



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

# Looking forward

As we start a new year here at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, we are excited to venture into another year of challenges and goals. Strategic planning started several months ago. The HWEC Board of Trustees and leadership team meet monthly to discuss current and long-term initiatives. Also, each staff member met with their manager/supervisor to discuss future goals and training that will be needed to continue advancement of your electric cooperative. Combine these initiatives with our four-year operations work plan, and we have a busy year ahead of us.

Just like last year, we will navigate around the COVID pandemic while maintaining reliable and safe service to you, our members. We closed out 2020 by introducing a new way for members to report their outage via texting. This adds to the other options of reporting outages via our toll-free phone number or through our mobile application, SmartHub. We hope our members find this new resource to be a valuable tool as well.

In 2021, we will continue our important tree trimming program. More than 473 miles of service lines were trimmed in 2020. This program continues on a four-year cycle, and we have seen a dramatic decrease in tree-related outages. In 2021, we will trim approximately 394 miles in the Moreland, Alpine, Trail, Hefferline, and Sugar creek substation territories.

Of course, a key factor to providing reliable service is a strong infrastructure. In 2020, we rebuilt 17 miles of line, and we plan for an additional 28 miles to be rebuilt in 2021. We will also inspect 7,726 poles in Buckhorn, Ripley, and Clear Creek substation territory. In the past 10 years, we have replaced 9,718 poles.

Additionally, crews will inspect over 466 miles of our system in the coming year. Buckhorn, Alpine, Clear Creek and Golden Corners lines will be visually patrolled and inspected and maintenance completed to help prevent outages.

In order to meet the expectations of our members and the goals designed by our board, leadership, and staff, we must continue to advance our knowledge of our industry, job-specific tasks, and service skills for all staff and board members. That education can come from a variety of avenues — formal higher education classes, professional certifications, or conferences and seminars. But we also understand the value of on-the-job training, cross-training, and networking with others in our industry.

The commitment to education and information is not limited to the cooperative staff and board. We will continue to bring that knowledge to our community by sharing the safety reminders, energy efficiency tips, and industry-specific facts through our Facebook page, this publication, our website, and a variety of other means to reach those in our community.

As you can see, we have a lot of projects we are managing with an overall goal of providing elite service to you, the member/owners of HWEC. We encourage you to communicate any suggestions or feedback on the new projects. As your cooperative, we are here to serve you.

Wishing you safety and happiness in 2021!



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO



# The co-op family

Tradition and pride create effective outage restoration teams. When a big storm knocks out power for you and your neighbors, there's a good chance help is already on the way from electric cooperatives near and far. That lightning-fast response comes from a combination of a centuries-old co-op tradition, the latest in weather forecasting technology, a cooperative contract between electric cooperatives, and lineworkers' spirit of dedication, pride, and heart.

When a power outage is caused by especially severe weather, the devastation can be more than HWEC can quickly repair on our own. That's when other co-ops swoop in, from next door and sometimes, from other states. Perhaps you've seen them. They arrive in caravans of utility vehicles as part of a plan called a mutual aid agreement.



## Helping hands are standing by

Through a mutual aid agreement, electric cooperative line crews from any co-op can arrive on the scene, ready to lend helping hands after disaster strikes.

### A simple, one-page contract

When electric co-ops were formed in the 1930s, they based mutual aid agreements on the principle of "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," and used a handshake-style working arrangement. But in the 1990s, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested a more legalistic accounting for the aid it provided to electric cooperatives after natural disasters.

So electric co-ops, represented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), got together with FEMA and the organization for city-owned utilities, the American Public Power Association, and produced a stunningly short contract — it's exactly one page long. The contract says when one co-op goes to help another, it will charge reasonable rates for the crews and equipment. The simplicity of that arrangement fits the tradition of co-ops cooperating with each other. It is a natural extension of who we are, here in Ohio and across the country. Helping each other is something we do naturally as part of our co-op family and our culture.

The response to your power outage can start days before it even happens, with co-ops tracking weather patterns. They organize themselves under their state associations, planning for how many line crews might be needed and where they will come from — and even making hotel reservations to house crews. Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, the statewide services organization for the 24 Ohio electric co-ops, coordinates mutual aid efforts, whether needed here or provided to another state.

In 2020 Holmes-Wayne both provided mutual aid and then received help. HWEC Class A Linemen Josh Johnson and Taylor Harris both provided assistance in October to EnergyUnited in North Carolina after Hurricane Zeta. Then, within a few weeks, HWEC also received such assistance from three Ohio cooperatives after an extreme windstorm created over 7,100 outages.

Careful planning and preparation are critical to safe and efficient power restoration, but there's another secret ingredient to why co-ops come together in a crisis so effectively — the lineworkers. When they head out to a storm-ravaged area, it's with a serious kind of excitement as they prepare to use their skills for a cause they passionately believe in — restoring electricity. This is what we do. We get the lights back on.

# 2021 GRADS



*Are your parents  
Holmes-Wayne Electric members?*

If so, you could win more than  
**\$6,300** in scholarships from



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To obtain rules and applications for the  
**Children of Members Scholarship**

- Visit [www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)
- Call the co-op at 866-674-1055
- Ask your high school guidance counselor

**Deadline to apply: Jan. 29, 2021**



# Service Awards

Holmes-Wayne Electric would like to recognize these employees and trustees who recently celebrated a milestone in their careers with the cooperative!



Steve Asbury  
CLASS A LINEMAN  
15 YEARS



Zach Condren  
CLASS A LINEMAN  
10 YEARS



Kurt Detterman  
OPERATIONS FIELD  
TECHNICIAN • 10 YEARS



STEVE JAMES  
CLASS A LINEMAN  
15 YEARS



Josh Johnson  
CLASS A LINEMAN  
15 YEARS



Jim Stake  
CLASS A LINEMAN  
5 YEARS



Ward Vaughn  
LINE SUPERVISOR  
40 YEARS



Casey Wagner  
ACCOUNTING MANAGER  
15 YEARS



David Tegtmeier  
BOARD TRUSTEE  
5 YEARS



Holmes-Wayne  
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