



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PLUG INTO SAFETY



May is Electrical Safety Month, and Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. As always, we have an entire section of our website dedicated to safety, and you can receive safety tips through our Facebook page. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Our responsibility to you

Holmes-Wayne Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we provide safety demonstrations to our local schools and community events. We frequently provide electrical safety content in this magazine, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with *safe*, reliable, and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Holmes-Wayne Electric. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, Holmes-Wayne Electric is part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) that follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices.

Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues for working within the building as well as out in the field.

I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety. Take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit our website at www.hwecoop.com for tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Holmes-Wayne Electric distributes **\$15,000 in scholarships** to local high school seniors



Natasha Latouf



Sarah Schonauer



Katie Stull



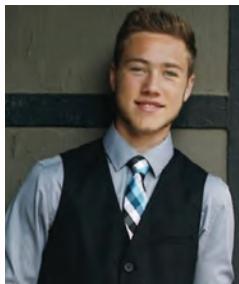
Ashley Weaver



Rachael Muhlenkamp



Adam Jacobs



Zacary Harley



Riley Rechnitzer



Chase Gasser



Ryan Schwartz

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., announced the winners of its annual college scholarship competition, held Feb. 28 and March 1 at the cooperative's Millersburg office.

Natasha Latouf of West Holmes High School and **Adam Jacobs** of Norwayne High School were the first-place winners of \$2,500 scholarships in the girls' and boys' divisions of the 2017 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative scholarship competition. Latouf and Jacobs were among 32 students representing five area high schools competing for a total of \$15,000 in scholarships.

Latouf is the daughter of Butros Latouf and Faten Yazigi-Latouf of Millersburg. She plans to pursue a degree in astrophysics and theoretical physics. Jacobs is the son of John and Cathy Jacobs of Burbank. He will attend Kent State University, majoring in sports administration.

As winners of their respective divisions, Latouf and Jacobs qualify to compete for additional scholarships at a competition sponsored by Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, the statewide support association for Ohio electric cooperatives. There, they will compete with students representing 24 co-ops from across the state for scholarships up to \$3,500.

Other winners:

- **Sarah Schonauer**, second place (\$2,000). She is the daughter of Jerry Schonauer and Mary Uhl of Killbuck. A senior at West Holmes High School, she will major in chemical engineering at Ohio University.
- **Zacary Harley**, second place (\$2,000). He is the son of Tim and Jeana Harley of Burbank. He is a senior at Norwayne High School and will major in business administration at either Malone University or Grace College.
- **Katie Stull**, third place (\$1,500). She is the daughter of Brad and Molly Stull of Wooster. A senior at Northwestern High School, Stull will study agriculture education at either Purdue University or Wilmington College.
- **Riley Rechnitzer**, third place (\$1,500). He is the son of Ronald and MaryLou Rechnitzer. A senior at Northwestern High School, Rechnitzer plans to study political science, history, and law.
- **Ashley Weaver**, fourth place (\$1,000). She is the daughter of Paul and Cindy Weaver of Wilmot. A senior at Hiland High School, she will study nursing at the University of Mount Union.

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CAPITAL CREDITS

2016 *allocation of capital credits*

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 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 co-op, we return these margins, or patronage capital credits, to members.

Capital credits are returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by each.

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 co-op. As the financial status of the cooperative permits, the board will decide to “retire” capital credits.

Capital credits are currently being retired on an indus-

try average of a 20-year cycle. When retired, they are returned via check to current members, as well as 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 power generation utility, Buckeye Power, which is also a cooperative. HWEC is a member-owner of Buckeye Power. Buckeye Power allocates capital credits to HWEC 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 2017 bill the information regarding the 2016 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation company, Buckeye Power. You will only have a 2016 allocation if you were a member of the cooperative in 2016.



BILL PAY



Sign up for **BUDGET BILLING**

To plan and budget your expenses more easily, HWEC offers budget billing, which allows you to better manage your bills by averaging your annual consumption and avoiding the surprise of a high bill. The average is based on the last 12 months of electricity consumption.

In extreme weather conditions, like winter or summer, members use more electricity, resulting in higher electric bills. Because of weather and lifestyle practices, your consumption can change dramatically, so HWEC will review your consumption history every January and July. Your set budget amount can be refigured if needed, which avoids 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.

Your monthly bill will always show the actual kilowatt-hours you consumed based on the meter readings you provide. Every month, you will see your budget plan compared to actual consumption.

If you’re interested in budget billing, 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 call 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan.





HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

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• **Chase Gasser**, fourth place (\$1,000). He is the son of Mark and Jill Gasser of Creston. He is a senior at Norwayne High School and plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

• **Rachael Muhlenkamp**, fifth place (\$500). She is the daughter of Rick and Sherri Muhlenkamp of Shreve. A senior at Triway High School, she will attend the University of Akron and major in early childhood education.

• **Ryan Schwartz**, fifth place (\$500). He is the son of Paul and Megan Schwartz of Burbank. A senior at Northwestern High School, Schwartz will study civil engineering/applied mathematics at Wheaton College.

Judges for the two-day competition were Lucille Hastings, Linda Lang, and Dale Sidle.



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

Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member-owned, nonprofit electric cooperative serving approximately 18,000 accounts in Holmes, Wayne, Ashland, Stark, Tuscarawas, Knox, Medina, and Coshocton counties. Headquarters are in Millersburg, with a district office in West Salem.

The co-op office will be closed **Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.**

Thank you to all who served.

You can contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055 or use our online portal or mobile app, SmartHub, to report outages, make a payment, or submit a meter reading.




**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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.



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