

Membership is all about **YOU!**



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

HWEC is hosting some exciting events in the coming months.

We hope to see you at the 2015 Holmes-Wayne Electric Annual Meeting. This year we are celebrating "Membership is all about YOU!" The Annual Meeting will be Thursday, June 25, at West Holmes High School near Millersburg. All HWEC members will receive a formal invitation by mail during the

first week of June. This invitation will allow for members to RSVP for the event as well as vote in the 2015 HWEC Board of Trustees election.

This year's health and information fair will include additional information regarding the benefits of being a member-owner of your electric cooperative. So mark your calendar for June 25.

Please remember to exercise your right as a member-owner and vote in the 2015 HWEC trustee election. HWEC trustees serve an important role in the cooperative as they represent members' best interests when making important decisions. A trustee's decisions will affect issues like service rates, rights-of-way and workplans. This year, District 7 Trustee Don Buren is retiring after 23 years of service. We appreciate his commitment and dedication to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative!

HWEC to host blood drive

I am excited to announce that Holmes-Wayne Electric will host our first American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at our Millersburg office.

One of the seven guiding principles for all cooper-

atives is concern for community. With this winter's extreme cold and snow, many area blood drives were forced to cancel or had low turnout. Local blood banks are low on supplies. When they heard about this problem, Holmes-Wayne Electric staff came forward, requesting to host a blood drive.

I am humbled to say over half our staff is participating. If you would like to participate in the blood drive, contact us toll free at 866-674-1055 and ask for Mary Jane, who will register you for the event. But remember, walk-ins are always welcome.

I look forward to both events.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

When: 8 a.m. - noon, May 6

Where: HWEC Millersburg Office
6060 St. Rt. 83

How: Pre-register by calling Mary Jane at 866-674-1055

Walk-ins are welcome!

2015 HWEC Annual Meeting

When: June 25

Health and Information Fair at 5 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Business Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Where: West Holmes High School

How: RSVP through trustee voting ballot you will receive by mail in early June

Board of Trustees

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

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

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.



www.hwecoop.com
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



Cash back to our members

2014 allocation of capital credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric strives to safely provide reliable, competitively priced electric service for our member-owners.

We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain an operating margin 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 not-for-profit cooperative, we return these margins to the members in a form 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,” or give capital credits to members.

Capital credits are currently being retired on the industry average of a 20-year cycle. When these cap-

ital credits are retired, they are returned to current and former members by check.

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 electricity supplier, Buckeye Power, which is also a cooperative. Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member-owner of Buckeye Power, similar to the way you are a member-owner of HWEC. 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 that in your May 2015 bill, the information regarding the 2014 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and Buckeye Power will be available. You will only have a notice about your 2014 allocation if you were a member of the cooperative in 2014.

Successful planting season is rooted in safety



AS FARMERS MAKE PLANS to return to their fields for spring planting, Holmes-Wayne Electric urges them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked yet potentially deadly hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure every farm worker knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines.

“Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks,” says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council’s Safe Electricity program. “Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.”

Simply working too close to a power line is dan-

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, carpooling and reducing non-essential expenses.

Many HWEC members have taken advantage of the vast amount of suggestions and tools we provide to reduce your electric consumption and therefore reduce your bill.

To plan and budget your expenses more easily, 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 electric use.

In extreme weather conditions, like winter and summer months, members consume more electricity to heat and cool their homes, and so their bills are usually 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 bud-

get amount if needed to avoid a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle.

The budget billing cycle runs July to the following June. Any balance due or a credit is posted on your June bill.

Your monthly bill will always show the actual kilowatt-hours 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 online every month at our website, www.hwecoop.com, or by our automatic withdrawal payment program. You can also call our toll-free number, 866-674-1055, 24 hours a day to pay your bill through the automatic phone system. This saves you the cost of postage every month.

If you're interested in the HWEC budget billing program, you may enroll at any time as long as you have been a member



of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance. Please contact the cooperative at 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan for you.

Also be sure to check out all our tips to save money and energy at www.hwecoop.com under "Energy Advisor." Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electric consumption and bill.

gerous because electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials like lumber, tires, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

"If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Holmes-Wayne Electric or 911 for help," Hall says. "If the power

line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives."

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit our website at hwecoop.com. ☞

Holmes-Wayne Electric awards \$12,000 in scholarships

2015 awards



Hannah Reiheld
West Holmes High School

HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., announced the winners of its annual college scholarship competition, held Feb. 24-25 at the cooperative's Millersburg office.

Hannah Reiheld of West Holmes High School and Matthew Dyer of Wooster High School are the first-place winners of \$2,500 scholarships in the girls' and boys' divisions. Reiheld and Dyer were part of a group of 48 students representing nine area high schools who competed for a total of \$12,000 in scholarships.

Reiheld is the daughter of Jason and Tracy Reiheld of Millersburg. She plans to attend the University of Mount Union this fall, majoring in English and minoring in adolescent education. Dyer is the son of Richard and Patricia Dyer of Wooster. He will attend Kenyon College, majoring in biology with a pre-medicine focus.

As winners of their respective divisions, Reiheld and Dyer qualified to compete for additional scholarships at a competition sponsored by Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., HWEC's statewide service association. There, they will compete with students representing 24 co-ops from across the state for scholarships up to \$3,400.

Other winners were:

Rachael Mahr, second place, \$2,000. Mahr is the daughter of Douglas and Jennifer Mahr of Burbank. A senior at Northwestern High School, she will major in biochemistry pre-medicine at The Ohio State University.

Ethan Beegle, second place, \$2,000. Beegle is the son of Shaun and Portia Beegle of West Salem. He is a senior at Northwestern High School and will major in aviation studies-flight technology and operations at Bowling Green State University.

Ashley Besancon, third place, \$1,500. She is the daughter of Michael and Maureen Besancon of Wooster. Besancon will study animal science pre-veterinary medicine at The Ohio State University, the University of Findlay or the University of Kentucky.

Luke Hochstetler, third place, \$1,500. He is the son of Doug and Trisha Hochstetler. A senior at Hiland High School, Hochstetler will attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University majoring in biology to pursue a career as a physician assistant.

Judges for the two-day competition were Melinda Eliot, Diane McCartney and Laurie Sidle.

The Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Scholarship Contest is offered annually to children of co-op members who are graduating high school seniors and reside in a home served by Holmes-Wayne Electric. ☺



Matthew Dyer
Wooster High School



Rachael Mahr
Northwestern High School



Ethan Beegle
Northwestern High School



Ashley Besancon
Northwestern High School



Luke Hochstetler
Hiland High School