



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Return on your investment

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, the people in our community who receive electricity are not just customers — you are member-owners of your cooperative. As a member-owned cooperative, we are committed to providing the best service at the lowest possible cost. Members enjoy certain rights that customers do not have with other electric providers.

Many people are not aware of the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their rates. At Holmes-Wayne Electric, our rates are based on two main components: the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from Buckeye Power — the company that generates electricity — and the cost for us to get that power to you.

Our power provider, Buckeye Power, which is also a cooperative, sets wholesale power costs. I represent Holmes-Wayne Electric on the Buckeye Power Board of Trustees. As a cooperative, Buckeye Power works hard to keep rates low, while guaranteeing a stable supply of electricity.

The second component — the cost for us to get power to you — is all other operational costs, including the cost for poles and lines, transmission supplier fees, the cost and maintenance of trucks and buildings, engineering, tree trimming, employee wages and benefits, and the costs associated with bill processing, information technology, and member services.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you; we don't have stockholders expecting a big quarterly dividend. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we are working only to provide you with economical rates and reliable service.

Part of the second component of your rates is your investment into the cooperative. Patronage capital credits, or capital credits, as they are often called, represent your investment in the cooperative and all its assets. Patronage capital credits are to you what dividends are to stockholders at for-profit companies. But we do not focus on high margins. Any margins created are initially used for capital needs and are then returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by each.

Recently, capital credits were returned to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative members. \$1,132,728 was returned to members who received electric service from Holmes-Wayne Electric in 2001 and 2002.



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

Capital credits are currently being retired on an industry average 20-year cycle. When retired, they are returned via check to current members, as well as former members no longer on our lines. 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 that you have forgotten about!

You are notified annually of your allocation of the capital credits assigned to your account for the prior year. Please note in your May 2022 bill the information regarding the 2021 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and Buckeye Power. You will only have a 2021 allocation if you were a member of the cooperative in 2021.

Returning capital credits to members is a practice unique to the cooperative form of business and represents one of the cooperative principles — members' economic participation. And perhaps best of all, the benefit of this economic participation accrues locally to our neighborhoods and community!





Power blinks

Lightning, trees, or squirrels?

Have you ever noticed your lights blinking during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, known as a power blink.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of circumstances, like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme.

How do we limit/prevent blinks?

We may not be able to control the wildlife in our community, but we do invest over \$1 million a year in right-of-way management. This includes a four-year cycle of trimming and vegetation management. One tree contact can cause an outage for thousands — this is why it is critical that we manage the tree growth near our lines. Not only do clear rights-of-way help reduce power outages, but they also provide our crews with a safe environment where they can maintain lines and efficiently restore power.

How can you help?

As a member, you can help by not planting trees near our power lines and by notifying us of any trees that are leaning in our rights-of-way, especially after storms. Also, members have assisted by notifying us of dead trees that are outside of the rights-of-way but are large enough that they could fall onto our lines. With your help, we can continue to limit blinks and outages that are caused by tree/limb contact.

Blinks mean the infrastructure safety equipment is working.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are good things, because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage. Otherwise, every time a critter or tree limb makes contact, you would experience an outage instead of a brief blink.

Regardless of the cause for your blink, Holmes-Wayne Electric staff works year-round to provide you with reliable electricity. From the staff members who design new services to prevent faults, to our line crews who will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage, to the right-of-way clearing manager, we are dedicated to keeping your lights on.



HWEC welcomes Eldridge, promotes Shaffer

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is excited to welcome Alec Eldridge. Alec joined our team this spring as our new warehouse/purchasing agent.

Congratulations to Nathan Shaffer, who moved from the warehouse position into the apprentice/lineman position at our West Salem district office. These gentlemen display the strong character of community, work ethic, teamwork, and member service excellence that embodies the cooperative family.



Nathan Shaffer
APPRENTICE LINEMAN



Alec Eldridge
WAREHOUSE/PURCHASING AGENT

Westbrook wins a combined \$5,200 in scholarships



Megan Westbrook of West Holmes High School is the first-place winner of a \$3,000 scholarship in the 2022 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Scholarship Contest. Miss Westbrook was part of a group of 26 students representing seven area high schools who competed for a total of \$20,200 in scholarships.

Westbrook is the daughter of Jeremy and Leslie Westbrook of Millersburg. She plans to attend Liberty University this fall, dual majoring in conference and event management — Christian leadership and church ministries. Miss Westbrook said, “The most impactful experience of my high school career was attending the Christ in Youth conference with my church. I spent that week with my youth group, worshipping and growing in my faith. It has shaped who I am today and the goals that I have for my future.”

Westbrook represented Holmes-Wayne Electric at the Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives scholarship competition in Columbus. Competing against 23 other students, she placed fifth, winning an additional \$2,200 scholarship.



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



ALEXIS LONG

Daughter of Andy and Denise Long of Shreve; student at Triway Schools



BOONE THOMPSON

Son of Jason and Charity Thompson of Holmesville; student at Waynedale Schools

Congrats, POWER STUDENTS!

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 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.

Help us recognize your Power Student!

If you are a member of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and have a student in grades 6–8 with a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card, submit their report card for the next drawing.



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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