

# Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Safety always a priority at HWEC



*President's Report*  
*Glenn Miller*

I heard a pretty amazing story the other day. It involved two teens in Indiana, Lee Whittaker and Ashley Taylor, who were driving down the road with some friends when their car started to fishtail. Lee did his best to keep the vehicle on the road. But before he knew it he was sliding straight into a utility pole—and that pole came down, lines and all, right on top of his overturned car.

Now, most people faced with this situation would do what comes naturally: get out of the car. But Lee and Ashley knew better. Not a week earlier they had attended a safety demonstration at their school sponsored by their local electric co-op. One of the key messages relayed was “stay in your car if it ever hits a power pole, where you’ll be safe from any electrical current.”

The two did just that, and kept their friends in the car and family members at a safe distance once they arrived. As a result, the entire group walked away with just a few minor injuries. However, without a basic knowledge of electrical safety, the outcome that night could have been much different.

The electricity Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative provides day-in and day-out is a phenomenal resource, powering our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable and affordable way. But electricity must be respected: if safety isn’t made a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

Lee and Ashley know this from experience, and we’re striving to keep you informed of electrical safety so you don’t have to learn a similar lesson the hard way. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative visit local schools, organizations and safety fairs within our community offering the same safety demonstration and information to educate youth and adults of the electric safety. We reach thousands of members of our community each year by sending the important message of electric safety.

Safety is part of the fundamental culture at Holmes-Wayne Electric. Being an electric lineworker is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs, on the same list as fisherman, loggers and military servicemen. We demand that not only those out in the field, but employees at all levels make safety a top priority.

As part of our safety commitment, please take time to learn how you can be safe around electricity at home. Spending just a few minutes with some helpful resources can make all the difference when you’re faced with a possible unsafe situation. For more information on electrical safety, please visit our Web site, at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), as well as [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) and [Electrical-Safety.org](http://Electrical-Safety.org).

I hope there won’t be any stories about Holmes-Wayne Electric members getting into sticky situations like Lee and Ashley. But if there are, a few minutes spent studying safety today could ensure a happy ending.

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6060 St. Rte. 83; P.O. Box 112  
Millersburg, OH 44654-0112

Business hours 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

[www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)

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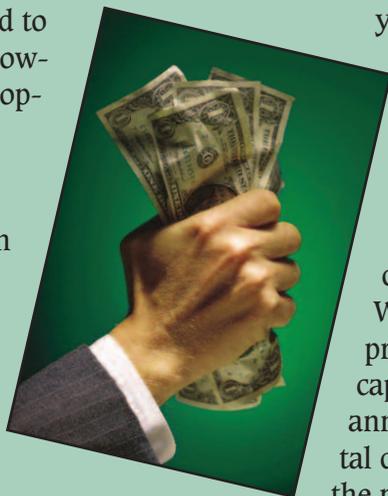
## 2009 allocation of capital credits on May bill

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to operating the cooperative to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain and operating margin in order to provide working capital, which is used to maintain the electric distribution system, to build and upgrade lines, and to provide service to new members. However, because we are a nonprofit cooperative, we return these margins to the members. These are called patronage capital credits.

Capital credits are returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by the member; so, the more power you consume and purchase, the higher your share of capital credits.

Capital credits are assigned or "allocated" to each member/owner for the prior year. Your member-elected board of trustees oversees the financial well being of the cooperative. As the financial status of the cooperative permits, the board will decide to retire capital credits. Capital

credits are being retired on the industry goal of a 20-year cycle. When these capital credits are retired they are returned via a check to current members, and via check to 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 also receive an allocation of capital credits from our generation company, Buckeye Power. Also a cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member/owner of Buckeye Power. Buckeye Power allocates capital credits to Holmes-Wayne Electric based on the same principles. We, in turn, allocate these capital credits to you. You are notified annually of your allocation of the capital credits assigned to your account for the prior year.

Please note in your May 2010 bill the information regarding the 2009 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation company, Buckeye Power. You will only have a 2009 allocation if you were a member of the Cooperative in 2009.

## Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

### Annual Meeting



Reminder that the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Inc. Annual Meeting will be Thursday, June 24, at West Holmes High School. A Health and Information Fair begins at 5 p.m. and the business meeting at 6:30.

Detailed information including the Annual Report and candidates for trustee will be listed in the June *Country Living*. Please note again the trustee election information will be mailed and processed by an independent third party. All members of the cooperative will receive ballots via the U.S. Postal system the beginning of June.

### One Stop Shopping

In your May HWEC bill, you will receive a yellow magnet with our Web site and toll-free numbers. These numbers can be called 24 hours, 7 days a week to pay your bill, submit your meter reading or report a power outage. Don't forget you can pay your bill and report meter readings on-line at [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com).

## Want an easier way to manage your electric bill?

The winter of 2009-2010 proved to be another cold Ohio winter with record snow fall in the month of February. In extreme weather conditions, like winter and summer months, members consume more electricity to heat and cool their home and therefore your bill will be higher.

To plan and budget your expenses easier, Holmes-Wayne Electric offers budget billing. Budget billing allows you to manage your bill by averaging your annual consumption and avoid high bill surprises. The average is based on the last 12 months of consumption.

Because of weather and lifestyle practices your consumption can change dramatically, so every January and July, HWEC will review your consumption history and adjust your set budget amount if needed therefore avoiding a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle. The budget billing cycle runs July to the following June. Any balance due is posted on your June bill.

Plus if you choose, you can have the convenience of paying your bill on-line every month at our Web site, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), or select

our automatic withdrawal payment program.

If interested in the HWEC budget billing program, you may enroll at anytime as long as you have been a member of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance. Please contact the cooperative toll-free at 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan for you.

Also be sure to check out all our money-saving tips at our Web site, [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com), under "Energy Advisor." Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electric consumption and bill.



## Join us for dinner and help support a cure for cancer

HWEC is raising money for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and we need your help. All you need to do is go out to eat. That's right, mark your calendar for **Tuesday, May 18**, to eat dinner anytime from 4 to 9 p.m. at Wooster Applebee's. Clip the attached coupon and present with your bill and Applebee's will donate an equivalent 15 percent of your bill to the HWEC Relay for Life team.



  
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# Shoots & Norman 2010 Holmes-Wayne Scholarship Winners



*Jennette Shoots*



*Bryce Norman*



*Anastasia Jaeb*



*Michael Anderson*



*Janelle Miller*



*Taylor Koch*

Jennette Shoots, Triway High School and Bryce Norman, West Holmes High School, won first place – and \$2,000 scholarships – in their respective divisions in the 2010 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative scholarship competition.

Shoots and Norman were part of a group of students representing 10 area high schools who competed this year.

Shoots is the daughter of Jim and Lyn Shoots of Wooster. She plans to pursue a degree in chemistry at Kenyon College.

Norman is the son of Scott and Melissa Miller and Peter and Terri Norman of Millersburg. He will be attending the University of Toledo majoring in pharmacy.

By taking first place at HWEC's local contest, Shoots and Norman earned the right to represent Holmes-Wayne in a statewide scholarship competition in Columbus on May 10. Students representing electric Co-ops from around the state compete for top prizes of \$2,755 in the Columbus event.

Other winners were:

Anastasia Jaeb, second place, girls' division (\$1,500). Jaeb is the daughter of Michael and Georgia Jaeb, Millersburg. A senior at West Holmes High School, she will attend the College of Wooster.

Michael Anderson, second place, boys' division (\$1,500). Anderson is the son of Tim and Karen Anderson, West Salem. Anderson is a senior at Triway High School and will be majoring in physics at Case Western Reserve University.

Third-place winner in the girls' division (\$1,000) is Janelle Miller, a senior at Hiland High School. She is the daughter of Ray and Twila Miller of Berlin. Miller plans to earn a degree in nursing at Malone University.

Taylor Koch, a senior at Wooster High School, is the third-place winner (\$1,000) in the boys' division. He is the son of Thomas and Teresa Koch of Wooster. Koch will major in political science and education at The Ohio State University.

Our best wishes go out to all the students who participated in this year's scholarship contest and a special thanks to the judges—Melinda Elliott, Lucille Hastings and Neely Summers.