



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Prioritize safety year-round

At Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the consumer-members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As President/CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Holmes-Wayne Electric provide safety tips on our Facebook page, through this publication, and on the radio. We also present safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

- Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.
- Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.
- Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install

multiple large appliances that consume a lot of electricity.

- Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.
- I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing a safe and uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. Our staff is committed to the zero contact program, monthly safety meetings, weekly safety quote reminders and daily crew inspections/work-site safety discussions — to name a few examples of the integration of safety as our culture. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Visit our website at hwecoop.com, follow us on Facebook, and contact us for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.



Glenn W. Miller
PRESIDENT/CEO

Lineman Steve Asbury demonstrates safety precautions at a local school.





Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative awards \$20,200 in scholarships

The 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. The cooperative is proud to have distributed over \$255,000 in scholarships within the community since its establishment.

Megan Westbrook of West Holmes High School is the first-place winner of a \$3,000 scholarship in the 2022 Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative scholarship contest. Westbrook was a part of a group of 26 students representing seven area high schools who competed for a total of \$20,200 in scholarships.



MEGAN WESTBROOK

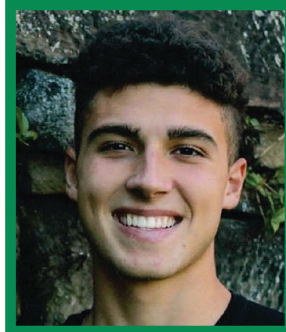
is the daughter of Jeremy and Leslie Westbrook of Millersburg. She plans to attend Liberty University this fall, dual majoring in conference and event management /Christian leadership and church ministries. Westbrook says, "The most impactful

experience of my high school career was attending the Christ in Youth conference with my church. I spent that week with my youth group, worshipping and growing in my faith. It has shaped who I am today and the goals that I have for my future." Westbrook will represent Holmes-Wayne Electric at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives scholarship competition in Columbus this spring.



ASHLEY TATE, second place (\$2,800). Tate is the daughter of Russell and Laurie Tate of Shreve. A senior at West Holmes High School, she will major in agriculture communications at The Ohio State University. "Earning this scholarship means a lot to me. It will take some of the financial

burden off of college so that I can give more focus to furthering my education, the agriculture industry, and the Kingdom of God," Tate says.



WYATT FREEMAN,

third place (\$2,500). Freeman is the son of Ryan and Bobbi Freeman of Dundee. He will be graduating from Hiland High School. This fall he will be attending University of Mount Union, majoring in exercise science.



GUS JOHNSON, fourth

place (\$2,000). Johnson is the son of Matt and Holley Johnson of Dundee. He will graduate from Hiland High School and will attend the University of Cincinnati, majoring in civil engineering. Johnson says, "Getting to lead my

band, Low Gap, was a great experience for me. I've gotten to meet some incredible people and musicians through the experience. We've had the honor of recording in Nashville and are excited for the future! This scholarship will help ease the financial burden on me so that I can spend more time on my music and schoolwork, without incurring much student debt."



MARION DIX, fifth place (\$1,900). Dix is the daughter of Andrew and Bridget Dix of Wooster. A senior at Wooster High School, she will be attending either Dennison University, Miami University, or College of Wooster, majoring in biology. She says, "The Tri-County International

Baccalaureate Academy has helped prepare me for my future college experience."



SHAYNA ALLHOUSE, eighth place (\$1,600). Allhouse is the daughter of Ben and Joelyn Allhouse of West Salem. A senior at Northwestern High School, she will attend Marietta College and major in either biochemistry or environmental science. Allhouse says, "My

personal mission in life is to find something that I am passionate about and pursue it."



HUNTER ELLIS, sixth place (\$1,800). Ellis is the son of Maynard and Jessica Patten of Millersburg. A senior at West Holmes High School, he will major in statistics/data science at the University of Akron. "I am extremely thankful to be able to represent Holmes-Wayne Electric Co-op in

receiving this scholarship," Ellis says. "This scholarship will motivate me to continue working hard and striving for greatness. Thank you for helping me progress towards my career goal of achieving my bachelor's degree in statistics/data science."



BROCK ZIMMERLY, ninth place (\$1,500). Zimmerly is the son of Brian and Angie Zimmerly of Shreve. A senior at West Holmes High School, he will major in finance at Ohio University. Zimmerly says, "I would like to thank everyone that has played a role in creating this scholarship and helping

pick the winners. Lastly, keep pushing through your school career or even life because something good will come your way."



JUDE CERNIGLIA, seventh place (\$1,700). Cerniglia is the son of Andrew and Angie Cerniglia of Holmesville. He is a senior at Waynedale High School and will pursue a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology at the College of Wooster. "My future goal is to become a research scientist," he says.



CARMEN SCHLATTER, tenth place (\$1,400). Schlatter is the daughter of Carlton and Candice Schlatter of Burbank. A senior at Norwayne High School, she will major in integrated mathematical education at Ashland University. Schlatter says, "My mission in life is not

only to be an inspiration to my students in knowledge, but to also be a positive role model in their lives. Because I understand how moldable students are in their middle and high school years, I consider it an extremely serious but exciting opportunity to be able to impact their lives so heavily."

A special thanks...

Our judges for the two-day virtual competition were Dale Sidle, Lucille Hastings, and Melinda Eliot. Having served impactful careers in the education field, their participation in the scholarship program is greatly appreciated.



HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

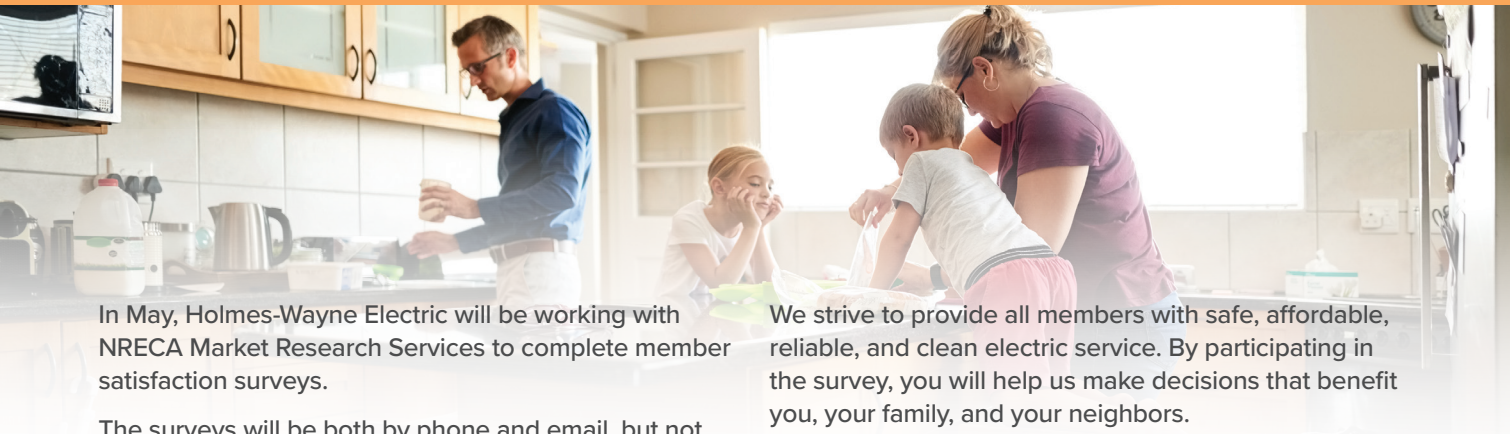


annual MEETING CANCELED

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Holmes-Wayne Electric Board of Trustees has canceled the public annual meeting. As always, you will receive an annual report, which will be located in this publication next month. The election of candidates will remain the same, with members receiving their ballot through USPS on June 1 with the ability to vote June 1 through June 28 via mail, online, or through our mobile app, SmartHub. The election results, which historically have been announced at the annual meeting, will be published on our website by Thursday, June 30, and sent to all members in their August *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine. All information that would have been presented at the June 30 meeting will be published in the August *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and posted on our website at www.hwecoop.com.

We want to hear from you!

Your thoughts and opinions about
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative help us to serve you better.



In May, Holmes-Wayne Electric will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The surveys will be both by phone and email, but not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions of the cooperative.

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

All information is confidential.



**Holmes-Wayne
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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