attending members.

## 2023 Trustee election results

Three seats on Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative's board of trustees were up for election this year.

Re-elected to the board were Chris Young – District 4, Ronnie Schlegel – District 5, and Jonathan Berger – District 6.

### District 6

Chester and Plain townships in Wayne County



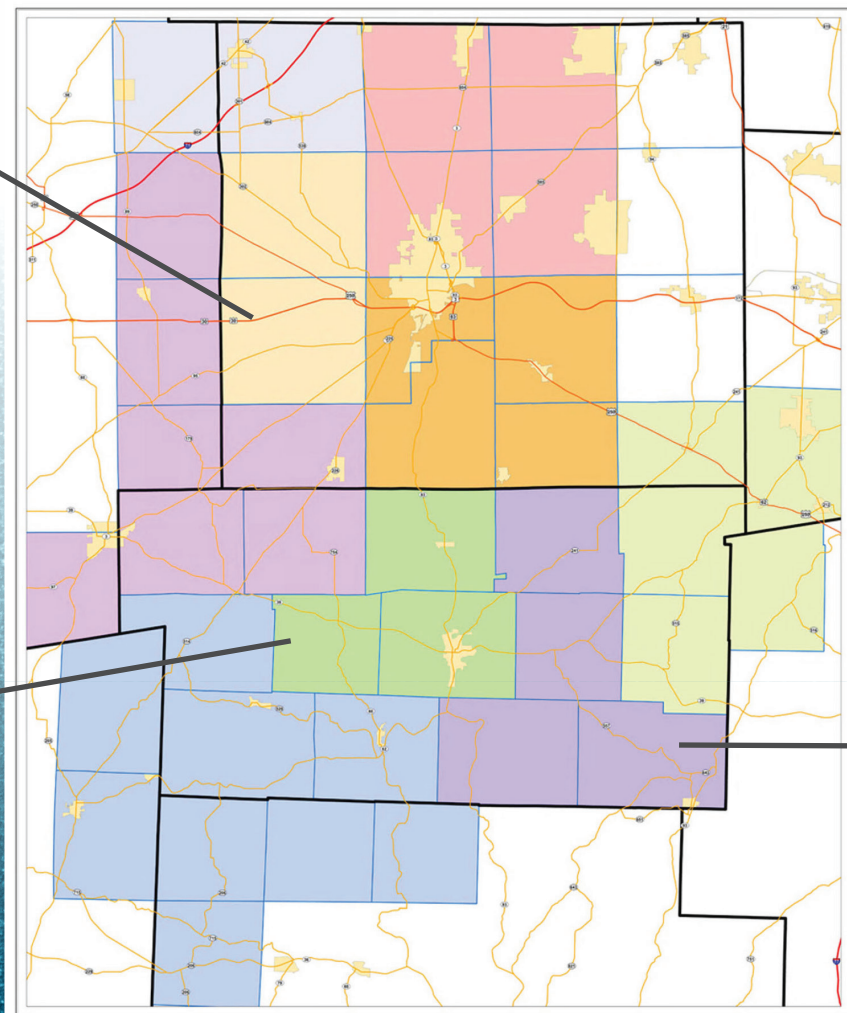
Jonathan Berger

### District 5

Hardy, Monroe, and Prairie townships in Holmes County



Ronnie Schlegel



Chris Young

### District 4

Berlin, Clark, Mechanic, and Salt Creek townships in Holmes County



## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



### RANDY SPRANG – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**G**ood morning. It is my pleasure to be here with you today. After three years, it's great to see our member-owners in person and tell our co-op's story of the last year, as well as the future.

Annual meetings also mean board of directors elections. Every year, we elect local people, member-owners, just like you, to serve on the board of directors. This is a key principle of being a cooperative organization – democratic member control.

This year, all three incumbents were re-elected to three-year terms. The commitment of your board of directors is something I would like to tell you more about.

HWEC's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, financial professionals, educators, and individuals with years of business experience. We are relied on to make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. We live right here in the co-op service territory and are the eyes and ears of the community.

At our core, we are always guided by a commitment to cooperative values and the cooperative business model. We never forget we are member focused, and we consider each member from the first served to those at the end of the line.

In addition to your dedicated board, I must also mention one of HWEC's greatest assets – the staff. I want to express my appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Their jobs are not Monday-through-Friday jobs. Many sacrifices are made so you, the members, have reliable power.

Considering electricity is something that we use around the clock, I'm proud of our 42 employees who work hard daily to maintain a strong track record to assure you have access to the electricity that you need, while maintaining the lowest cost possible.

Efforts by all of us allow your cooperative to remain financially stable. Every year, your cooperative analyzes its cost for providing you service. As 2022 brought new growth to our service territory, we continued to see ever-rising costs, resulting in a rate adjustment effective the May 2023 billing cycle. We understand that adjusting your bill adds to your increasing costs but assure you that we will work to maintain costs the best that we can and keep your rate as low as possible.

Even through challenging times, your cooperative remains a vital part of our local tax base. In 2022, we paid \$1,582,919 in kilowatt hour tax to the state of Ohio. Additionally, we paid \$1,407,177 in property taxes that benefit local schools and governments.

Also, just this month \$1,343,008 of capital patronage credits were returned to HWEC members. This is a retirement for members living on Holmes-Wayne Electric lines in 2002. That's over a million dollars returned to our local community economy!

The annual report that was provided to you today displays our commitment as a board toward investing your dollars in the best manner possible for your cooperative. We are focused on maintaining reliable, affordable service, while actively participating and giving back to the community.

As we move forward into 2023, HWEC will continue to invest time and resources in the communities that we serve; will continue to grow with the communities that we serve; and will continue to implement innovative solutions to operate your cooperative as efficiently as possible.

We are proud of our past successes and everyone that worked hard to attain them. Those successes will add strength to the foundation from which future achievements arise.

On behalf of your nine-member board, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued interest in your local rural electric cooperative. Thank you for joining us today.





## GLENN MILLER – PRESIDENT/CEO

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I am happy to welcome you all to the 86th annual meeting of the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative. On behalf of our employees and board of directors, I thank you for joining us today. Your presence here is testimony to your interest and support of HWEC.

2022 will no doubt mark a memorable year in the history books of HWEC. Around midnight the morning of June 14th, we saw powerful straight-line winds tear through our service area – uprooting trees, breaking utility poles, disrupting electric service, blocking roads, and making its mark as the most devastating weather event in HWEC history.

With 13,209 members without power (75% of our meters) and 10 of our 18 substations experiencing transmission outages, we knew this was going to be a long and involved restoration process that would require assistance and community support.

The best thing you can possibly see coming to your facility after a storm is men and women in bucket trucks eager to work and help power restoration. During storm restoration, everyone works. With this type of disaster, everyone must pivot from normality to fulfill roles they may not be assigned on a regular basis.

Incredibly, all crews met the challenge and power was restored in nine days. We are very proud of our linemen and all our employees behind the scenes. Each person was essential after this devastating storm and an integral part of the team!

I would also like to thank our members who were very understanding during restoral efforts by offering words of encouragement and much appreciation for our crews. You came together and shined in kindness to not only us, but the hundreds who were here to help.

Even with the challenges presented by the June storm, 2022 was a successful year for your cooperative. Thanks to the diligent efforts of management and employees, HWEC remained financially strong, maintained a high level of member satisfaction, and provided safe and exceptionally reliable electricity to our members. We continued to invest in projects to replace aging lines and equipment, increased capacity for load growth, and upgraded technology.

Our continued success started with our board of trustees. We are governed by a dedicated and engaged board elected by you, our members. The board's strategic direction and support has provided conditions for HWEC to succeed today and into the future.

I would like to thank our nine-member board for approving our current four-year work plan, totaling \$23,077,200, allowing continued investment in line rebuilding, substation testing, pole replacements, and other equipment replacements. Each year, maintaining a reliable system takes hundreds of hours of planning, maintenance, inspections, and upgrades.

In 2022, our operations team completed a tremendous amount of work in the field upgrading the distribution network, which included rebuilding 10.1 miles of line, replacing 1,008 poles, trimming trees for 390.7 miles (32,191 trees), spraying vegetation control for 413.6 miles, and adding 300 new services, along with energizing the new Winesburg substation and preparing for an additional substation in Holmesville.

Reliability is not something that happens by chance. Reliability means each time you flip the switch, you have power. One specific area of attention has been our right-of-way maintenance program. While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are two main benefits to tree trimming in right-of-way areas: safety and reliability. Clear rights-of-way give line crews the ability to respond to storm damage with minimal disruption of electricity and allow safe access to power lines. At HWEC, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply through our vegetation management program.

This year, in our four-year cycle program, Davey Tree Services will trim 422 miles of line in our Killbuck, Stillwell, Drake Valley, and Buckhorn substation areas. Protec Terra will be applying the necessary spray in the Clear Creek, Golden Corners, Mohican, North Wayne, and West Salem substation areas.

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# HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

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As these efforts reduce outages tremendously, it does not eliminate them. You, as a member, can help by contacting us if you see a leaning or dead tree near our lines, as high winds from last June can often cause these scenarios.

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Since we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our community base through a scholarship program, charitable giving, educational programs, and more.

We continue to be active in promoting energy efficiency and safety by visiting local schools, participating in safety fairs, and talking with youth through 4-H and scout troops. Electricity is a wonderful thing but only when it is used properly. We consider safety education not just an internal organizational commitment of our staff, but also a commitment to our local community.

As your trusted energy provider, we want to help you save energy and money. We recognize the past three years have been challenging for many of our businesses, farm, and residential members and we are here to help. We have numerous programs in place to help, which include options for managing your bill, energy saving tips, energy calculators, and our energy advisor, who can help you find ways to save.

If you have not already, I encourage you to take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, your smartphone or tablet, you will be able to pay your bill, view your usage, manage notifications, report a service issue, and more. This app allows you to contact us at anytime from anywhere.

If you have any questions regarding our electronic options including our mobile application – SmartHub, text & email notifications, outage texting, or even a question regarding your bill, our member service team is here to help.

In 2022, this team fielded more than 28,000 calls, and processed 7,971 service orders and 107,417 payments. They are a dedicated team with years of experience and a passion to serve you.

To learn more about the power of membership and all the ways that your cooperative is committed to the more than 18,000 accounts that we serve, please visit our new and refreshed website, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com).

I would like to close by giving a sincere thank you to each employee at HWEC. Without their dedication and fulfillment of the cooperative principles, we would not be able to provide our members with the exceptional service that we deliver today.

Our management team is blessed to work with individuals who take a lot of pride in the work they do each day. At the heart of our achievements is you — the members we proudly serve. I am thankful for the positive impact we continue to make, despite challenges we face with increased costs for materials, power supply and more.

Part of the cooperative business model and principles is to make the quality of life in rural America better. That is very important to myself, your board, and employees. We will continue to see hot summer days, cold winter nights, and damaging storms. But HWEC will continue to provide you with the best service possible.

Thank you for being a valued member. You are an owner of this cooperative, its history, and its future.



**Holmes-Wayne  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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