



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

THANK A LINEWORKER

ON APRIL 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. Some of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable, as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and, equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on. While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Holmes-Wayne, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Our engineering department provides ongoing expertise and

guidance on the operations side of the co-op with remote line monitoring and electronic mapping and data. It takes year-round tree trimming management and new construction planning to keep a proactive outage prevention program. Our member service representatives are always standing by with compassion and concern to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data.

And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community. Our dedicated and valued lineworkers are proud to represent Holmes-Wayne Electric and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO





HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

Bringing the lights back on *in southern Ohio!*

Thanks to the following HWEC linemen for assisting Buckeye Rural Electric in ice storm restoration efforts. From Feb. 16 to 27, HWEC crews assisted with restoration after a devastating ice storm that caused 150 broken poles, miles and miles of line on the ground, and 7,700 members without power. This area was declared a state of emergency, and the National

Guard was called in to help assist with tree removal on roads, so crews could work as efficiently as possible.

We appreciate their willingness to put in long and strenuous hours during extremely cold and dangerous conditions. They are truly dedicated to serving others!



Bowe Firebaugh



Carter Quay



Jim Stake



Matt Morris



Sean Stewart



Mike Martin



Michael Maurer



Mike Rowe



Steve Asbury



Zach Noble

I wanted you to know the linemen you sent to assist our county (Lawrence) in our ice storm were top notch. I got to personally talk to one of your linemen (a young bearded gentleman) who was extremely nice and excited about helping our county. You know, in today's world with everything going on, if everyone cared as much as him to help their neighbors when catastrophe strikes, the United States of America would once again be that shining light of compassion and empathy that we were years ago. Your linemen, which totaled five gentleman, worked our road late into the night trying to get our electric back on in a timely fashion. Which having NO electric for days was extremely bad for our family since we have several children with disabilities at home.

So please accept my family's extreme appreciation and thanks for your linemen's knowledge, compassion, and help in assisting all Lawrence County residents with their lack of electric service. It says a lot for your company that you have such fine young employees. Again, thank you, and if ever you need my assistance, please don't hesitate to ever call.

—BREC Member

Thank you, gentlemen. I live in Lawrence County, and we badly needed help. Your cooperative sent you to work in harsh conditions so we could have basic comforts of electricity. We take for granted the ability to turn on a light — the twelve days we went without were a good reminder of our needs. You completed your task and did a great job. My family thanks you.

— BREC Member

Avoid solar energy scams

Solar energy scams are increasing in our community. Through the use of rooftop solar panels, many homeowners have been approached on harnessing the sun's natural rays to produce their own electricity.

But with the increasing popularity of solar, unfortunately, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers who are interested in generating their own energy through rooftop panels.

While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples.

You've likely heard a story or two about solar vendors that promised rooftop panels that would generate enough electricity to power the entire home. Then, after the homeowner has paid thousands of dollars for the installation, the solar panels aren't working, and the vendor is nowhere to be found. Sadly, this story has been the reality for many consumers.

If you're interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

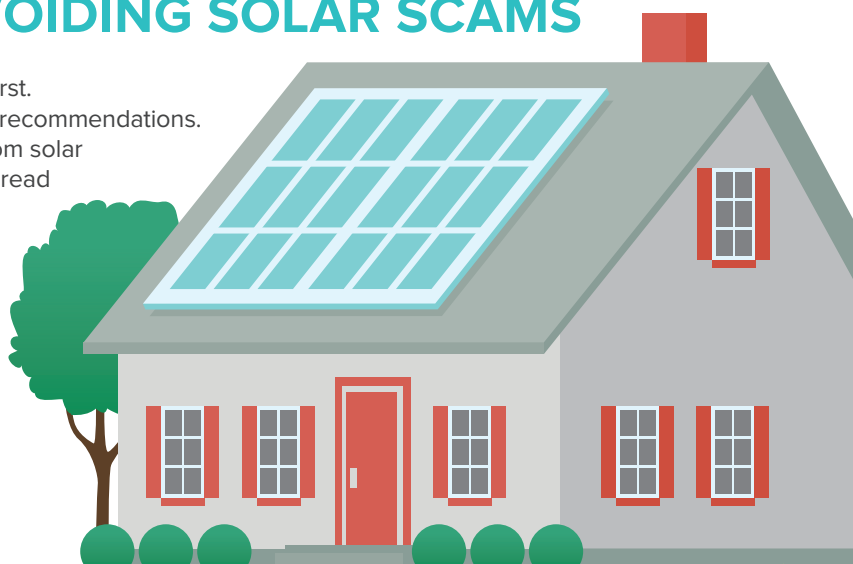
- Contact our energy advisor, Kenny DePriest. We want you to feel confident about any decisions you make about your home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home. We can provide all the facts, or visit our website for valuable information.

- Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure you're getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly read customer reviews for each of the three solar vendors.
- If you speak to a solar vendor and they use high-pressure tactics, like an offer that's only good for 24 hours, run! Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision.
- You know if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If a solar company is making promises that sound unachievable and outlandish, they probably are. Remember, if you have any questions, you can always count on your electric co-op for advice. We can review your current electric consumption and help you calculate your return on investment.
- Finally, when it's time to review and sign a solar contract, make sure the language is clear and easy to understand. Ensure any prior verbal (or emailed) promises are also included in the contract.

Going solar is a major decision, so you'll want to conduct a good bit of research first. If you're looking for a general starting point, check out the Department of Energy's Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING SOLAR SCAMS

- Talk to your electric co-op first. We can offer guidance and recommendations.
- Get at least three quotes from solar companies, and thoroughly read their reviews.
- Avoid solar companies that use high-pressure tactics.
- Don't believe unrealistic promises.
- Only sign clear, easy-to-understand contracts.





HWEC is proud to announce our **POWER STUDENT** winners for February!

Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is recognizing students in grades 6-8 for their hard work and dedication to education. These students had a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and were recipients of our drawing for \$25 gift cards.

Cohen Wilson, son of Brian and Megan Wilson of Killbuck, is a student at West Holmes Middle School.

Jade Bales, daughter of James and Deide Hales, is a student at Shreve Elementary School.

Luke Walenciak, son of Deanna Walenciak of Wooster, is a student at Edgewood Middle School.

To enter your child for the drawing, visit our website at hwecoop.com.

Congratulations



Cohen Wilson



Jade Bales



Luke Walenciak

THE NEXT DRAWING IS **APRIL 10!**



Keep us informed and safe

They're adorable and a big part of our families, but even the family dog who plays well with the children can become naturally protective of and aggressive about its home. During outage restoration and maintenance of our system, HWEC line staff may be on or beside your personal property to restore or maintain your power. You can help by notifying HWEC if you have a dog that is not tied up and may sometimes be aggressive with visitors. This allows our staff to be aware of any dangers as they try to work efficiently and safely to provide your reliable electric service. Please call HWEC toll-free at 866-674-1055 to register your dog.



**Holmes-Wayne
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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