



## MESSAGE FROM THE COOPERATIVE

# Standing up for reliable, affordable energy

I know our members look to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., to provide electricity that is both reliable and affordable. For decades, we've been doing just that.

For about a year, though, electricity industry leaders have been talking about threats posed by proposed new regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In April, those rules were released, and the theoretical danger to energy availability in this country became all too real.

These regulations demand that coal-fired power plants essentially eliminate carbon dioxide emissions by 2032 or be shut down. The problem is that the required reductions aren't actually feasible because the technology needed for carbon capture and storage is still being developed and not yet commercially available.

### What this means to our co-op

In the short term, HWEC will continue providing you the affordable, reliable electricity you expect from us. But I think all members should understand these new regulations threaten our ability to provide the same level of this vital service in the future.

Nearly 70% of generation capacity for Ohio's electric cooperatives comes from the Cardinal Power Plant, which delivers baseload power to more than a million people in 77 of Ohio's 88 counties. Member-owned Buckeye Power has spent more than \$1 billion on emissions controls at Cardinal, which has been recognized as one of the cleanest-operating coal-fired plants in the world.

Electricity from Cardinal Plant has helped Ohio's cooperatives avoid much of the recent volatility in energy prices and keep rate increases as low as possible. Without this always-available electricity supply, cooperative members would face significantly higher costs and an ever-growing likelihood of insufficient power availability and increasing risk of rolling blackouts.

### What your co-op is doing

Please understand that we support environmentally responsible energy goals, including a well-planned and strategically executed transition to carbon-free electricity sources. Our all-of-the-above approach includes growth in renewable energy resources and ongoing reductions in fossil-fuel dependence. Realistically, this transition requires more time than the EPA rules allow.

With that in mind, leaders from Ohio cooperatives joined others from around the country in Washington, D.C., in April both to educate legislators about reliability threats in the new rules and to encourage congressional action to stop their implementation.

I, along with other co-op leaders, will continue to advocate for commonsense policies and realistic timelines for reducing carbon emissions while reinforcing the importance of reliable and affordable electricity. We expect the NRECA, our national trade group, and other reliable energy proponents to challenge the new regulations in court on behalf of all our members.

### What you can do

As a member, you can stand up for energy reliability in several ways. First, you can educate yourself on the issues. Follow HWEC on Facebook and this publication to stay on top of new developments. Research the energy policies supported by candidates for elected office, and support candidates who value reliable electricity.

Additionally, you can join other cooperative members from around the country to advocate for responsible energy policy through Voices for Cooperative Power. Visit <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com> to learn more about this grassroots effort.

Your cooperative, along with our statewide and national organizations, will always advocate for reliable, affordable energy for our members. I hope you will join us in these efforts.



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO



# Heard of a utility company that *sends* you money?

# We do!

**Cooperatives are member-owned. You receive your power from us, then you receive capital patronage.**

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric strives to safely provide reliable, competitively priced electric service for our member-owners. We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain an operating margin to provide working capital, which is used to maintain the electric distribution system, to build and upgrade lines and substations, and to help provide service to new members. However, because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, we return these margins to the members in a form called patronage capital credits.

Capital credits are currently being retired on the industry-recommended 20-year cycle. When these capital credits are retired, they are returned to current and former members via check. This is one reason why you always should keep your cooperative apprised of your address. If you move off of Holmes-Wayne Electric's lines, you may have money coming to you in the future, so keep in touch!

**A total of \$1,512,920.02 has been returned to our members this year.**



If you were a member of HWEC in the year 2003, you should have received a check in June for the amount of your capital credits for 2003.

# POWER Students

Congratulations to these future community leaders!



**Easton Tarleton**  
Son of  
Brad & Cori Tarleton  
6th Grade  
Norwayne



**Alexandria Proper**  
Daughter of  
Josh & Jody Proper  
6th Grade  
West Holmes



**Natalie Koch**  
Daughter of  
Scott & Emily Koch  
6th Grade  
Northwestern

To submit your child for the next drawing, e-mail the student's grade card, with address and parent's name(s) and phone number to [memberservices@hwecoop.com](mailto:memberservices@hwecoop.com).



## Congratulations! Ella Saal



Congratulations to Ella Saal, who represented Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative at Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' scholarship competition. Ella placed sixth in the state!

Ella recently graduated from Northwestern High School and will be attending The Ohio State University this fall. She is the daughter of Mark and Carolyn Saal of West Salem.

## Unable to make the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Annual meeting?

Don't worry! You can read all about the meeting in our August edition of this publication.



# Welcome to the **HWEC TEAM**



Colton May



Nathan Shaw

We are excited to welcome two new team members:  
Colton May, system engineer, and Nathan Shaw, engineer intern.

## 2024 Cardinal Plant tour

**October 9 or 10, 2024**

This is your opportunity to tour the power plant that generates your electricity and learn more about recent energy policies.

If you are an HWEC member who is interested in participating in this educational tour, please contact **Shay at 866-674-1055.**

**Participants must be at least 12 years old.**

*Please note: There is a considerable amount of walking, including stair climbing!*

# CONCERNED?

Are you concerned your check won't arrive on time and you'll have late fees?

Concerned about mailbox theft?

Concerned about proposed first-class mail rate increase to \$0.73?

### We have the answer!

Choose one of these convenient payment options:

1. Automatic payment
2. Pay online or mobile app through SmartHub
3. Pay over the phone with our helpful member services team



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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