

Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc. | 103 Industrial Drive | P.O. Box 32 | New London, Ohio 44851 | 1-800-533-8658
Contact: Director of Communications and Information Technology Andrea Gravenhorst | agravenhorst@firelandsec.com

For Immediate Release:

State legislators address electric cooperative members during local event sponsored by Firelands Electric Co-op

NEW LONDON, OH, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2021 at 12:00 PM — Over 110 co-op member-consumers and employees of Firelands Electric attended a legislative update at the 2022 ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action recognition breakfast. The event was hosted on Monday, Sept. 12 at Firelands Electric Cooperative's facility in New London.

Local and state government officials representing portions of Firelands Electric's four-county service territory attended the event. Invited guests were updated on legislative issues currently affecting electric cooperatives and local communities and were able to participate in a Q&A legislative forum. Topics included: local supply chain issues; increasing costs affecting the cost of electricity; reliability of the electric generation and distribution grid; and the overall workforce challenges faced across the Buckeye State.

Ohio Representative Marilyn John addressed the crowd on growing employment staffing issues, the importance of workforce development, and improving education. John is presently serving on families, aging, and human service committees. John advised how she is currently working on a bill that can lessen some of the stringent requirements affecting many occupational licenses that are resulting in worker shortages.

Ohio Representative Darrell Kick spoke about Ohio's redistricting process and the newly revised House District map. Kick's committee assignment has included agriculture, conservation, civil justice, house energy and natural resources, as well as house finance. Kick advised how he recently sponsored House Bill 30 that requires Amish buggies and other animal-drawn vehicles to display a yellow flashing light while driving on public streets, which can help save lives.

Ohio Representative Dick Stein addressed the crowd regarding energy concerns, baseline power generation and the affect electric vehicles will have on the power grid. Stein has served on various committees for commerce and labor, public utilities, including technology and innovation. Stein spoke on how increased renewable projects and electric vehicles are affecting the Buckeye State and electric utility infrastructure projects, with the concern of electric reliability.

Ohio Representative D.J. Swearingen advised the group on how beginning in 2023 he will also be serving portions of Huron County under the recently revised House District map. Some of his committee assignments include civil justice, criminal justice, house finance, including primary and secondary education. Swearingen spoke on how increased costs are affecting the agricultural industry, how Ohio schools are currently being funded, and the need for workforce development and training in schools.

Ohio Congressman Bob Gibbs' Field Representative Kyle Brooks advised about how the revised U.S. Congressional District map attributed to Gibbs not running for re-election. Brooks spoke on the recently passed college loan forgiveness, the growing need for energy independence, current affects across our country from inflation.

Firelands Electric's objective in hosting the ACRE breakfast is to develop and foster its relationships with elected legislators, while also providing a face-to-face forum for co-op members to meet and communicate with officials. This exclusive event was comprised of members who invest in [ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action](#), and serve to increase legislators' awareness of what electric cooperatives are and how they benefit their communities.

Firelands was pleased to have this opportunity to give our ACRE Co-op Owner members a chance to have face-to-face contact with their elected officials. "Just as we like getting first-hand information and insight from our legislators, they too like hearing directly from the residents of their districts," said General Manager Dan McNaull. "As a member-owned cooperative, we look forward to these grass-roots events which provide a forum for local voices to be heard at the state level and beyond."

Firelands Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving more than 9,100 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties that ranks among the highest energy utilities in the country for customer satisfaction. Visit the cooperative's website, www.firelandsec.com, [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#), to learn more about reliable and affordable power. Photos of Firelands Electric's ACRE recognition breakfast can be viewed on the cooperative's Flickr page, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/>.

ATTACHED PHOTOS:

IMG 3160

Firelands Electric Cooperative's trustees and staff stand with local legislators during a recent ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action event. Standing L-R is Firelands' Board President Dan Schloemer; Ohio Representative D.J. Swearingen; Ohio Representative Dick Stein, Ohio Representative Marilyn John; Ohio Representative Darrell Kick, Firelands' General Manager Dan McNaull and Trustee Tom Lucha.



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Ohio Representative Dick Stein addresses the crowd during the 2022 ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action recognition event was hosted on Monday, Sept. 12 at Firelands Electric Cooperative's facility in New London.



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