



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

# Cash from your power company

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, the people who receive electricity are not just customers — you are members of our cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers do not 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, are not 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 is also a cooperative, sets wholesale power costs. I represent Holmes-Wayne Electric on the Buckeye Power Board of Trustees. As a cooperative,



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO

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 member services.

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 are 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. But 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. \$786,723.03 was returned to members who received electric service from Holmes-Wayne Electric in 1999 and 2000.

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!





## Keeping our staff safe!

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why safety is the number one priority for Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Inc. This isn't empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else. Our mission is to safely provide reliable, competitively priced energy to you, our member-owners, but it's equally important that our employees return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance — and your help! Distractions can be deadly. While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes the worker's full attention and that of their colleagues.

Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management, or for routine maintenance, please allow him ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews — and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize HWEC employees by their logo shirts and hats and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our local community.

Slow down and move over. In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. Just as Ohio's Move Over Law requires you to move over for first responders and tow truck drivers, you must also slow down and move over for utility crews. At the end of the day, it's everyone's goal to go home safely to their families.



# 2020 HWEC Annual Meeting

Even though COVID-19 forced the cancellation of HWEC's annual meeting, we will have all annual meeting information, including trustee election results and speeches in the August edition of this publication.

## Congratulations!

Annie Seboe was awarded a fourth-place, \$2,200 scholarship at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Children of Members scholarship competition.

Seboe, the daughter of Kelly and Julie Seboe of Millersburg, is a graduate of Loudonville High School. She will be attending Huntington University, majoring in biology.

Seboe was sponsored by Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, after winning a \$2,500 scholarship from the cooperative in February.

Twenty-four students representing each of Ohio's electric distribution cooperatives competed for \$41,800 in scholarship awards. Finalists competed in local scholarship competitions before advancing to the statewide competition.





# HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

## Why are you still mailing your electric bill payment?

*Save money and time!*

All of the below options are free services that will save you money on stamps and checks and are available 24 hours a day to meet your personal time schedule.

### Automatic payment

Automatic electronic funds transfer (EFT) from your checking, savings, or credit card account is a simple, hassle-free way to pay your monthly electric bill. Once authorized, Holmes-Wayne Electric will initiate a payment transaction from the applicable account on the same day each month for the amount of your electric bill. No more writing checks, no more mailing costs, no hassles. Visit our website or contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055 for enrollment.

### SmartHub — mobile app/online

Provides 24-hour access to your account and allows members to pay electronically by checking/savings account or credit card with no fees. You can schedule the payment around your budget or traveling schedule. Members with multiple accounts can pay with a single payment. You also can report outages and submit meter readings. This free mobile app is available for either Apple or Android devices or can be accessed online.

### Paperless billing

Want to reduce the paper at home or your business? Register for paperless billing online, through our mobile app, SmartHub, or contact us toll-free at 866-674-1055.



**Happy birthday, America!**  
Holmes-Wayne Electric will be closed July 3 to observe Independence Day.

As always, you can contact us for outages and emergencies through our mobile app, SmartHub, or call us toll-free at 866-674-1055.



Holmes-Wayne  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT

866-674-1055 (toll-free)

[www.hwecoop.com](http://www.hwecoop.com)

### OFFICE

6060 St. Rte. 83

P.O. Box 112

Millersburg, OH 44654-0112

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