



MESSAGE FROM THE COOPERATIVE

Summer of safety



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

As summer comes to a close, I reflect back on our summer here at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative. Each season seems to have its own challenges, but one thing that never changes is our year-around focus on safety. HWEC is committed to safety and the expectation and accountability of every staff member to embrace it as a core value.

This summer, we had a RESAP inspection. RESAP (the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) is our national safety program in partnership with statewide and cooperative safety leaders. This voluntary program utilizes a framework for continuous improvement in safety performance and culture.

The surprise inspection occurs every three years and the entire organization — including building, equipment, and staff — is inspected and questioned. This also includes an anonymous survey by staff to identify any unknown safety concerns.

We also continue our efforts in the Commitment to Zero program. You may see this symbol in some of our materials. This program is focused on communication and discussion by operations staff (leadership, linemen, and apprentices) to say exactly what they see and to encourage open and honest discussions to reduce safety hazards. When ideas and observations come directly from people who are doing the work, we can address safety challenges based upon their exact experiences.

Our operations and safety director, Stacey Shaw, has been key to leading HWEC to a new level of safety focus. Critical to the program is avoiding complacency and overconfidence, which can erode overall safety awareness

after years of working in the industry. Unfortunately, a contact accident can happen to anyone, even the most experienced lineworker.

Safety education starts on day one with our apprentices. They immediately see we're encouraging conversations about safety during job briefings, and that includes thorough inspection of personal protection equipment before work gets underway.

Line crews also have weekly safety talks, led by a lineworker on the team, and monthly safety meetings, coordinated through our state safety program. Field inspections by internal as well as external safety staff are completed throughout the year.

Safety isn't just a focus for our line crews. All staff members, no matter their title or years of service, are encouraged to speak up when they have questions or a safety concern, empowering each employee to recognize he or she is key to keeping all safe. There are no excuses. Each department is represented on the safety committee, which meets quarterly.

We also know the importance of communicating safety to you, the members, and our community. We use safety demonstrations throughout the year, Facebook postings, and this magazine to remind everyone of the dangers of electricity.

Through these programs and many more resources, we always want our actions and decisions to reflect a fundamental and unwavering commitment to safety.



Serving our community is our past, present, and future

Co-op provides information and advice, from energy efficiency to solar panels

“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us — your local electric cooperative — this is the core of our existence.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to areas where there was none. In doing so, HWEC helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable and affordable energy to our members, today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That’s why we’re adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs, and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you’re looking for ways to save energy, check out our website and Facebook page for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Consider scheduling an energy audit with our energy advisor, Kenny DePriest, to identify ways you can conserve energy at home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you’re considering a home solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it’s important to fully understand



the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we’re here to help you through that process. You can also visit our website that includes questions to ask your solar contractor.

So, the next time you hear HWEC use the phrase “we’re here to serve you,” we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options

HOLMES-WAYNE VETERANS HONOR TRIP PARADE

— SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 —

★ 24 local veterans are returning home from an honor trip to Washington, D.C. ★
★ Line the streets of Shreve from the elementary school to CVS Pharmacy with ★
★ signs to celebrate. Following the parade, please join us in the parking lot ★
★ beside CVS for a brief ceremony to honor this year's participants. ★

DENNIS BLACKLOCK - AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
DAVID BODLE - ARMY/VIETNAM
PAUL BOWERS - ARMY/VIETNAM
SANDRA CLEARY - ARMY/VIETNAM
TIM DILYARD - AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
VICTORIA EBNER - MARINES/VIETNAM
PAUL FRANK - ARMY/VIETNAM
DAVID GARNES - ARMY/VIETNAM
GARY GONTER - ARMY/VIETNAM
CHUCK HUFFMAN - NAVY/VIETNAM
BOB IAMS - NAVY/WWII
ORVALLE JOHNSON - ARMY/VIETNAM

LEONARD JORZ - ARMY/VIETNAM
JON KINNEY - ARMY/VIETNAM
CHARLES LEPOLD - ARMY/VIETNAM
ROGER MILLER - ARMY/VIETNAM
DAVID SCHLAUCH - ARMY/VIETNAM
DANNY STADLER - NAVY/VIETNAM
JEFF STAIR - NAVY/VIETNAM
MARK STEINER - ARMY/VIETNAM
TERRY STUDER - ARMY/VIETNAM
RALPH STUDER - ARMY/VIETNAM
KEN VANSICKLE - ARMY/VIETNAM
NELSON WEIRICK - NAVY/VIETNAM



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

Welcome to the HWECC TEAM



Jody Proper

As we plan for another retirement, we welcome Jody Proper to our Member Services team! Jody is one of our many friendly staff members who will assist you when you call HWECC.

We're local and people-focused. It's the cooperative difference!

2024 Cardinal Plant tour October 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 HWECC 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!

WE ARE DIFFERENT. NO FEES



MOST UTILITIES CHARGE A TRANSACTION FEE FOR PAYING VIA CREDIT CARD. WE DON'T! SO EARN THOSE POINTS BACK EVERY MONTH WHEN YOU PAY YOUR HWECC BILL.

Ways to pay your bill: Online on our website • SmartHub mobile app • automatic monthly payment • by phone at 866-674-1055



Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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