



GM'S REPORT



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Celebrating National Co-op Month

I always look forward to the month of October. Not only are the festivities of fall in full swing, but it's also the month that

we get to celebrate our co-op members. As we enter National Co-op Month, I like to stop and remind myself of the many benefits of being a Firelands Electric Cooperative member.

For starters, we are member-owned and locally governed. Members like you elect fellow members to serve on the co-op's board of trustees, which guides the operation of Firelands Electric. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made by people who care about the same things you do. Firelands also provides several resources to help members save money. For example, rebates are available to those who purchase qualifying ENERGY STAR-certified appliances. The co-op even provides information to teach members about how to use electricity more efficiently and save on their monthly bills. You won't find that with an investor-owned utility!

The most significant benefit — in my humble opinion, at least — is the cooperative's care for our community.

Firelands Electric's very existence is the result of a strong devotion to our community. When large utilities refused to bring electric service to our area, rural residents banded together to create a cooperative that would be for the sole benefit of their own community. This commitment to community has remained a top priority ever since.

From the big to the small, Firelands Electric Cooperative is involved in our community in a multitude of ways. Whether helping sponsor a junior county fair, conducting an electrical safety education demonstration at a local manufacturer, or participating in a touch-a-truck event, the co-op is, and always has been, here to support the community we serve. And this dedication from our employees and trustees extends behind the regular workday. Many serve on the boards of civic organizations, coach youth sports, or volunteer with 4-H clubs. Sometimes an employee's whole family gets involved, like when the co-op participates in an annual parade. And this commitment is unwavering. After all, our employees and trustees are also members of this very same community.

But Firelands' co-op community wouldn't be as strong without members like you. Your support of our community efforts and enthusiasm for being a Firelands Electric Cooperative member allow us to do what we do — provide electricity, while also striving to improve the lives and community of those we serve.

As we celebrate National Cooperative Month, we also want to celebrate members like you! Through Nov. 3, Firelands Electric members can enter for a chance to win one of nine prepaid Mastercard gift cards worth between \$25 and \$150. Get all of the details on the next page.

Good luck, enjoy the fall season, and thank you for being a part of our co-op community.



CO-OP MONTH **CONTEST**

This month, we're celebrating you — our co-op community! Between now and Nov. 3, members can enter for a chance to win one of nine prepaid Mastercards by simply returning a completed entry form.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Contest is open to current members of Firelands Electric who have a home or business receiving its power from the cooperative.
2. To enter, simply return the completed form at right or enter online by 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 3. Paper entries may be dropped off at our office or mailed to: Co-op Month Contest, Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, OH 44851. Members may also enter online using the form available at www.firelandsec.com/contests.
3. Entries are limited to one per member.
4. Winners will be randomly selected to win prepaid Mastercards in one of the following amounts:
 - \$150 — one card
 - \$100 — one card
 - \$50 — two cards
 - \$25 — four cards
5. Winners' names and/or photos will be published in an upcoming issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and shared on Firelands' social media pages.
6. Members can earn one additional entry by sending us a photo of them and/or their family participating in the co-op community. This may include, but is not limited to, attending a co-op event, wearing or using something with the Firelands Electric logo on it (hat, scissors, frisbee, etc.), visiting our office, with a co-op employee, or reading the monthly magazine. Photos may be digital (attach to your online entry form) or printed and mailed.
7. A bonus prize of one \$50 pre-paid card will also be awarded to the member who submits the most creative photo. (Only one prize will be awarded per member.)

For questions regarding this contest, contact the Member Services Department at members@firelandsec.com or 1-800-533-8658.

**WIN
UP TO
\$150**



Member's name

Service address

City and ZIP code

Phone

Email

Return completed form to Co-op Month Contest, Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Dr, New London, OH 44851 or enter online at www.firelandsec.com/contests.

We will not sell, share, or otherwise distribute personal information to any third parties without explicit consent.

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
4 P.M. ON MONDAY, NOV. 3.**



In early August, Firelands Electric linemen, including Line Superintendent Zach Collins (above), provided an electrical safety demonstration for the employees of New London's Primetals Technologies.

Several employees and their families participated in area Independence Day parades again this year. Journeyman Jake Willbond and his daughter, Gracen, (at left) took part in the Rochester 4th of July Homecoming Celebration.

On the cover: Meter Technician Josh Kirk's daughters Joanna (back) and Evie (middle), along with friend Ava (front) tossed candy and frisbees to spectators during the Greenwich parade on July 5.

To view additional photos from recent co-op events, visit www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCAVENGER HUNT

October is the final month of our contest!

To enter, submit or post a photo of something in your home, garage, barn, or business that fits the monthly theme by the 25th of each month. The last deadline is Oct. 25.

WIN A
\$25
bill credit

October's theme: LED BULBS

Entries can be submitted by:

- Posting your photo on your Facebook page and tagging the co-op
- Emailing your photo to members@firelandsec.com
- Visit www.firelandsec.com/contests for complete details.

ARE YOU ON OUR LIST? UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS REFUNDS

Firelands Electric is trying to locate current and former members who may be entitled to unclaimed capital credits. A list of individuals and businesses can be found on the co-op's website at www.firelandsec.com/capital-credits-and-unclaimed-funds.

If you recognize a name on the list, please let that person know to contact us. For listed members who are deceased, let one of their relatives know about the unclaimed check. The person named or their relative must contact our office in order for the check to be re-issued.

*Official notice is given that the current or former patrons on this list have cash retirements of capital credits or other payments from Firelands Electric Cooperative that have gone unclaimed for more than four years. According to Article VIII, Section 3, of the Code of Regulations, unless claim is made within 60 days of the second publication of this list, such funds will become an irrevocable gift and assignment by such patron to the cooperative. Inquiries should be directed to Firelands Electric Cooperative, 103 Industrial Drive, New London, Ohio 44851, by phone at 1-800-533-8658, or by email at accounting@firelandsec.com. **THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO NOTICES.***





COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met July 22 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 31 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly safety and training, tree-trimming, outage, and personnel reports.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department, noting an increase in vehicle accident-related outages this summer.
- Englet advised that the peak demand for summer reached a new high on June 24. This resulted in Ohio's generation facilities reaching max capacity.
- The board scheduled a tour of the cooperative's distribution system for Oct. 22.
- Englet and the board discussed the upcoming strategic planning meeting for the co-op, which will take place on Sept. 23.
- The board reviewed the current rates of Ohio's investor-owned electric utilities.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the June financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- Schloemer recapped an OREC meeting he recently attended, which included updates on Project Ohio, the repeal of the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Rule, and the delay of the Effluent Limitations Guidelines Rule.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments, including the results of the co-op's recent ACSI Customer Satisfaction survey.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 28. If you would like to attend the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851
1-800-533-8658

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.firelandsec.com



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer
President, District 1

Kevin Reidy
Vice President, District 6

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Joe Williams
District 2

Tom Lucha
District 3

Lon Burton
District 4

Greg Hess
District 7

Adrian Finlay
District 8

Brian Cucco
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

