

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.



*Glenn W. Miller
President/CEO*

Giving back year-round is the co-op way

AS YOU MIGHT KNOW, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same seven principles that guide all of our decisions, from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. "Concern for Community" is the seventh principle, and it's one that all employees of Holmes-Wayne Electric value year-round — not just during the holiday season.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. This past year, our staff donated time, skills, and energy toward the new Holmes County Fair at Harvest Ridge, local parades, and high school sports concession stands.

We also coordinated the first Holmes-Wayne veterans' Honor Trip to Washington, D.C., and had the pleasure of giving back to 24 local veterans who participated.

The cooperative awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to six local high school seniors last spring and will increase our scholarships in 2017 to a total of \$15,000, as you will read on page 22.

We were also humbled by the opportunity to join Ohio's electric cooperatives in supporting a special humanitarian program — Project Ohio. Along with other volunteers, HWEC Class Lineman Steve Asbury went to Guatemala through NRECA International to bring electricity to a small village of 350 people for the first time. For these people, power provided a much needed way to receive clean water and an avenue to

cook and refrigerate food, as well as provide light in the evening for safety.

Of course, our line crew also continues to support sister co-ops in Ohio and across the nation after major storms have created vast power outages. That call was met this past February when we helped co-ops in Ohio that were hit by wet, heavy snow and needed aid.

With the holidays upon us, our staff is graciously collecting scarves, hats, and gloves for veterans. HWEC personnel is also assisting with the Holmes County Share-A-Christmas, which provides Christmas gifts for children in need.

But it's not just our staff who's giving — you, the HWEC members, help us give back, too. Through the Operation Round Up® program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community. In 2016, we celebrated our 10th anniversary for this program. Since establishing this program, over \$500,000 has been given back to individuals, families, and organizations in need in our little corner of the world.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. On behalf of our board and staff at HWEC, it is an absolute pleasure to work for such a wonderful, caring community where there is always a sense of kinship and need to help others. Blessings to you this Christmas and in 2017! ☸

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*

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The bower of human connections®*



Holmes-Wayne Electric Announcements



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The office will be closed **Dec. 23, Dec. 26,** and **Jan. 2.** We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

You can contact us toll-free at **866-674-1055** or use our on-line portal or mobile app SmartHub to report outages, make a payment, or submit a meter reading during these days.

Certification of Active Duty Deployment

The Cooperative will not disconnect electric service to the residential premises of any residential member who is deployed on active duty for nonpayment for electricity provided to the residential premises.

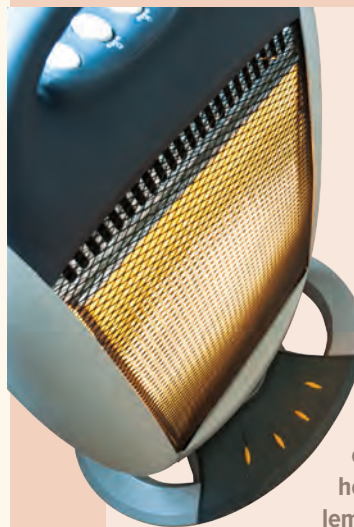
Upon return of the residential member from active duty, the Cooperative will offer the residential member a period of time equal to duration of deployment on active duty to pay any arrearage incurred during the period of deployment. If the time period the Cooperative offers the residential member for repayment presents a hardship, the member may request a longer period to repay the arrearage. No late payment fees or interest will be charged to the residential member during the period of deployment or the repayment period.

“Active duty” means active duty pursuant to an executive order of the President of the United States, an act of the Congress of the United States, or section 5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The residential member must resume the timely payment of all charges for electric service provided by the Cooperative after the return from active duty deployment.

In order to avoid disconnection of electric service for nonpayment of electric service during a period of active duty deployment, a completed Certification of Active Duty Deployment form must be submitted to the Cooperative. Certification of Active Duty Deployment forms are available from the Cooperative upon request.

What to consider before buying a space heater...



It could be beneficial to take some easy and inexpensive energy-saving measures in your home before you decide to purchase a space heater. Any of of these could solve your heating problems without any additional heating equipment.

- Add caulk and weather stripping around doors and windows
- Add insulation to attics and exposed walls
- Clean or replace furnace filters
- Move furniture or obstacles away from heat registers
- Insulate ductwork
- Close blinds or curtains at night

Nondiscrimination Statement

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send our completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410; by fax at 202-690-7442; or by e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Electricity theft and meter tampering:

Illegal, costly, and dangerous crimes

Since August 1978, a revised Ohio law has been in effect covering theft of utility service and tampering with utility equipment. The statute provides that a person does not have to be seen tampering with a meter to be held responsible for such action. Prior to the revision in the law, it was difficult to prosecute a person for meter tampering unless the action was witnessed.

In addition, reconnecting a user's device that was disconnected by a utility is now considered prima facie evidence that the user intended to defraud the utility. The law defines theft of a utility service as a first-degree misdemeanor if the value of the stolen electricity, plus any utility equipment repair, is under \$150. It's a fourth-degree felony if the value is more than \$150 or if the offender was previously convicted of the charge. Tampering convictions carry similar penalties.

Tampering is defined as "to interfere with, damage or bypass a utility meter, conduit, or attachment with intent to impede the correct registration of a meter or the proper function of a conduit or attachments." Conviction can bring from six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine to five years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

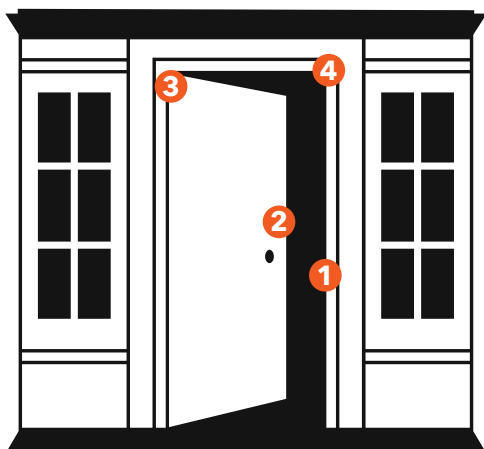
Meter tampering costs all of us. It costs the cooperative, and it costs you. And it's downright dangerous. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion, or fire often results from meter tampering. If you witness someone tampering with their electric meter, contact the HWEC office. Stealing electricity is a crime, and anyone caught violating the law will be prosecuted.

Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative is required by law to provide this notice to its members annually.

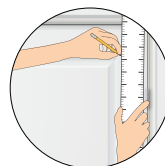
WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



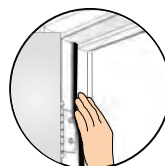
1 CLEANING SURFACES - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



3 CUTTING FOAM - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

2017 GRADS: ARE YOUR PARENTS HOLMES-WAYNE MEMBERS?

IF SO, YOU COULD WIN UP TO \$6,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

- * Applicants must have a 3.6 GPA or higher.
- * 10 scholarships will be distributed by Holmes-Wayne totaling \$15,000.
- * HWEC winners in both the girls' and boys' division will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and compete for a \$3,500 statewide scholarship through Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.
- * Ohio's Electric Cooperatives will distribute a total of 18 scholarships.



TO OBTAIN RULES AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE “CHILDREN OF MEMBERS” SCHOLARSHIP:

- Visit www.hwecoop.com
- Call the co-op toll-free at 866-674-1055
- Stop by the Millersburg co-op office
- Pick one up from your guidance counselor
- Deadline to apply: Friday, Jan. 27, 2017



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