

NEWS



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For Immediate Release:

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC CO-OP'S MELISSA WILSON COMPLETES LOCAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

NEW LONDON, OH, Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at 7:30AM — Melissa Wilson, engineering and operations data coordinator for Firelands Electric Cooperative, recently completed a leadership education and development program.

The nine-month leadership opportunity through Leadership Huron County is designed to train future leaders of the local community. A principal goal of the program is for participants to visit all the communities in Huron County; hence, the monthly classes are never held in the same place twice. Participants interact with speakers from all walks of life and tour many different venues around the county.

"Participating in Leadership Huron County was a great experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity," says Wilson. "This training offered me valuable insight into the importance of networking with colleagues and building relationships."

Wilson has been with Firelands Electric Cooperative since September 2018. She joined the operations department as an engineering data analyst and was promoted to the position of engineering and operations data coordinator in 2020. Wilson is responsible for maintaining and updating the cooperative's digital mapping system, which consists of location information, easements, poles, transformers, wires, and other equipment. She also handles all utility pole connections with cable and internet companies that use Firelands Electric's poles and is responsible for managing several employees in the cooperative's operations department. In addition to her wide array of operations duties, Wilson also assists with numerous internal IT tasks at Firelands.

Leadership Huron County not only helps to identify and utilize strengths to become a better leader but also exposes participants to areas within the county that many individuals have not been able to explore. "I was able to learn from and interact with a diverse group of professionals from throughout the county," says Wilson. "This opportunity was a great learning experience, and I would highly recommend this program to others who are wanting to learn more about themselves and the amazing things our county has to offer."

In 2023, Wilson received her Bachelor of Business Administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, after obtaining her associate degree in applied business/office administration from Hocking College in 2001. Helping to provide an essential service to the community is her favorite aspect of working at Firelands Electric Co-op. "It's rewarding to know that the work we do every day impacts so many people and businesses," Wilson says.

Firelands Electric invests in employee training and development with the goal of making sure they are responsive to the local communities served by the cooperative. "We're not just an electricity provider — we're here to make our local areas a better place to live, work, and serve," says General Manager Don Englet. "I am very proud of Melissa for her accomplishment, and we're pleased to have her on our staff," he adds.

Wilson lives in the New London area with her husband, Josh. The couple has three children, Peyton, Paige, and Pailee. With kids in college and high school, the Wilsons enjoy supporting their children's many activities, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Firelands Electric, A Touchstone Energy Cooperative®, is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving more than 9,200 homes and businesses in rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties that rank among the highest energy utilities in the country for customer satisfaction.

ATTACHED: PHOTO OF MELISSA WILSON



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