



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Warm wishes from Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

The holidays bring many things to mind: happy memories of seasons past, good food gatherings with family and friends, and long-awaited gifts. It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Holmes-Wayne Electric, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because we live here, too.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back, and so does HWEC — through American Cancer Society–Relay for Life, meals to local sheriff departments, Veterans Honor Trip, the Fallen Lineman program, and so many more throughout the year. Holmes-Wayne Electric members help us give back, too. Through Operation Round Up, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community.

We are who we are because of our members. We recognize that and understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to make sure our community is strong.

Perhaps you perform random acts of kindness like sharing a cup of coffee with a friend in need or cooking and serving food for the hungry. Maybe you give your time or money to local agencies and charities. Or perhaps you

simply try to embrace the season by showing gratitude and kindness to those around you.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at Holmes-Wayne Electric strive to share our cooperative spirit with you. We hope you see it reflected in your utility bill. Even during the holiday season, when many people are lighting their homes with festive decorations or staying up late entertaining and cooking for family and friends, we are still working to provide you with the most affordable and reliable electric service possible. Our dedicated staff is here 24/7 every day of the year, including holidays.

Also in this month's publication, we have information about our popular gift certificate option. This is a nice way to anonymously support someone in our community going through a challenging time or to directly assist someone who could use a little extra help during the holidays.

At the heart of all of these programs is you — the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make. This holiday season, the staff and board at HWEC wish you and your loved ones wonderful and safe holidays.





Keeping our family safe

The Commitment to Zero Contacts program has become a central component of safety training for Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative. This program was developed as a joint initiative by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Cooperative in 2017.

“Anyone involved in this line of work knows the level of danger,” says Stacey Shaw, safety director at HWEC. “Our staff is handling 7,200-volt and 15,000-volt power lines daily, and while that can become routine, the hazards of the work should never be taken for granted.”

Critical to the program is avoiding complacency and overconfidence that can erode overall safety awareness after years of working in the industry. “Unfortunately, a contact accident can happen to anyone. Even the most experienced lineman,” Shaw says.

The consequences of an incident in this industry are very high and getting that critical “buy-in” requires much more than lectures, memos, and discussions. HWEC uses a variety of techniques to make safety awareness personal and to encourage staff and other employees to regularly discuss safety concerns.

At our lineman desk and lunchroom displays, the family connection to safety is a regular reminder for co-op employees, with family photos hanging on the walls to remind crews that one mistake can be fatal. As a small organization of 42 employees, everyone knows each other’s families and often share in special moments of weddings, births of children, kids’ sporting activities, and graduations.

The education starts at 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,” Shaw says.

All staff, no matter their title or years of service, are encouraged to speak up when they have questions or a safety concern, which empowers each employee to recognize that they are key to keeping everyone safe. There are no excuses.

Monthly safety meetings and the safety committee continue to support the overall safety program.

“Our member services department excels in communicating and educating our members about the process of safe power restoration,” says Shaw. “No one likes their power to be out, but we will never ask our staff to compromise the process and safety steps to restore power quicker. We all have family and loved ones we want to return safely home to. That is the end goal every day.”





2022 GRADS

Are your parents
Holmes-Wayne Electric members?

If so, you
could win

\$6,900

in scholarships!

To obtain rules and applications
for the **Children of Members
Scholarship:**

- Visit hwecoop.com
- Call the co-op at 866-674-1055
- Ask your guidance counselor

Deadline to apply: Jan. 20, 2022



Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 



Want to help someone in the community?

The holidays are quickly approaching, and it's been a tough year for everyone. Many have reached out, asking to help neighbors and loved ones with their utility bills. A gift certificate to assist a Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative member might just be the ideal present for your parents, grandparents, children, or someone in need. If you're looking for a useful present for someone you know who is a member of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055. You have the option to remain anonymous when giving a gift certificate.



Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative
wishes our members a happy
and healthy holiday season.

**HWEC will be closed Dec. 23 and 24
and Dec. 31.**

For outage reporting:

Text @ 55050

Mobile app, SmartHub

Call toll-free 866-674-1055

For payments and meter readings:

Mobile app, SmartHub

Call toll-free 866-674-1055



Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT

866-674-1055 (toll-free)

www.hwecoop.com

OFFICE

6060 St. Rte. 83

P.O. Box 112

Millersburg, OH 44654-0112

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Randy Sprang
Chairman

Dave Mann
Vice Chairman

Barry Jolliff
Secretary/Treasurer

Jonathan Berger
Bill Grassbaugh
Jackie McKee
Ronnie Schlegel
David Tegtmeier
Chris Young
Trustees

Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

SMARTHUB

Report an outage, submit a meter reading, and pay your bill all through our mobile SmartHub application.

Available for both Android and Apple devices



CALL US 24/7

Report outages, submit meter readings, and make payments

Text an outage to 55050 with the word "outage."

[Facebook.com/holmeswayneelectriccoop](https://www.facebook.com/holmeswayneelectriccoop)