

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO*

Culture of safety

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative has made a commitment to safety. It takes devotion and effort to create and continue a culture of safety. From the board room to the office personnel to the lineman working out in the field, HWECC is committed to safety.

May is National Electrical Safety Month and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what your cooperative is doing to keep not only the staff but you the members of the community safe.

Since 2009, HWECC has annually earned a safety achievement certificate from the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. The safety achievement review process is similar to how the cooperative looks at its annual financial audit. An independent inspection team from other safety-accredited cooperatives provides a peer review of safety practices of Holmes-Wayne Electric. This two-day process includes inspection of the cooperative's facilities, substations and portions of the system for adherence to existing electric utility safety codes.

Additionally, every month the board receives a safety summary of activities and action plan from the safety director. The board thoroughly reviews this summa-

ry and advises the management team.

Additionally, our line personnel know the importance of safety because an unsafe action can be life-ending. Every month our staff has a safety meeting reviewing safety policies and practices. We have a team of personnel who work closely with the safety director to review and maintain safety programs. Every day before line crews begin their work day, they review the jobs at hand and the safety practices required. We even have our insurance provider, Federated Rural Electric Insurance, come on-site and complete unannounced field safety inspections. All these actions are in an effort to maintain a safe working environment so our employees can return home every day to their families.

Our passion for safety doesn't stop at the internal practices of our staff. We understand clearly our role in the community. This is why we utilize this publication to promote safety. We also take our tabletop safety demonstration to visit local schools, 4-H clubs, first responders and safety fairs.

We hope this article is a reminder that whenever and wherever you are around electricity, think safety first.

Board of Trustees

*Randy Sprang, Chairman Dave Mann, Vice Chairman Barry Jolliff, Secretary/Treasurer
Don Buren Kenneth Conrad Kenneth Bower Bill Grassbaugh Jackie McKee Ronnie Schlegel*

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

Business hours 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

www.hwecoop.com

24 Hour Toll-free Phone:

866-674-1055

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



Serving others

Although it was a long winter in Ohio, we were fortunate not to have storms that impacted our electric infrastructure and create major outages for HWEC members. However, other states were not as lucky. Our linemen were called to duty again this spring for a late snow storm that brought 12 to 22 inches of heavy wet snow to the eastern states. HWEC linemen **Fred Combs, Kurt Detterman, Steve James** and **Michael Maurer** graciously accepted the assignment to assist Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative located in Virginia. One of the reasons cooperatives are so special is the willingness to assist each other during times of need. Cooperatives serve their members most effectively by working together. Thanks gentleman for assisting with bringing the lights back on for more than 22,000 cooperative members in a seven-county area of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative.



Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements

Memorial Day Holiday

Friendly reminder that HWEC offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of the memorial day holiday. As always, our after hours call center is available to report outages, make a payment or submit a meter reading — 866-674-1055.

Operation Round Up

Below is a letter we received from a family that received assistance from the Operation Round Up Program. We have excluded their signature to maintain the confidentiality that our program provides.

Dear Holmes-Wayne Electric -

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help during our time of need. The money raised will be used for travel, food, lodging, medical and helping us during our baby's surgeries over the next several years.

Anything above and beyond our needs will be passed forward and tithed to our great God, donated to the Ronald McDonald House and donated to the Heart Association.

Thank you again for your time, donations, thoughts and prayers! It is wonderful to live in such a loving and close-knit community where people really still care about the people!



Let *HWEC* help you with your budget

In today's harsh economy, we all are working with limited budgets. Many of us are cutting coupons, car pooling and reducing nonessential expenses.

Many HWEC members have taken advantage of the vast number of suggestions and tools provided to reduce electricity consumption and therefore reduce their bill.

To more easily plan and budget your expenses, 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 twelve months of consumption.

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. 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 from July to the following June and any balance due is posted on your June bill.

Your monthly bill will always

show the actual kWh you consumed based on the meter readings you provide. Every month you will be able to see your budget plan compared to actual consumption.

Plus, if you choose, you can have the convenience of paying your bill on-line every month at our website, www.hwecoop.com, or select our automatic withdrawal payment program. This saves you the cost of postage every month.

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 website, www.hwecoop.com, under energy advisor. Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electric consumption and bill.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

As spring construction and tree planting projects begin, please remember to "know what's below." Call 811 before you dig so within 48 hours utilities can mark where underground service lines are located to keep you safe!

2012 Allocation of Capital Credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to operating the cooperative in a way 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 an 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 non-profit 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.

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 currently being retired on an industry average 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, which is 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 2013 bill, the information regarding the "2012 Allocation" for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation company, Buckeye Power. You will only have "2012 Allocation" on your bill if you were a member of the cooperative in 2012.

Keep us informed and safe

They look adorable and they are part of our families, however they can be dangerous. That's right, your family dog who plays with the kids can also become naturally very protective and aggressive.

During outages and maintenance of our system, HVEC line staff may be on or beside your personal property to restore or maintain your power. Please notify HVEC if you have a dog that is not tied up and becomes aggressive with visitors. This allows our staff to be aware of any dangers that may hurt them as they try to work efficiently and safely to provide reliable electric service to you.

You may contact the office toll-free 866-674-1055 to register your dog.

