



## 2024 HWEC ANNUAL MEETING

### Board Chairman's Report



RANDY SPRANG  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

We understand that with busy schedules, many of you couldn't attend the 2024 Annual Meeting. You were missed, but we utilize this publication every year to share the same information we share at the annual meeting. Your board is committed to providing transparency and communication for you, the member-owners of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative.

It is a true pleasure to serve as the chairman of your board of trustees. Your board is dedicated and continually strives to achieve the goals of HWEC, namely:

- To provide electricity at the lowest cost possible
- To retain excellent customer service
- To always serve you according to our core principles and values

These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first. This year's election results demonstrate member confidence in the current board of trustees, as all three incumbents were reelected to three-year terms.

As your elected representatives, we serve as fiduciaries for the co-op and are required to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the cooperative and our fellow members. We understand that our decisions can affect the rates you pay and the quality of service you receive, which is why we weigh our decisions heavily.

We are proud of our past successes and of all the employees who worked hard to attain them. Those successes add strength to the foundation from which future achievements will rise. But no matter how many "successes" we accrue, one thing remains paramount: **Our members are the most important part of HWEC. Your cooperative is stronger because of your support and participation. We thank you for that.**

Your cooperative continues to be a financially healthy organization. Financial stability is a crucial aspect for any organization, and cooperatives are no exception. We will work to maintain costs and keep your rates as low as possible.

In 2023, the cooperative continued its efforts to upgrade and enhance the system's infrastructure, taking care to maximize the value of every dollar spent while still maintaining the level of reliability and quality member service HWEC members expect and deserve.

The annual report that was published in the June edition displays our commitment as a board toward investing your dollars in the best manner possible.

Holmes-Wayne Electric remains a vital part of our local tax base. In 2023, we paid \$1,528,110 in kilowatt-hour taxes to the state of Ohio.

Additionally, we paid \$1,484,112 in property taxes that benefit local schools and governments. Also, just this month **\$1,512,920 of patronage capital credits were returned to HWEC members.** This is a retirement for members living on Holmes-Wayne lines in 2003. That's more than a million dollars returned to our local community economy!

In addition to continuing our tradition of providing reliable power, we continue to invest in the communities that we serve. From supporting local schools and youth programs to partnering with charity organizations and small businesses, our commitment to community runs deep.

Every member of our team, from our linemen to our member service representatives, plays a crucial role in our success. We deeply appreciate their unwavering commitment to serving you.

Lastly, **as we mark 87 years of serving the HWEC communities, we want to thank each of you. Your support has been essential to our success, and we remain dedicated to our core values that have guided us from the beginning. Thank you for being a part of our cooperative family.**



# President's Report

2023 was another productive and successful year for Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc. We continue to invest in your system to provide increased reliability. 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 new year provides 365 opportunities to tackle projects large and small. In 2023, our operations team completed a tremendous amount of work in the field upgrading the distribution network, which included replacing 346 poles, trimming trees for 399 miles, spraying vegetation control for 392 miles, and adding 201 new services, along with preparing for an additional substation in Holmesville.

Electric cooperatives serve the most rural, wooded and challenging stretches of terrain in Ohio, which are also the most green. One specific area of attention has been our right-of-way maintenance program, through which we try to prevent hazards from turning into outages. 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, Asplundh Tree Experts will trim 479 miles of line in our Ripley, West Millersburg, and Reedsburg substation areas. Protec Terra will be applying the necessary spray in the Buckhorn, Killbuck, Stillwell, and Drake Valley substation areas. EPA-approved herbicides are targeting woody plants only and in doing so, we are promoting wildflowers and grasses.

These efforts reduce outages tremendously but do not eliminate them. You, as a member, can help by contacting us if you see a leaning or dead tree near our lines. For your safety, we ask that you let us trim any trees or limbs.

Keeping the lights on is what drives our co-op, but we are rooted in so much more. At our core, the people and community are what matter the most. 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. That spirit is also evident in the generosity of our members who donate to Operation Round Up and the volunteer board members who distribute these funds throughout our communities.



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO

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.

We have a variety of online resources, from reporting an outage to appliance and lighting calculators and storm preparation tips. To learn more about all the ways that your cooperative is committed to the more than 18,000 accounts that we serve, please visit our website at [hwecoop.com](http://hwecoop.com) and follow us on Facebook.

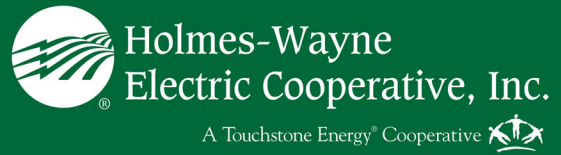
I want to recognize the committed HWEC staff. Day or night, rain or shine, calm or storm, your cooperative employees are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep your homes comfortable and energized. We are lucky to have such incredible people working behind the scenes to power our homes, businesses, and communities. Whatever comes our way, your cooperative's employees are here to keep the power on and serve you, our members.

In closing, I want to assure you that HWEC is well-positioned to navigate the challenges facing our co-op and the electric utility industry as a whole. We are moving in the right direction, which is strategic and guided by best practices, sound board policy, and careful financial planning.

We are focused on reliability and maintaining a member-centric attitude, all while embracing safe work practices.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity; it's a necessity. That's why Holmes-Wayne Electric will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

# 2024 HVEC ANNUAL ELECTION RESULTS



The below incumbent board members have been reelected to serve another term on your HVEC Board of Trustees.

## DISTRICT 1

Paint and Walnut Creek townships in Holmes County, Paint Township in Wayne County, Wayne Township in Tuscarawas County, and Sugarcreek Township in Stark County

**RANDY SPRANG**



## DISTRICT 3

Perry, Mohican, Lake, and Hanover townships in Ashland County, Washington and Ripley townships in Holmes County, and Clinton Township in Wayne County

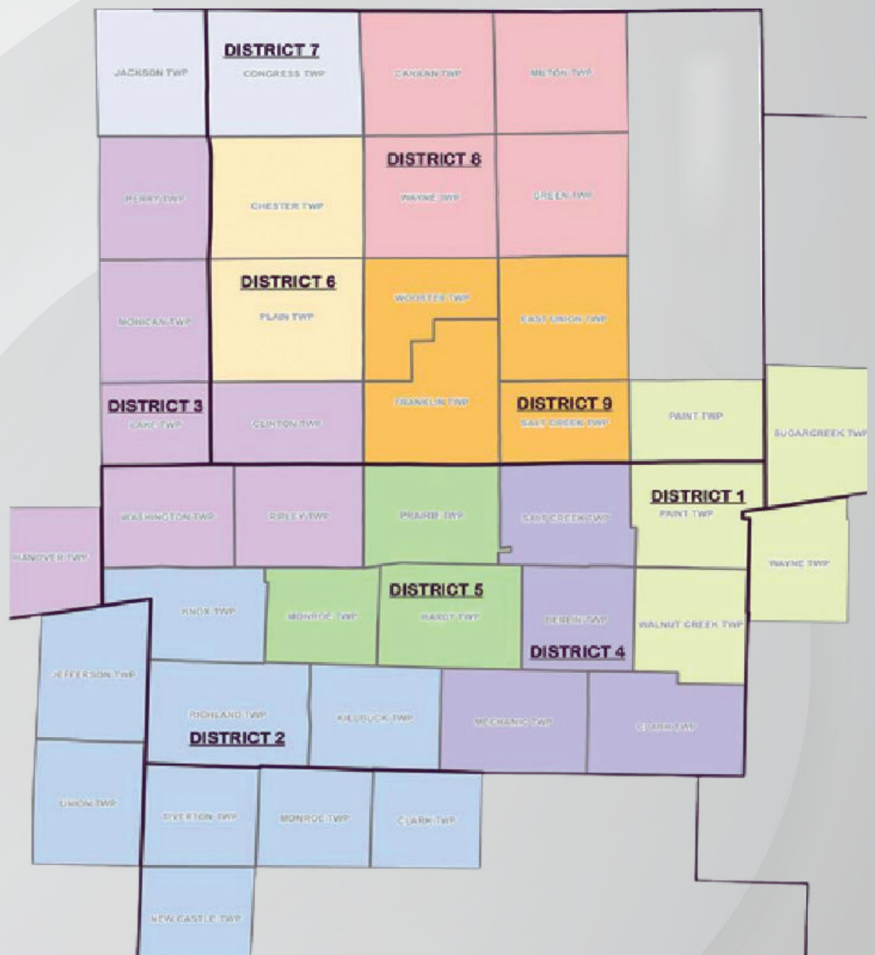
**JACKIE MCKEE**



## DISTRICT 7

Congress Township in Wayne County and Jackson Township in Ashland County

**DAVID TEGTMEIER**





# Welcome to the HWECC TEAM



*Cody Woods*

We are excited to welcome Cody Woods, who is joining our team as the new staff accountant, as we prepare for a year-end retirement in the accounting department. Cody is a graduate of West Holmes High School and Ashland University. We're confident Cody's skills and experience will be a great asset to the HWECC team!

## Lineworker Safety, Training & Leadership Conference

HWECC Lineman Steve Asbury was one of five cooperative lineworkers in Ohio selected to attend this safety and leadership summit.

Seventy lineworkers across the nation are bringing shared developed skills back to their cooperatives to continue advancement in the safety culture.



## 2024 Trade School Scholarship Winner



Congratulations to Lydia Hassenzahl of Burbank! Ohio's Electrical Cooperatives awarded two students in the state of Ohio Trade School Scholarships, and HWECC member Lydia was a recipient!

# Congratulations!



Holmes-Wayne  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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