



2016 HWEC Annual Meeting: ‘Practice safety around the clock’



Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO

AS PLANNING OF YOUR HWEC Annual Meeting is well underway, we hope you have marked your calendars for June 30.

This year we are focusing on safety. The 2016 Annual Meeting promises to have safety tips and suggestions to keep our members safe around the clock.

As an HWEC member, you will receive your 2016 Annual Meeting packet via mail the first week of June.

In the packet, you will receive your

voting ballot for the 2016 HWEC Board of Trustees election as well as an invitation to RSVP for the event.

This year's health and safety fair will include information regarding self-defense, ways to prevent falls and trips, and avoiding financial scams. This is just a sample of the many safety booths that will be present at the event.

We will also have a special booth celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Operation Round Up foundation. Through the generous donations from you, our HWEC members, the foundation has given over half a million dollars back into our community! Join us for a piece of cake to celebrate this milestone.

Also, we will have a special video of our own Class A Lineman Steve Asbury sharing his experience of bringing electricity for the first time to La Soledad, Guatemala. Steve represented Holmes-Wayne Electric in a special electrification project that was life-changing for the over 300 villagers in this small town in north-

western Guatemala. It's a small reminder of how a few came together to bring electricity to our countryside just a little over 80 years ago.

The electrification of La Soledad demonstrates one of our seven guiding principles, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." Those guiding principles also include "Education, Training, and Information," which we will provide at our health and safety fair; "Concern for Community," demonstrated through our Operation Round Up foundation; and of course "Democratic Member Control," through our annual trustee election.

Please remember to exercise your right as a member-owner and vote in the 2016 HWEC trustee election. HWEC trustees serve an important role in the cooperative because they represent members' best interests when making important decisions. A trustee's decisions will affect issues like service rates, budgets, and workplans.

I look forward to seeing many members at the 2016 Annual Meeting. ☺

2016 HWEC Annual Meeting

June 30 • West Holmes High School
Health and Safety Fair ... 5 p.m.

Dinner ... 6 p.m.

Business Meeting ... 6:30 p.m.



RSVP with your trustee voting ballot
to be mailed in early June!

Board of Trustees

Randy Sprang, Chairman Dave Mann, Vice Chairman Barry Jolliff, Secretary/Treasurer
Jonathan Berger Kenneth Conrad Bill Grassbaugh Jackie McKee Ronnie Schlegel David Tegtmeier

6060 St. Rt. 83; P.O. Box 112
Millersburg, OH 44654-0112

Business hours: 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

330-674-1055 (local) • 866-674-1055 (toll-free)

You can call 24 hours a day to report outages, submit meter readings, and make payments.



www.hwecoop.com
Facebook.com/holmeswayneelectriccoop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®





2015 allocation of capital credits

As a member-owned cooperative, Holmes-Wayne Electric is committed to operating the cooperative to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost.

We sell and deliver electricity to our members at cost plus a small margin. It is necessary to maintain an operating margin in order to provide working capital, which is used to maintain the electric distribution system, to build and upgrade lines, and to provide service to new members. However, because we are a non-profit cooperative, we return these margins to the members. These are called patronage capital credits.

Capital credits are returned to each member based on patronage. They are divided among the members according to the amount of power purchased by the member.

Capital credits are assigned, or “allocated,” to each member-owner for the prior year. Your member-elected board of trustees oversees the financial well-being of the cooperative. As the financial status of the cooperative permits, the board will decide to “retire” capital credits.

Capital credits are currently being retired on an industry average of a

20-year cycle. When these capital credits are retired, they are returned via check to current members, and via check to former members no longer on our lines.

This is one reason why you always should keep your cooperative apprised of your address: If you move off of Holmes-Wayne Electric’s lines, you may have money coming to you that you have forgotten about!

You also receive an allocation of capital credits from our power generation utility, Buckeye Power, which is also a cooperative. Holmes-Wayne Electric is a member-owner of Buckeye Power. Buckeye Power allocates capital credits to Holmes-Wayne Electric based on the same principles. We, in turn, allocate these capital credits to you. You are notified annually of your allocation of the capital credits assigned to your account for the prior year.

Please note in your May 2016 bill the information regarding the 2015 allocation for both Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative and our generation company, Buckeye Power. You will only have a 2015 allocation if you were a member of the cooperative in 2015.

Wagner takes top scholarship

Abby Wagner was recently awarded first place in the Ohio Line Supervisor Association (OLSA) scholarship competition, hosted by Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives in Columbus, Ohio.

The OLSA scholarship is offered to the children of electric cooperative employees in Ohio and West Virginia. A panel of independent judges reviewed the applications and interviewed the finalists before determining the winners.

Wagner, who won the \$2,000 first-place scholarship, is the daughter of Casey and Christy Wagner of Killbuck. Her father is the accounting manager at Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative.

Wagner is a senior at West Holmes High School and will attend Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the fall, with plans to major in nursing.

She is active in soccer, track and field, chamber choir, marching band, and many more school organizations. She also is active in her church, participating in the worship team and youth mission trips locally and out of state.

OLSA is composed of the line supervisors of 25 electric cooperatives serving Ohio and West Virginia. Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives is the statewide service organization and wholesale power supplier serving those co-ops.



Abby Wagner



Let HWEC help you avoid surprises on your bills with a variety of payment options

We all are working with limited budgets as cost increases around us. **Since May of 2012, HWEC's electric rates have not changed.**

Even with these steady rates, members have taken advantage of the many suggestions and tools we provide to reduce electricity consumption and, therefore, reduce their HWEC bills.

To plan and budget your expenses more easily, HWEC offers budget billing, **which allows you to better manage your bills by averaging your annual consumption and avoiding the surprise of a high bill.** The average is based on the last 12 months of electricity consumption.

In extreme weather conditions, such as winter and summer months, members use more electricity to heat and cool their homes, and the resulting electric bills are higher. Because of the weather and lifestyle practices, your consumption can change dramatically, so HWEC will review your consumption history every January and July. Your set budget amount can be refigured if needed, which avoids a large balance due at the end of the budget cycle.

The budget billing cycle runs July to the following June. Any balance due is posted on your June bill.

Your monthly bill will always show the actual kilowatt-hours you consumed based on the meter readings you provide. Every month, you will be able to see your budget plan compared to actual consumption.

Plus, if you choose, you can have the convenience of paying your bill through our mobile app, SmartHub, or online every month at our website, www.hwecoop.com. You can also sign up for our automatic withdrawal payment program. Finally, you can call our toll-free number, 866-674-1055, 24 hours a day to pay your bill through the automatic phone system. **There are no service fees for any of these convenient options, and it saves you the cost of postage every month.**

If you're interested in the HWEC budget billing program, you may enroll at any time as long as you have been a member of HWEC for 12 months and have a zero balance. Please contact the cooperative toll free at 866-674-1055 to discuss a budget plan.

Also be sure to check out all our money-saving tips at www.hwecoop.com under "Energy Advice." Learn easy and inexpensive ways to manage your electricity consumption and bill.

Use HWEC's online outage map in case of spring storms

No one wants to experience a power outage, but the storms of spring and summer can often bring high winds and lightning that cause outages. As always, we strive to provide the best service possible to our members, which includes restoring power as quickly and safely as possible and providing timely information about the outage.

Remember that if you do experience a power outage, you can report it via our mobile app, SmartHub. You also can call us toll free at 866-674-1055. If you plan to call in your outages, be aware that the outage system matches the phone number on your account to the phone number you call from. To keep your outage report from being delayed, it's crucial to **always have an up-to-date phone number** listed on your electric account.

HWEC also now provides additional information on its online outage map at www.hwecoop.com. Members can view any outage that occurred over the past three days. The map will not only show the number of accounts out of power, but also the number of calls we received. Find the link on the home page next to the lightning icon (at right).



Be safe during spring planting season

Contact with overhead power lines is the leading cause of electrical fatalities for agricultural workers. Of the 1,001 reported power line contact incidents from 2003 to 2009, nearly 70 percent resulted in death, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating consumers about electrical safety. Fatalities can be prevented by following these simple steps while on the job.

AGRICULTURAL OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY **OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY** **ESFi.org** **AgSafe**

- 1** Locate all overhead power lines.
- 2** Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.
- 3** Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.
- 4** Beware of fencing near power lines.
- 5** Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.
- 6** Lower equipment apparatus before driving.
- 7** Never spray near power lines with irrigation systems.
- 8** Stay at least 10 feet away from fallen power lines.