

# Holmes- Wayne

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Harry Morris.....Class A Lineman  
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Gregory Lemon .....Class A Lineman  
Michael Rowe .....Class A Lineman  
Bowe Firebaugh .....Class A Lineman  
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Ed Walton.....Utility Man  
Rick Fox .....Utility Man  
Darin Stefano.....Apprentice Lineman  
Steve Asbury .....Apprentice Lineman  
Josh Johnson .....Apprentice Lineman

# Co-ops and Congress: Working together for our energy future

America has an energy crisis too big to ignore. Experts warn that unless we make more electricity available soon, some regions of the country may face power shortages within the next *two years*. And because of a number of economic and political factors, electric costs have climbed 40 percent since 2002 and are projected to go even higher.

We need an answer right now to keep electric bills affordable.

During the past year, members like you have joined the “Our Energy, Our Future”™ grassroots awareness campaign to educate

elected officials on the need to craft energy policies that will support a diverse mix of power generation while keeping energy affordable. More than 1.56 million messages have been sent to Congress through the campaign, asking three simple questions:

- How will Congress help us meet the rising future demand for electricity?
- How will Congress support the development of technology needed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions?
- How will Congress guide efforts to keep electricity affordable?

Today, we’re continuing our efforts with one key question: Is Congress willing to work with electric cooperatives like Holmes-Wayne Electric to ensure we have reliable power at a price our consumers can afford? It’s a simple question, one

that can be answered with a resounding “Yes!” or “No.” The answer is critical to our future.

**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America



Ask your U.S. representative and senators if they will work with electric cooperatives to develop policies that will keep electricity affordable. Co-ops were created to make safe, reliable and affordable electricity available for all Americans. We take our role seriously, and have resources in place to help lawmakers find ways to address our nation’s energy crisis without causing costs to rise beyond your means. We can find the right solution together.

Please let Congress know where you stand in this critical debate. We thank those of you who already have started a dialogue with your elected officials through the campaign, and ask that you keep that conversation going. Visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) today, and tell your family and friends to do the same. We’ll all be impacted by future energy policy changes; now is the time to work together and take a stand for affordability. We simply can’t afford not to.

## President’s Report

By  
Glenn Miller



# Stop 'phantom power'

Did you know that idle devices still can be consuming electricity? If your answer is no, then I recommend you try this test: Some night turn off all the lights in your house and wander around. You will be surprised at how many devices continue to glow.

This often is referred to as the phantom load; the electricity that flows to electronic devices that are turned off, but are still drawing power. For example: a microwave with a clock that's on 24 hours a day, a personal computer on standby, a television that's not on but continuously consuming electricity so it's ready when you hit the remote's "on" button, and a wireless phone



charger that keeps drawing power even when there is no phone plugged into it.

Individually, none of these turned-off devices use much power. But together they represent an estimated 2 to 8 percent of a home's electricity use. A member with a 6 percent phantom load, will pay almost \$6 a month or approximately \$72 a year.

Members can see how much power their idle electronic devices are drawing by going to the Web site of the Federal Energy Management Program (<http://standby.lbl.gov/>). You also can learn about energy-saving lights and appliances at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

Here are a few tips and facts to help detect your home's phantom load:


- \* A plasma TV consumes five times as much power as a regular TV when turned off.

- \* Plug the TV and the DVD player into a power strip that can be turned off easily when the devices are not in use.

- \* Wireless phone chargers plugged in still draw power even though a phone isn't being charged.

Anything with a square plug transformer, including video game consoles and portable DVD players, contribute to phantom load. The same goes for any device with a remote control.





## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Check your water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140° F, although most households only need a setting of 120° F. Each 10 degree drop in water temperature can save you between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

**Source: U.S. Department of Energy**

# Helping our neighbors in Ohio

Four members of our HVEC staff, along with equipment, headed to western Ohio a few days before Christmas to give assistance after a severe ice storm impacted northwestern Ohio. The triple-whammy of Dec. 19's ice storm hit, followed by sub-zero temperatures and high winds over the next several days, caused power outages that placed more than 13,000 Ohio electric cooperative members into the dark. Repairs to ice-laden lines, broken crossarms and splintered poles were complicated by 40-mph wind gusts from an Alberta Clipper that swept into the state. The ice coating never had a chance to melt.

Holmes-Wayne class A linemen Steve James, Greg Lemon, Steve Asbury and Fred Combs assisted both Paulding-Putnam Electric Cooperative and Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative. Paulding-Putnam had 10,500 members without power due to system damage and loss of transmission to delivery points. Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative reported 2,800 without electricity in the wake of the storms.

Crews returned home on Christmas eve.

Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to assisting our sister cooperatives in their time of need.



*Steve James and Greg Lemon*

"We had 19 crews from five different states that came to HVEC in December 2004 and January 2005 to assist us during our ice storms.

Although you never wish or hope for devastation on anyone, it is nice to be able to return the favor by bringing power back to the cooperative members of western Ohio so they could celebrate Christmas with the conveniences power provides," said Lemon.



*Fred Combs and Steve Asbury*



*Meet an employee of our HVEC team!!*



Vicki Bilek is the executive assistant at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative. She has been with the company for five years and is the assistant to the president and board, as well as responsible for managing the capital patronage. She especially enjoys managing the capital credits that are returned to members. "It is the most challenging part of my job, and knowing the consumer is receiving money back makes me appreciate what a cooperative is all about."

She is a graduate of Wooster High School and a lifelong Wayne County resident. Vicki and her husband, Joe, live in Doylestown. They have six grown children and three grandchildren. She loves to spend her free time sewing, quilting and cooking.

# !Important!

## Medical Awareness Certification

Is someone living in your home with a medical condition that requires electrical assistance? If so, you must notify Holmes-Wayne by completing the form below to be added to or remain on our Medical Awareness list.

HWEC Medical Awareness list is used to notify you of any planned outages for maintenance and repair as well as uncontrollable outages such as weather conditions or car accidents. During these "standard" outages, the member on the list is given first consideration when your specific line is being restored.

Holmes-Wayne makes every effort to keep power flowing to every member's home at all times. Because of factors beyond our control, it always is our recommendation that you create a backup plan in case of a power outage. This may be as simple as having a generator or another location to relocate to if such a case would occur.

*Medical Awareness Certification form must be completed on an annual basis.*



Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Medical Awareness Certification

**If you or someone in your home is dependent on medical equipment operated by electricity, please provide the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Map Location \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**We request the attending physician to please complete and certify the following information:**

Equipment in use \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form in your next bill or to: Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Attn.: Medical Awareness List  
P.O. Box 112; Millersburg, OH 44654**

## Nominating Committee report

The 2009 meeting of the Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, was held at the Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative office in Millersburg, on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. Eight of the nine districts were represented by the members listed below. A special thanks to the appointed members for their willingness to work on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee selected 10 members in order of qualification for each of the three districts (districts 1, 3 and 7) for the 2009 trustee elections. The current chairman of the board, Ron Schlegel, will contact the list of potential candidates.

Any member from district 1, 3 and 7 may nominate a trustee candidate for the trustee election in writing by March 12. The candidate must live within the election district, and all nominations must include 15 signatures of members in the election district.

All nominations will be posted at the cooperative office according to the Holmes-Wayne Electric Code of Regulations.

District 1 — Matt Schneider
District 3 — Karen McKee
District 4 — Wes Starker
District 5 — John Crone
District 6 — Craig Garrett
District 7 — Nate Johnson
District 8 — Gene Varns
District 9 — Dan Burkhart