

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Our effort in continuing to help you



President's Report
Glenn Miller

We are all facing the struggles of today's economy. As members of Holmes-Wayne Electric, you have read through our bill stuffers and past *Country Living* articles, the challenges we are facing as an organization and industry. The rate adjustment all members experienced last month was not a desirable adjustment, but one that was unavoidable. The additional rate will not stop at the doors of Holmes-Wayne Electric, but will go straight to our generation facility, Buckeye Power.

Buckeye Power's increased cost to produce electricity is based on federally mandated environmental requirements and is being impacted by both national and global factors, but we can, from a local standpoint, continue to make a difference in how they impact you.

HWEC board and staff are fully committed to continually evolving our organization in ways that benefit you, the member/owners, in the most effective and efficient manner. We continue to use tools and resources to provide educational information on ways to better manage your bill,

assist with individual needs/concerns and provide the latest updates on industry specific legislative decisions.

You may visually notice some changes we have made of late. Your HWEC bill is now provided in color at the same cost and now includes a 13-month consumption history chart to review and manage your past and future consumption practices. Your bill also provides more information explaining cooperative policies and practices and the factors of your bill.

Also, every month when *Country Living* arrives in your mailbox, you read through the magazine enjoying the informative and entertaining stories with color photographs and interesting graphics. When you reach our local pages in the center of the magazine, these have been presented in black and white because that has been the most cost-effective way to bring them to you. As you can see, we now can offer these pages in color at the same cost to your cooperative. With the advertising revenue, we can provide *Country Living* as a great communication tool each month for less than the cost of a first-class postage stamp.

Also, please take note of the Conservation Corner in this month's issue: the home energy audit we provide is an excellent tool to reduce your heating and cooling cost, which can be 50-60 percent of your electric bill. The \$50 charge for the audit is a security deposit, and once you complete and submit receipts of the recommended home improvements, you will be reimbursed your security deposit.

Going forward with these and many additional changes are examples of how we continually review our operations to ensure we're giving you the best service we can and doing it as cost-effectively as possible.

Board of Trustees

Ronnie Schlegel, Chairman Donald Buren, Vice Chairman Larry Martin, Secretary/Treasurer
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www.hwecoop.com

24-Hour Toll-free Phone:

866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694

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The power of human connections®

Safety a priority at Holmes-Wayne

In October 2009, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative was awarded the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation. HWEC joins 530 other rural electric cooperatives across the nation that have displayed their commitment as an organization to the safety of employees, cooperative members and the community.

This three-day inspection completed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, included safety question interviews of both office and field staff, building and equipment inspection, and visual patrol of HWEC infrastructure and substations.

“A goal of Holmes-Wayne is to establish a culture of highest-quality safety and loss control standards,” explained Stacy Shaw, Safety Director/West Salem Line Supervisor.

“You don’t have to look very far to see examples of HWEC’s safety commitment by our staff—whether it would be a lineman inspecting his personal protective clothing and truck equipment before leaving the building to go to a work site or an electrical safety demonstration completed for a community organization. We work in a very high risk industry and it is essential that we not educate and train not only our staff but provide valuable information and educational tools to the community we serve.”



Conservation Corner

Helping you manage your electric bill

We at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative often suggest ways that you can reduce your electric bills by making home energy efficiency improvements. Weatherization—sealing air leaks and installing the proper amount of insulation—can make a big difference.

But just as scattering seeds randomly in your garden or flower beds usually yields a lean harvest, energy efficiency upgrades done without knowledge of how your residence uses energy overall may not produce significant savings.

Spending a few hours on a home energy audit—a full assessment of how your house uses energy and where problems lie—will ensure that money designated for efficiency is spent wisely. For instance, investing in additional insulation has little impact on heating bills if a drafty front door conspires against it.

On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by more than \$350 per year. As you can see, the potential payback can be substantial.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Energy Advisor Kenny DePriest offers a professional home energy audit for \$50. Our advisor provides advice on energy conservation measures and will systematically inspect your home, creating a checklist of potential weatherization improvements.

You also can conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of places you have inspected and problems you find. Most trouble spots can be found in a few key areas. Checklists are available through Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Home Energy Saver (at www.touchstoneenergysavers.com) and the Alliance to Save Energy Home Energy Checkup (search for it at www.ase.org).

Perhaps most important, middle- and low-income members can apply for help through the federal Weatherization Assistance Program. Households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the national poverty level are eligible. For a family of four, that's \$44,100. Program participants receive professional energy consultation; workers then arrive to make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems, all free of charge.

The program covers all of those under the set income limit, whether they own or rent, live in a single-family home, multi-family housing complex or a mobile home. Those wishing to participate should contact the Ohio Department of Development at 614-466-6797.

Regardless, fashion a plan before tackling home energy efficiency improvements. When it comes to weatherization, a little work upfront goes a long way.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



Holmes-Wayne Electric office will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day so employees may celebrate the holidays with their families. You may call our 24-hour toll-free outage numbers at 866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694.

Trustee nomination process begins

The board of trustees at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative appointed at its November meeting a nominating committee to select nominees for trustees from their respective districts. The committee consists of six or more members, with at least one member who resides from each district for which a trustee is to be elected.

The nominating committee will meet in January at the cooperative office to select nominees for trustees from their respective districts. The districts in which members will be voting for new trustees in June of 2010 are District 2,

District 8 and District 9. The committee selects from the cooperative membership and lists 10 qualified nominees for each trustee position. A minimum of two names shall be on a ballot to be voted upon for each district.

After selection, nominees are contacted by the HWEC board chairman in their order listed for verification and willingness to become candidates for trustee.

If you are interested in running for trustee or participating in the nominating committee, please contact Robyn Tate at the cooperative office at 866-674-1055.

Official Notice

Certification of Active Duty Deployment Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



The cooperative will not disconnect electric service to the residential premises of any residential member who is deployed on active duty for nonpayment for electricity provided to the residential premises.

Upon return of the residential member from active duty, the cooperative will offer the residential member a period of deployment on active duty to pay any arrearage incurred during the period of deployment. If the time period the cooperative offers the residential member for repayment presents a hardship, the member may request a longer period to repay the arrearage. No late payment fees or interest will be charged to the residential member during the period of deployment or the repayment period.

"Active duty" means active duty pursuant to an executive order of the president of the United States, an act of the Congress of the United States, or section 5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The residential member must resume the timely payment of all charges for electric service provided by the cooperative after the return from active duty deployment.

In order to avoid disconnection of electric service for nonpayment for electric service during a period of active duty deployment, a completed Certification of Active Duty Deployment forms must be submitted to the cooperative. Certification of Active Duty Deployment forms are available from the cooperative upon request.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Are your parents members of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative?

You could win a college, vocational or technical school scholarship totaling

\$4,755*

1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative member living on the lines and receiving service at the time of the local and statewide competition.
2. All applications must be submitted (typed) on forms obtainable from your local high school guidance office, Holmes-Wayne Electric office or at www.hwecoop.com.
3. All applications must be submitted or post-marked to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative office by Feb. 12.
4. Applicants must have all basic credits for college or proper** vocational or technical school entrance. They must have a current career grade-point average of "B+" (3.5 on a 4-point scale) or better and must be accepted, then enrolled (when they receive the award), in the accredited college or proper** vocational or technical school of their choice.
5. Any applicant who has received a full-tuition scholarship to the school of his/her choice is not eligible for a scholarship.
6. All scholarships must be accepted in the first academic year after proof of enrollment is received.
7. Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative local first-place winners in both boys' and girls' division will be eligible to participate in the statewide competition.
8. Local winners will include both girls' and boys' division of \$2,000 first place, \$1,500 second place and \$1,000 third place.

**For information contact:
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative
Toll-free 866-674-1055**

****Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.**

*** Seven scholarships for both the boys and girls division will be awarded through statewide and amounts include local 1st place winnings.**

Second place:\$3,425*

Third place:\$2,650*

Fourth place:\$1,540

Fifth place:.....\$1,430

Sixth place:\$1,320

Seventh place:\$1,200

