



The *power* of American independence



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

Fireworks and flags. Cookouts and cold drinks. The Fourth of July is a festive day when we celebrate our nation's independence. Typically, this is not a day of quiet reflection.

But it's worth thinking about this uniquely American spirit of independence that remains part of our collective DNA more than 200 years after the Declaration of Independence was written. And this sense of independence

has served us well. For example, almost 80 years ago, an independent initiative inspired groups of farmers across the countryside to band together and improve their quality of life by electrifying rural America. They did it themselves by pulling together and working cooperatively — a shining example of American determination and ingenuity.

Nearly every president since the 1970s, during the time of the Arab oil embargo, has talked about the goal of U.S. energy independence: reducing our reliance on imported oil and other forms of foreign energy. We still have a ways to go, but we are closer to that goal than ever before. We are exporting more gas and importing less foreign fuel than in recent memory. American ingenuity, in the form of new technology and innovation, is spurring greater efficiency across all forms of energy.

Consumers have an important role to play in the road to energy independence by taking action in simple, practical ways, including insulating and caulking around windows, doors and electrical outlets; replacing air filters; installing a programmable thermostat; and using more efficient appliances and home heating and cooling

systems. Efficiency efforts can cut costs for individual households, but the collective benefit to our country is even greater.

If we all work together to achieve increased energy efficiency and reduce our overall energy consumption, we can make even more progress on our road toward energy independence.

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, we take our role in this endeavor very seriously. As your cooperative, we want to be a resource for you by providing tips tailored for your unique household needs.

We provide an on-site energy advisor to answer questions you may have regarding energy efficiency. We also offer residential home energy audits that include blower door testing and infrared camera technology.

We can provide a variety of brochures on renewable energy, questions to ask when replacing your HVAC, 101 low-cost or no-cost home energy saving tips and much more.

Commercial accounts can inquire about our custom lighting rebate program and commercial account audits.

Many HWEC members take advantage of the vast amount of information and energy efficiency calculator tools on our website at www.hwecoop.com. Members can see how much an appliance costs per month to operate or how an electric space heater affects their winter bills.

Also follow us on Facebook to receive energy efficiency tips.

As always, call us toll free at 866-674-1055. We love to serve our members and help them manage their electric bill by using energy wisely and efficiently.

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Business hours 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

330-674-1055 (local) • 866-674-1055 (toll-free)
You can call 24 hours a day to report outages, submit meter
readings and payments.



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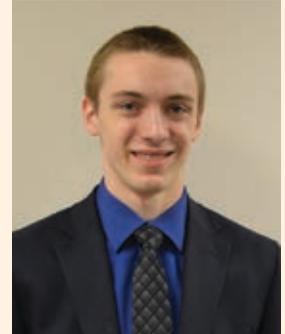
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Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

Congratulations to scholarship winner

Congratulations to Holmes-Wayne Electric scholarship winner Matthew Dyer for placing second at Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives' statewide scholarship competition in Columbus. Dyer competed against 24 other cooperative winners and received an additional \$2,400. He is the son of Richard and Patricia Dyer of Wooster. A graduate of Wooster High School, he will attend Xavier University this fall.



Office closed July 3

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. As always, you can contact us toll free at 866-674-1055 or use our mobile application, SmartHub, to report outages, make a payment or submit a meter reading.

HWEC offers budget billing option

If you are interested in signing up for budget billing, please call the office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., to learn more about the program, to get a budget estimate or to enroll. This program helps members avoid extreme variances in bills during the heating and cooling seasons by averaging consumption over a 12-month period.

2015 Annual Meeting coverage in August issue

HWEC Annual Meeting was held Thursday, June 25. Due to publication deadlines, details of the annual meeting will be in the August issue of *Country Living*.

HWEC employees raise \$12,000 for American Cancer Society

Everyone has a friend or loved one who has faced the challenge of cancer. The Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative team worked diligently this year to raise \$12,000 for the Holmes County American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

Money raised is used to research and discover a cure for cancer. Also, a portion of the funds remain local to provide services to those in our community battling cancer.

The HWEC team would like to express a special appreciation to the local businesses who donated to our fundraising efforts.



2015 Relay For Life business sponsors

**Auto Work Collision Center, Inc. • Bromund & Byler, Inc.
Canaan Meats, LTD • Holmes Oil Distributing, Inc. • Kirk Building Co.
Mac Oil • Norm Electric • W&W Transport, Inc.**

Save \$\$\$ and time



Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is always looking for ways to save money for our member-owners. It's just another benefit of being a member of HWEC.

One of the easiest ways to save money as a member is by paying your HWEC electric bill online, through our mobile app, SmartHub, over the phone or by automatic payment. It's easy and, most of all, saves you money on postage as well as checks. All of these options are convenient because they are available 24 hours a day.

Some members like to take advantage of our automatic payment option. They know their electric bill will be paid on time every month, and they only have to submit a meter reading once a month. You can complete the automatic payment form at right or on our website hwecoop.com. It doesn't get any easier than this!

Payment options

Fast, easy and no service fees

Option 1 - mobile application - SmartHub

Not only can you pay your bill through your mobile device, but you can also submit a meter reading and report a power outage. The SmartHub app is available for both Android and Apple devices.

Option 2 - Pay your bill online - www.hwecoop.com

Option 3 - Automatic payment

Quit worrying about due dates and remembering to pay your bill. It can be automatically paid through your choice of banking account or credit card.

Option 4 - Pay via phone.

Give us a call and pay your bill or submit a meter reading over the phone. You can call any hour and day, and we will take your check, debit or credit card (Visa or MasterCard) for payment.

AUTHORIZATION FORM - ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

Customer information

Name (as shown on bill): _____

HWEC account number : _____

Telephone no.: _____

Service Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

I authorize Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., to instruct my financial institution to make my payments to them from the account listed below. I understand that I control my payments, and if at any time I decide to discontinue this payment service, I will notify Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., in writing, allowing 60 days for cancellation of this arrangement.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Financial Institution Name: _____

Type of Account: [] Checking or [] Savings

Account number: _____

Bank routing/transit number _____

**** Please enclose a voided check so that we can record the correct financial information. ****

_____ OR _____

Credit card payment

Type of credit card: [] Visa or [] MasterCard

Credit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Please note: Once you are placed on the EFT Payment Program, if you have two returned payments due to insufficient funds or two declined credit card payments, your account will be removed from the program. Also, if you have authorized credit card payments, please inform our billing department of the updated expiration date when you receive a new credit card. Please continue to read your meter and submit the reading on our website at www.hwecoop.com, mobile application, SmartHub, or via e-mail, phone. Thank you.

Summer Storm Safety

Severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, high winds and flooding can leave serious damage in their wake — damage that you can't always see. In some cases, more lives are lost after the storm than from the storm itself.

"When you're dealing with storm cleanup or flood-damaged property, the prospect of an electrical accident is probably not top of mind," says Safe Electricity's Molly Hall. "But it's the first thing you should think of before you go outside, step foot into a flooded area or enter a storm-damaged building."

When outside, **stay away from downed power lines** and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. **Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized.** Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away, and contact Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative through its toll-free 24-hour outage line at 866-674-1055 or through our mobile app, SmartHub.

Do not touch downed power lines, and do not touch trees, objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized. Encountering these objects can be as hazardous as coming into contact with a downed power line itself.

As part of its "Teach Learn Care TLC" campaign, Safe Electricity urges parents and other caregivers to make sure children are aware of these hazards, as well.

For additional information, tips and safety videos, visit SafeElectricity.org.



More tips to stay safe outdoors

Safe Electricity offers other precautions following storms:

- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or HVEC. **Never drive over a downed line** because it could pull down poles and other items along its path.
- Be alert at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as four-way stops before proceeding with caution.
- **Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off.** Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water

to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call HVEC to shut off power at the meter.

- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. **Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.**
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to replace them. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a pro-

fessional has checked it out.

- If, after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.
- **If you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed,** or connect appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the home to power lines — what is known as "backfeed." Backfeed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.
- **Never remove a tree or any item touching a power line, even if the power line is on the ground. It still can be energized.**