



# POWER WITH A PURPOSE

## Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

**M**ore than 600 members and guests attended this year's annual meeting of members for Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative on June 27 at West Holmes High School in Millersburg. In keeping with the weather conditions we've experienced this spring and summer, members were greeted with a strong downpour of rain at the beginning of the event.



As part of the health and information fair, Holmes-Wayne Electric staff shared energy efficiency tips and details about the co-op's various programs that bring “power with a purpose” to the community. Members then enjoyed dinner and heard reports on the state of the the cooperative and results of the board of trustee elections.

Three incumbents were re-elected to the organization's board of trustees. William Grassbaugh, Barry Jolliff, and David Mann were elected by Holmes-Wayne members, representing districts 2, 8, and 9, respectively.

Additionally, Holmes-Wayne members approved an amendment to the cooperative's code of regulations, stipulating that no person shall be hired as a co-op employee who has been a trustee of the cooperative within three years of the date of hire, or whose close relative has been a trustee of the cooperative within three years of the date of hire.

Randy Sprang, chairman of the Holmes-Wayne board, announced that the cooperative returned \$1.193 million in capital credits to members living on co-op lines in 1998 and 1999. Capital credits, a distinguishing characteristic of membership in an electric cooperative, are margins remaining after all expenses have been paid that are returned to members in proportion to their use in a given period of time. Read Sprang's full speech beginning on page 20D.

Sprang informed Holmes-Wayne members of the many ways the cooperative empowers its members to use energy efficiently and safely and how members can manage their account conveniently with the SmartHub application.

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## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



Barry Jolliff



Bill Grassbaugh



Dave Mann

“With today’s busy lifestyles, members can report an outage or pay their bill from a mobile phone or tablet. Are you traveling out of town for a few weeks or month? No problem — you can schedule your payment,” said Sprang.

Holmes-Wayne’s community involvement was also highlighted, including the cooperative’s coordination of an annual honor trip to Washington, D.C., for local veterans, in partnership with Shreve American Legion Forest Post 67 and Rolling Thunder Ohio Chapter 2.



“The funds raised for this event are through employee payroll donation, potluck safety meals, board donations, and community donations,” said Sprang. “This is a wonderful example of the power with a purpose.”

In his annual address to members, Glenn Miller, president and CEO of Holmes-Wayne, detailed the cooperative’s many accomplishments.

“2018 was a busy year,” said Miller. “We introduced a new website, rebuilt 19 miles of lines, replaced 403 poles, trimmed trees for 385 miles, and sprayed vegetation control on 983 miles of rights-of-way — all while adding 191 new services.” Read Miller’s full speech beginning on page 20B.

Miller thanked the Holmes-Wayne board for approving a four-year, \$23.1 million work plan, which will maintain the cooperative’s investment in line rebuilding, substation testing, pole replacements, and other equipment replacements and upgrades.

The cooperative will also be spending \$1.85 million for tree trimming and dead tree removal in order to minimize outages.

Miller attributed the cooperative’s accomplishments to its excellent staff and to members for their engagement. “Our staff are hard-working, dedicated, and loyal in providing your electric service and being good members of our





community,” said Miller. “Also, our members are key to our success. We appreciate your valuable feedback — not only to help us improve service, but to provide us with information on outages and vegetation management.”

Doug Miller, vice president of statewide services at Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives, briefed Holmes-Wayne members on their power supplier and statewide services association.

“Buckeye Power, your member-owned generation and transmission cooperative, generates its power from a variety of resources including coal, natural gas, and renewable sources, including solar, hydropower, and landfill and methane gas projects,” said Miller. “As Holmes-Wayne members, you have a stake in these generation facilities.”

Miller reported that Buckeye Power’s assumption of management of Cardinal Power Plant from American Electric Power, which occurred in 2018, has gone smoothly. Under cooperative management, the plant is operating more efficiently than ever, ensuring that power costs will remain stable for years to come.

“Buckeye Power is fulfilling its mission: to deliver competitive, stably-priced and reliable wholesale power to our 24 electric distribution systems serving 400,000 meters in Ohio,” said Miller.

Also included in the business meeting was a note of appreciation to the membership for their continued support of the Operation Round Up program. The program offers HWEC members the opportunity to round up their monthly bill to the next even dollar. The spare change is placed into a foundation to be distributed to those in need within the community. Since the fund was established in 2006, members have given back over \$650,000 to the community. This is an amazing testament of the HWEC members’ generosity to our community.

To close the meeting, 10 local high school graduates were recognized for receiving \$15,000 in HWEC scholarships. Holmes-Wayne Electric has given over \$220,000 in scholarships over the history of the program.





## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

### ANNUAL MEETING MESSAGE FROM GLENN W. MILLER



Glenn W. Miller  
PRESIDENT/CEO

Thank you, Dave. Good evening, everyone. I appreciate your attendance tonight.

Tonight, I would like to update you on the accomplishments of your cooperative during the last year and plans for the year ahead.

2018 was a busy year. We introduced a new website, rebuilt 19 miles of lines, replaced 403 poles, trimmed trees for 385 miles, and sprayed

vegetation control on 983 miles of rights-of-way, all while adding 191 new services.

Our work of staying relevant never stops. Maintaining flexibility and the ability to make strategic changes is essential. I would like to thank your nine-member board for approving our current four-year work plan, totaling \$23.1 million, allowing continued investment in line rebuilding, substation testing, pole replacements, and other equipment replacement and upgrades.

Tree trimming and vegetation control continues to be a priority as tree limbs on power lines continue to be the number one source of power outages. In 2019, \$1,850,000 has been budgeted for trimming and dead tree takedowns.

With more than 2,200 miles of line exposed to a variety of weather throughout the year, it is critical for your cooperative to administer our strategic tree trimming and vegetation control program to provide the best service to our members.

This year, in our four-year cycle program, we will trim another 397 miles in Buckhorn, Drake Valley, Killbuck, and Stillwell substation areas.

This work is bid out and contracted annually, with Davey Tree Service being the contractor this year. The year

following tree trimming, those same areas are sprayed to minimize growth until the next tree trimming cycle.

As these efforts reduce outages tremendously, it does not eliminate them. We will always battle a variety of factors such as weather, wildlife, and car accidents.

We continue to add new services. In 2018, we added 191 new services. That brought the total number of services at years' end to 18,663. As our commercial load continues to grow, we should all be proud of the entrepreneurial spirit in our community.

While our operations department works to maintain and expand HWEC infrastructure, your member service department continues to streamline their work practices, resulting in increased efficiencies and cost savings options to you, the members.

In today's busy world, we realize how difficult it can be to keep up with everything. We offer several convenient ways to help you stay connected with us, allowing you to choose which way works best for you.

We have several electronic options, including SmartHub, text and email notifications, and Facebook. If you prefer printed notifications, we've got that covered as well. Members can receive the latest co-op news in the local pages of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and through messages on their bill.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your cooperative's convenient programs.

From a community standpoint, your cooperative continues to prosper. In 2018, we visited seven school districts to provide safety demonstrations, career day education, or energy efficiency information. We also brought valuable safety information to the Amish community through two local events, reaching out to four counties. We proudly coordinated our third Veterans Honor Trip with the Shreve American Legion and Rolling Thunder Chapter 2.







Our line personnel not only continued their 24/7 dedication to HWEC members but brought the lights back on to residents of North Carolina twice this year with the storms of Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence.

Locally, after hours, the staff gave of their personal time to be coaches, work at their churches, and volunteer at school activities, Holmes County Home, community touch-a-truck events, and local parades.

I want to express my appreciation to our staff. They are hard-working, dedicated, and loyal in providing your electric service and being good members of our community.

Also, you the members are key to the success of the co-op. We appreciate your valuable feedback to not only improve services but information on outages and vegetation management to reduce outages.

Your cooperative is a vital part of our local tax base. In 2018, we paid \$1,503,071 in kilowatt-hour tax to the state of Ohio.

Additionally, we paid \$1,160,126 in property taxes that benefit 12 local school districts as well as local governments.

Holmes-Wayne continues to have one of the lowest electric service rates in the state of Ohio, out of 25 cooperatives.

I believe this fact, along with our service and increased reliability, give you the balanced value you deserve as member-owners of the cooperative.

We can only accomplish this because of the quality of our staff. We are not just a utility; we are an organization that powers communities and empowers members to improve the quality of their lives.

As we move forward, our continued goal is to provide member service excellence at all levels of the organization and by each of our staff offering our members real value — and working to improve the quality of life in the community we serve. It is important to us; it's one of the many ways we set ourselves apart from other utilities.

Thank you again for attending tonight. I hope you have enjoyed the evening.





## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

### ANNUAL MEETING MESSAGE FROM RANDY SPRANG



Randy Sprang  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Good evening!

Thank you for taking the time this evening to celebrate your rural electric cooperative. Tonight's theme is "Power with Purpose." Eighty-four years ago, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative was established by members of this community with a purpose: to bring electric to our countryside.

The original founders of HWEC understood the vast impact electric would have on the area homes, farms, and businesses.

Today, as your nine-member board, who represents you, the members of HWEC, we do not take this role lightly, and we continue that same goal of having a positive and powerful impact on our membership and community. Power with a purpose improves the quality of life by powering our communities and empowering our members!

Members of electric cooperatives are automatically engaged and empowered because you are member-owners in the cooperative. Every month you pay your electric bill, you are not only paying for the service provided but investing in the future. The margin after sales is used by your cooperative as working capital. This is used to maintain the electric distribution system as well as to build and upgrade lines and substations. That investment is returned to you as capital credits. Just this month, \$1,193,090.34 of capital patronage credits was returned to HWEC members. This is a retirement for members living on Holmes-Wayne Electric lines in 1998 and 1999. That's over a million dollars returned to our local economy.

Other ways you, the members, are empowered is through managing your electric consumption and payment avenue. HWEC offers online and mobile app payments

with SmartHub. Members can track their electric usage and compare to past month's consumption.

With today's busy lifestyles, they can report an outage or pay their bill from a mobile phone or tablet. Or maybe you are traveling out of town for a few weeks or month? No problem — you can schedule your payment. Many members have even taken advantage of our paperless auto payment. No fees — just have your bill paid automatically from your checking, debit, or credit card.

Maybe you are looking for ways to reduce your energy consumption? We can give you that power, too! We offer energy efficiency tips on Facebook and our website. Or maybe you want to schedule an energy assessment with our on-staff energy advisor, Kenny DePriest.

We don't just empower our members, but our purpose is also to be actively involved in the community we serve. That comes through many opportunities like safety demos to local schools, 4-H clubs, and first responders. We give back with our time, coaching local youth teams, working at school concession stands, and participating in community parades and touch-a-truck events.

We not only invest time in our community, but we also believe in investing dollars to empower the community. Investing in the next generation, HWEC annually awards 10 local high school seniors \$15,000 in scholarships.

We also support the generations that sacrificed in years past to make our community and country free! Coordinating a Veteran's Honor Trip with the Shreve American Legion and Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 is a privilege. This three-day bus trip takes our local veterans to Washington, D.C., to observe the memorials built in their honor. This August will mark the fourth year for this program. The funds raised for this event are through employee payroll donations, potluck safety meals, board donations, and community donations. This is a wonderful example of the power with a purpose!





But our community activities don't stop here. Our membership is actively engaged too! Over 7,200 HWEC members have chosen to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. This spare change is placed into the Operation Round Up foundation and distributed to those in need in our community. Since its inception in 2006, over \$660,000 has been donated back to the community. We are empowering our community one penny at a time!

Another aspect your HWEC board is focused on is keeping our communities safe. Your board is committed to providing equipment and training to the HWEC staff so you are provided with safe and reliable power. This initiative doesn't stop at the staff and board level — our membership needs to be active participants in safety. We are a resource for any electric safety concerns you may have, and again, you may have recently seen some great safety tips in our monthly magazine publication, *Ohio Cooperative Living*, on our Facebook, and our website as we celebrated National Electric Safety month in May.

Safety needs to always be at the forefront of this industry. As we face the summer storms and wind, we want to use this stage as an opportunity to remind you to never go near a downed power line. It can be energized! We also want to remind you this evening that it is important in the occasion of a power outage that you are correctly connecting generators. If using a generator, your main electric breaker should be shut off. This prevents the generator from feeding electricity back through your meter onto our distribution lines where linemen are working diligently to restore your power.

As you can see, you, the members and your cooperative staff and board work together to improve the quality of life in our communities! This commitment made 85 years ago continues in 2019 and will remain our strategic plan moving forward. We look forward to serving and growing this great community we are honored to serve!

Thank you!





## HOLMES-WAYNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



**Our office will be  
closed Labor Day,  
Monday, Sept. 2.**

To report an outage, pay  
your bill, or submit a meter  
reading, call us toll-free at  
**866-674-1055** or use our  
mobile app, SmartHub.

## September is National Preparedness Month

Visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) for safety  
information, planning materials,  
and more to keep you and your  
family safe in the case  
of an emergency.

**Emergency Preparedness  
Checklist**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove.  
In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal.  
With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down  
about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*



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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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