

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO*

Cash from your power company?

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative the people who receive electricity are not just customers, they are members of our cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers don't have with other electric providers.

For instance, as a member of Holmes-Wayne Electric, you can choose to run for a board seat on our nine-member

board that governs the cooperative. Our board is composed of people who live and work in the very territory that Holmes-Wayne Electric serves. As a member you received our annual board election packet in the mail last month giving you an opportunity to elect three board members. This democratic process is key to the principles of our organization.

Many people, however, aren't aware of the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their rates. At Holmes-Wayne Electric, our rates are based on two main components — the actual cost of the wholesale power we buy from the company that generates electricity, and the cost for us to get that power to you.

Our power provider, Buckeye Power, which also is a cooperative, sets wholesale power costs. I represent Holmes-Wayne Electric on Buckeye Power Board of Trustees. As a cooperative, Buckeye Power works hard to keep rates low, while guaranteeing a stable supply of electricity.

The second component — the cost for us to get power to you — is all other operational costs, including the cost for poles and lines, transmission supplier fees, the cost and maintenance of trucks and buildings, engineering, tree trimming, employee wages and benefits, and the costs associated with bill processing, information technology and customer service.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you; we don't have stockholders expecting a big quarterly dividend. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we're working only to provide you with economical rates with reliable service.

Part of the second component of your rates is your investment into the cooperative. Capital patronage, or capital credits as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and all its assets. Capital patronage is to you what dividends are to stockholders at for-profit companies. Only we do not focus on high margins. Any margins created are initially used for capital needs and are then returned to you as capital credits.

Recently, capital credits were returned to Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative members. \$1,039,368 were returned to members who received electric service from Holmes-Wayne Electric in 1990.

Returning capital credits to members is a practice unique to the cooperative form of business and represents one of the cooperative principles — members' economic participation. And perhaps best of all, the benefits of this economic participation accrues locally to our neighborhoods and community.

Board of Trustees

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866-674-1055 or 888-264-2694

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

U.S. Congressman Bob Gibbs and State Representative Dave Hall visit Holmes–Wayne Electric Cooperative

To kick off the memorial holiday weekend, U.S. Congressman Bob Gibbs and State Rep. Dave Hall spoke at the offices of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative in Millersburg the Friday morning before the holiday. Speaking to cooperative member/consumers, staff and board trustees, Congressman Gibbs of the 18th District of Ohio discussed the status of U.S. government issues, including the federal deficit, the EPA, recent discussions in Congress and the importance of keeping energy affordable. Congressman Gibbs represents four counties to which Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative provides electric service.

State Rep. Hall of the 97th District of Ohio updated participants on state issues including the very important task of balancing the state budget. As chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Hall shared his focus on the issues involving the rural areas of Ohio. Hall represents three counties where electric service is provided by Holmes-Wayne Electric.

The event was open to Holmes-Wayne Electric member/consumers who participate in the ACRE® COPA® (Co-Op Owners for Political Action) program. ACRE COPA is a political action committee that represents the interest of the nation's nearly 1,000 electric cooperatives and the 42 million consumers they serve. This grassroots effort is an avenue for rural electric cooperative members/owners to communicate the benefits, concerns and needs for the future of rural electric cooperatives to lawmakers. Cooperative member/owners participating in the legislative breakfast were given opportunity to ask questions to both speakers.

If interested in participating in the ACRE® COPA program please visit Holmes-Wayne Electric's website at www.hwecoop.com or contact our office toll-free at 866-674-1055.



Keeping cool:

Tips for beating high summer electric bills



Don't let warmer weather turn into "summertime blues" when your monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some energy-saving tips from Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative.

Adjust the thermostat. As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, lowering a thermostat in winter can save as much as \$85 per year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year. Contact Kenny DePriest, HWEC Energy Advisor, to learn more.

Be a "fan-atic." While they don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Regular maintenance is essential. We recommend that members have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check your entire system to make sure it runs efficiently. This will help to extend life of the system and save money.

Look for ENERGY STAR equipment. When it's time to replace your cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model. Doing so could reduce your energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying ENERGY STAR appliances may be available so check our website at www.hwecoop.com for more information.

Bigger isn't always better. Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Instead of getting burned this summer by high energy bills, visit www.energysavers.gov or Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, for more money-saving ideas.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements



2011 Annual Meeting

Details from the June 30 Annual Meeting of the Members will be provided in August edition of this publication.

Holmes County Farm Tour

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative offices located in Millersburg will be part of the 2011 Holmes County Farm Tour. The tour is Saturday, Aug. 20, from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Mark your calendar to visit us and learn more about your electric cooperative.

2011 HWEC Scholarship Winners

Rohr and Myers place first

Jessica Rohr of West Holmes High School and Eric Myers of Triway High School are the first-place winners of \$2,500 scholarships, in their respective divisions, in the 2011 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative scholarship competition.

Rohr and Myers were part of a group of students representing 11 area high schools who competed for a total of \$12,000 in scholarships. Rohr is the daughter of Christopher and Jody Rohr of Millersburg. She plans to pursue a degree at Hillsdale College in Michigan. Myers is the son of Greg and Susan Myers of Wooster. He will be attending Youngstown State University majoring in civil engineering.

As winners of their respective divisions, Rohr and Myers qualified to compete for additional scholarships at a competition sponsored by Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., the statewide association for electric cooperatives. There, they competed with students representing 24 co-ops from across the state for scholarships worth up to \$2,810.

Other winners were:

Alexandra Jaeb, second place, Girls' Division (\$2,000). Jaeb is the daughter of Michael and Georgia Jaeb of Millersburg. A graduate of West Holmes High School, she will major in musical theatre/vocal performance at Capital University or Kent State University.

Brad Mullet, second place, Boys' Division (\$2,000). Mullet is the son of Steve and Jill Mullet of Dundee. Mullet is a graduate of Hiland High School, and will be majoring in environmental science at Eastern Mennonite University.

Third-place winner in the Girls' Division (\$1,500) is Stephanie Berger, a graduate of Northwestern High School. She is the daughter of Steve and Donna Berger of West Salem. Berger will be studying abroad in Russia as she pursues a degree in international business.

Michael Chase Gordon, a graduate of West Holmes High School, was the third-place winner (\$1,500) in the Boys' Division. He is the son of James and Beth Gordon of Holmesville. Gordon will major in mechanical engineering at Cornell University.

Judges for the competition were Lucille Hastings and Melinda Eliot.

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.

Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative
distributes
\$12,000
in scholarships to
local high school
seniors



Rohr



Myers



Jaeb



Mullet



Berger



Gordon