



GM'S REPORT



## CO-OPS STAND OUT IN A CROWD

Capital credits set us apart from other utilities

In the early part of the 20th century, when investor-owned utilities refused to bring electricity to the sparsely populated areas of rural America, residents pooled their resources and worked together to accomplish what could not be done individually. In 1936, for a small investment of \$5, those living in the Firelands area joined forces to create an electric cooperative. Their economic contributions helped generate enough capital to start building a new electric distribution system. It also made them more than just consumers of the cooperative — it made them member-owners.

As not-for-profit entities, electric cooperatives operate at cost, collecting just enough revenue to maintain their distribution systems. When they do have money left over after paying all of their expenses, these margins are allocated, or assigned, to the member-owners as capital credits. These credits are a member's equity — or "share" of ownership — in the cooperative and are based on each member's individual electric use.

Reinvested into the co-op, this equity is used to maintain and improve the electrical distribution system and perform any necessary repairs or upgrades to poles,

wires, substations, and equipment. Capital credits allow the cooperative to uphold its promise of providing dependable power with superior service, while also reducing the need to drastically raise rates or borrow money that requires interest payments.



Dan Schloemer, President  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As a member-owner of Firelands Electric, you invest in the cooperative every time you pay your bill. Each year, you receive an allocation notice, letting you know how much was added to your capital credits for the previous year, as well as your total capital credits balance. When the cooperative's financial position permits, capital credits are retired, or paid back to our member-owners, much like investor-owned companies return dividends. Unlike for-profit utilities, however, Firelands issues these refunds to its member-owners and not to shareholders.

This year, Firelands Electric Cooperative is retiring \$1 million in capital credits, one of the largest amounts to date. Those who received electric power from the co-op in portions of 2000 and 2001 are eligible for a refund. Retired capital credits will automatically be applied to the August bills of current members. Former members will be issued a check, so it's important to make sure that Firelands Electric always has your current mailing address on file.

The return of capital credits is just one of many ways that electric cooperatives stand out from other utility providers. Since 1948, Firelands Electric Cooperative has refunded over \$18.3 million in capital credits. For more information, visit [www.firelandsec.com/capital-credits](http://www.firelandsec.com/capital-credits) or contact the Firelands Electric office at 1-800-533-8658.

### ALLOCATION VS. RETIREMENT

An **ALLOCATION** is made annually for each member based upon Firelands' margins for the year and the amount of electricity the member purchased from the cooperative. This amount is set aside to be used as operating capital for maintenance, repairs, and improvements on the co-op's electrical distribution system. Co-op members receive an allocation notice every spring or summer. This allocation notice is simply a report showing your capital credits balances for the current and previous years.

A **RETIREMENT** is a portion of a member's capital credits balance that is being refunded. The amount retired is decided annually by the board of trustees based on the financial health of the cooperative. Similar to the dividends paid to stockholders of investor-owned utilities, retirements are paid to the members served by the co-op.



ANNUAL MEETING

# CO-OP MEMBERS

## GATHER IN PERSON FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2019

Over 400 members and guests attended Firelands Electric Cooperative's member appreciation event held on Saturday, June 18, at the cooperative's facility in New London.

After conducting the annual meeting virtually for the past two years due to the pandemic, Firelands Electric was pleased to present this in-person event, which also included the cooperative's 84th annual meeting. Attendees enjoyed a catered meal, membership gifts, prize

drawings, large inflatables and bounce houses, carnival games, educational displays, and Gaelic Glen Alpacas.

During the business meeting, the results of the 2022 trustee elections were announced. Three years ago, members voted to change the code of regulations to allow casting ballots online or by mail. This change has resulted in a much higher number of members participating in the elections compared to the previous in-person method.

Firelands' Board of Trustees President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative remains very strong, due in large part to its dedicated group of employees and trustees. As the result of strong margins, the board approved the return of \$1 million in capital credits to members in 2022, which is one of the largest amounts ever returned. The refunds appear on members' August electric bills.

Schloemer also acknowledged the retirement of two fixtures at the cooperative. He thanked retiring trustee Andy Anderson for his 13 years of service on the board. "Andy was always about serving the co-op members," Schloemer said. "He has been a voice of common sense, and we will certainly miss him."

Dave Harwood, who served as corporate attorney for 44 years, also recently retired. Schloemer said that the word "steadfast" comes to mind when he thinks of Harwood. He applauded Harwood for his skill at always keeping current in areas of the law that are unique to the cooperative world.



Activities at the co-op's recent member event included inflatable slides, Gaelic Glen Alpacas, carnival games, and prize drawings.

## 2022 ELECTION RESULTS

### DISTRICT 4

Bruce Leimbach of New London — 346 votes

### DISTRICT 5

Carl Ayers of Perrysville — 353 votes

### DISTRICT 8

Elaine Oswald of Mansfield — 204 votes

Christian Albers of Mansfield — 191 votes

General Manager Dan McNaul also addressed the crowd, focusing on reliability and costs. He took a moment to thank and recognize the cooperative's employees for their dedication and work to restore power following severe storms the week of June 14. These storms resulted in the worst damage Firelands Electric has experienced since the 2005 ice storm.

McNaul outlined plans that are underway to maintain and improve the reliability of Firelands Electric's distribution system. Many of the cooperative's electric lines are located in heavily wooded areas, and trees continue to be the number one cause of power outages, followed by small animals and birds.

To reduce the number of tree-related outages, McNaul said Firelands Electric budgeted a record \$644,000 to trim over 161 miles of lines in 2021. The tree-trimming budget for 2022 is over \$763,000 and encompasses 217 miles of lines. These costs are more than 2.5 times the amount spent on tree-trimming in 2017. The increased amounts are the result of two factors — increased contractor costs and Firelands Electric's more extensive vegetation management scope, which includes removing trees beyond the basic rights-of-way that are at risk of falling onto the co-op's lines. Firelands has also shortened its trim cycle from four years down to a three-year rotation in certain areas. "As bad as the damage from the recent storm was, it would've been much worse without our accelerated tree-trimming program," McNaul said.

In an ongoing effort to strengthen its distribution grid and accommodate future demand for electricity, Firelands Electric started the first phase of a four-year construction workplan earlier this year, which will rebuild nearly 50 miles of lines and cost an estimated \$11 million or more. Also included in the cooperative's workplan is a complete rebuild of the Coulter substation near Perrysville, which serves roughly 834 member-consumers in southern Ashland and Richland counties.

The Coulter project is the first of seven substation upgrade projects that are in the cooperative's long-range distribution system upgrade plan, scheduled through the year 2045. "To make our increased maintenance and construction workplans possible, long-range financial



Firelands General Manager Dan McNaul addresses the crowd during the cooperative's annual meeting, held on June 18.

forecasts are indicating future rate increases in the range of 3% to 4% per year will be needed. Plans presently under consideration include a 2023 rate adjustment, which will be the first increase since early 2020," McNaul stated. He also pointed out that inflation will have an effect on the exact amounts of future rate increases.

McNaul encouraged Firelands members to join the roughly 350 Firelands members who currently support ACRE Co-op Owners, the nonpartisan political action committee that supports candidates who represent the interests of electric co-op members. "These members value the benefits of being a member-consumer and understand the importance of

building a strong political identity to protect their interests," McNaul said.

To view additional photos from the 2022 Member Appreciation Day, visit our Flickr gallery at [www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/firelandsec/albums).

## PRIZE WINNERS

*Members attending the 2022 Member Appreciation Day and annual business meeting were entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of seven bill credits totaling \$350.*

### Congratulations to our winners!

- Norman Hileman of Polk — \$100
- James Jones of Loudonville — \$100
- Tom McQuate of Greenwich — \$50
- Eric Amburgy of Greenwich — \$25
- Ishmael Clemons of New London — \$25
- James Daniel of Willard — \$25
- Sidney Geist of New London — \$25





GOVERNMENT

# ADVOCATING

## FOR RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

As a member of Firelands Electric Cooperative, you are among the 42 million Americans who can claim membership in a not-for-profit electric cooperative. Your co-op's ability to serve you and your community depends, in part, on electing the right people into office.

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is the political action committee (PAC) of the nation's electric cooperatives. ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action is the member-based arm of this organization. A bipartisan PAC that focuses on electric cooperative issues instead of party affiliation, Co-op Owners for Political Action supports Ohio and federal government officials who stand behind legislation that keeps rural electric service affordable, reliable, and environmentally conscious.

For just \$2.08 a month, you can join Co-op Owners for Political Action and become part of a network of 5,989 co-op members in your state and 31,093 across the nation who make their voices heard on issues that impact their electric bills and the availability of affordable, reliable, safe power for their homes, businesses, and communities.

ACRE gives co-op members a powerful, persuasive voice in Washington. The program is the perfect opportunity for members to be involved in the political process and supportive of their local electric cooperative. If you have any questions, would like additional information, or want to sign up for the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action program, please contact Firelands Electric Cooperative at 1-800-533-8658.

Thank you for your continued support of the ACRE program. Your commitment to spend personal dollars to support ACRE demonstrates your dedication to keeping the voice of electric cooperatives heard.

*Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal.*



**YES!**

I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process by participating in ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action.

### Monthly Bill Addition

- ☐ REGULAR: \$2.08 PER MONTH (\$25/YEAR)  
☐ CENTURY CLUB: \$8.33 PER MONTH (\$100/YEAR)  
☐ PRESIDENT'S CLUB: \$41.66 PER MONTH (\$500/YEAR)\*  
☐ OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Authorized bill additions will continue until terminated by the member)*

### One-Time Contribution

- ☐ REGULAR: \$25  
☐ CENTURY CLUB: \$100  
☐ PRESIDENT'S CLUB: \$500\*  
☐ OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds *(Please make checks out to Firelands Electric Cooperative):*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COOPERATIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE®) are not tax deductible. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.



IN THE COMMUNITY

BY IRV OSLIN, JOURNALIST, AND  
LOUIS ANDRES, MWCD NATURALIST

PHOTOS BY IRV OSLIN

# OSPREY THRIVING AT PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK

Love is in the air times seven and counting at Pleasant Hill Lake Park in Perrysville. This summer, there are seven active osprey nests around the lake — five of them on platforms erected by Firelands Electric Cooperative.

It all started more than 20 years ago. In a joint effort with Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), which owns and operates the park, Firelands crews placed two utility poles in the water along the north shore of the lake. The poles were outfitted with wooden nesting platforms, where two osprey breeding pairs quickly took up residence.

Ospreys are highly effective fish predators. They dive into the water at speeds reaching 30 mph and grab fish with their specialized talons. In one continuous motion, they then shoot back out of the water, quickly ascending with their prey. Their legs are specially evolved to be positioned one in front of the other when needed. This enables them to carry fish in line with their bodies, reducing drag during flight. When their nests are filled with hungry youngsters, they'll be doing plenty of fishing.

Over time, wind, ice, and waves on Pleasant Hill Lake caused the original nesting platforms to lean. A few years ago, Firelands crews replaced one of the leaning platforms. Plans call for the other one to be replaced in the near future. In 2019, with the additional cooperation and funding from the Greater Mohican Audubon Society and Firelands' Operation Round Up, a cooperative crew erected a nesting platform equipped with a nest cam. This allowed the public to observe the birds nesting live 24/7 online. As of June 2022, a pair could be seen feeding three chicks.

Over the past couple of years, Firelands and MWCD added two other nesting platforms — one of which was for bald eagles. It was placed on land near the west end of the lake. While eagles didn't take advantage of the new platform, an osprey couple did. A Firelands crew erected an additional nesting platform nearby. This year, a breeding pair has claimed the platform, and nesting is in progress.

In addition to the five nesting platforms erected by Firelands, there are at least two other nests around the lake, one to the south and a recently added nest atop a light pole at State Route 95 and Covert Road.

To view the Pleasant Hill nest cam,  
visit [https://pleasanthillpark.mwcd.org/  
blog/2020/07/17/live-osprey-cam](https://pleasanthillpark.mwcd.org/blog/2020/07/17/live-osprey-cam).  
A video of the eagle nesting platform  
installation can also be viewed at  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=yx6x9UB0DkA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx6x9UB0DkA).



This taxidermy osprey is part of a display in Pleasant Hill Park's nature room and is used for educational tours conducted by the park's staff.





## REBATE PROGRAMS

# MEMBER REBATES RENEWED (and new ones, too)!

We have exciting news! All of Firelands Electric Cooperative's residential rebate programs have been renewed for another year. Plus, we've added three new ways to save!

For nearly 40 years, the cooperative has offered its members rebates designed to save energy and money. We constantly review the latest advances in technology and energy efficiency, updating Firelands' programs regularly to help members make energy-smart purchases.

### Old favorites

Continuing for the 2022-2023 program year are several HVAC rebates, including ones for qualifying geothermal and air-source heat pump systems. Incentives for weatherization and insulation upgrades, along with those for new electric water heaters, including communicating and hybrid models, will also be renewed through June 2023. Electric vehicle chargers and ENERGY STAR-certified refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, and dehumidifiers remain on the list as well.

### Newcomers

We're also happy to announce the addition of three new rebates, effective immediately.

Members who replace their existing stove or dryer with a new ENERGY STAR-certified electric model can now receive a \$50 bill credit for each appliance. Items must be new and purchased after July 1, 2022. All that's needed to claim your rebate is a copy of the purchase receipt, proof

of the ENERGY STAR rating, and letting us know where and how the old unit was disposed.

Firelands has also added a new smart thermostat rebate to its list of available programs. Members who purchase and install an ENERGY STAR-certified, Wi-Fi-enabled smart thermostat can receive a bill credit equal to 50% of the unit's cost, with a maximum rebate of \$150. Tax and installation fees are not included in the rebate calculations and units purchased prior to July 1 are not eligible. Members must have the thermostat connected to their home's Wi-Fi and provide Firelands with a copy of the purchase receipt and proof of ENERGY STAR certification.



This program is limited and will last until funds are depleted. Members wishing to learn more about Firelands Electric's rebate programs or smart thermostats can check out the next couple of pages, visit [www.firelandsec.com](http://www.firelandsec.com), or call the cooperative office at 1-800-533-8658.

Check out the chart at the right for more information on the co-op's current rebates. A complete listing of all Firelands Electric Co-op rebate programs and incentives, as well as their specific eligibility requirements, is available at [www.firelandsec.com/content/member-programs](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/member-programs).

*Please note: Some rebates and incentives require members to participate in the cooperative's load management program by having a PeakBuster device installed on the applicable appliance.*



# 2022-2023 Member Programs

PROGRAM TYPE	AMOUNT	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
HVAC SYSTEM & LOAD MANAGEMENT REBATES		
All-Electric geothermal systems	\$800* rebate	Installation of a new or replacement all-electric geothermal or heat pump system with a <a href="#">Cool Returns</a> load management device installed. Communicating systems that are incompatible with the load management device will receive the rebate, less \$100*.
All-Electric heat pump systems	\$500* rebate	
Dual fuel geothermal and air-source heat pump systems	\$300* rebate	
All-Electric ductless or mini-split heat pumps	\$300* rebate	
SMART THERMOSTAT REBATES		
Smart Thermostat (NEW)	\$150* Rebate	Installation of any new, ENERGY STAR®-certified Smart thermostat with a WiFi connection. Residential installations only and limit to 2 rebates per home/program year. Limited number of rebates available.
LOAD MANAGEMENT INCENTIVES		
Central air-conditioning systems	\$100* bill credit	Installation of a <a href="#">Cool Returns</a> load management device on a new or existing central cooling unit that does <u>not</u> qualify for other member program incentives.
ELECTRIC WATER HEATER INCENTIVES		
New standard electric water heaters (no existing switch)	\$300* bill credit	Installation of a new or replacement electric water heater that has a 50-gallon or larger tank capacity, with an E.F. of 0.91 or higher that <u>does not already have a load switch</u> .
Replacement electric water heaters (existing switch)	\$150* bill credit	Same as above, except tank has an existing load management switch installed.
Electric heat pump or communicating water heaters	\$150* bill credit	Installation of a new or replacement electric heat pump or communicating water heater that meets the energy efficiency standards above that is incompatible with RCS switch.
	\$50* bill credit	Installation of load management device on an electric water heater that doesn't meet the cooperative's energy efficiency standards. Solar and on-demand/tankless water heaters do not qualify for this incentive.
ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATES		
Refrigerator & freezer	\$100* bill credit	Purchase of an ENERGY STAR®-certified electric appliance to replace an existing appliance. Purchase receipt, proof of removal of old appliance, and proof of ENERGY STAR certification required.
Clothes washer, dishwasher, stove, & dryer (NEW)	\$50* bill credit	
Dehumidifier	\$25* bill credit	Installation of an ENERGY STAR®-certified dehumidifier with a minimum capacity of 70 pints/day. Purchase receipt for the new appliance and proof of ENERGY STAR certification required.
WEATHERIZATION REBATES		
Air-sealing upgrades	\$400* Rebate	Air sealing and insulation upgrades must be installed by a licensed contractor. All qualifying upgrades must be installed in an electrically heated residential home and meet or exceed required energy specifications.
Insulation upgrades	\$800* Rebate	
ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) REBATES		
Electric Vehicle (EV) Level 2 Charger	\$250* Rebate	Installation of a new, UL-listed electric vehicle (EV) Level 2 (240-volt) charger. Maximum of two rebates per residential member or six per commercial/industrial facility.

\*A complete listing of specific eligibility requirements for all incentives is available on Firelands Electric Cooperative's website, [www.firelandsec.com](http://www.firelandsec.com).





## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

# SAVING BY DEGREES

### Setting your thermostat for savings

Heating and cooling account for about half the energy used in a typical home, so it's the ideal place to take steps to reduce your energy consumption. When used wisely, your thermostat can help reduce wasted energy and save money on your energy bills. And today's many options make it easier than ever!

#### Types of thermostats

Mechanical thermostats are easy to control by adjusting a dial or sliding switch. The downfall is you must make temperature adjustments manually. They are also often inefficient because they typically heat or cool the home beyond the set point. If your cooling is set to 72 degrees, a mechanical thermostat may actually cool your home to 70 degrees before it turns off, wasting energy. Then it might not come on again until the home reaches 74 degrees. That four-degree temperature change is noticeable and can cause people to adjust the thermostat setting down even more, which wastes energy.

Digital thermostats are more accurate, and some are even programmable.

Smart thermostats — which require an internet connection — are Wi-Fi-enabled and can be controlled using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Programming is easy, and you can track and manage use and temperature data. All data is recorded and can be accessed online to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area.

Several brands of smart thermostats with a variety of features are now available. They range from around \$100 to \$300 and come in both hardwired and battery-operated options.

Smart thermostats can learn your household's preferences and set a schedule that automatically adjusts the temperature based on the day of the week or time of day. Some even automatically learn your family's patterns over time or have geofencing, which adjusts the temperature based on the distance your smartphone is from home. Most models interface with other smart devices, while a few offer sensors to monitor

the temperature, and even occupancy, of specific rooms. All of these features allow you to use your heating and cooling more efficiently and waste less energy.

If you think a smart thermostat is for you, be sure to check out Firelands Electric Cooperative's new rebate for ENERGY STAR-certified models, which is outlined on the previous pages.

#### Thermostat do's and don'ts

There is a common misconception that the higher you turn your thermostat up or down, the faster your home's temperature will change. However, turning your thermostat down to 55 degrees to cool your home faster is like repeatedly pushing the elevator button and expecting it to arrive faster. It's ineffective and an unnecessary use of energy.

Use these additional heating and cooling tips from the Department of Energy to add efficiency and savings to your home:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer when you are home and awake and warmer at night or when away. Set it to 68 degrees in the winter when you are home and awake, and cooler at night or when you are away.
- Upgrade to a programmable or smart thermostat that automatically adjusts the temperature throughout the day and when you leave the house.
- When on vacation, set your thermostat to 85 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter.
- In the summer, fans allow you to set your thermostat about 4 degrees warmer without a change in comfort level. Remember, fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave a room.

Using your thermostat is a great way to optimize energy efficiency and find a balance between comfort and affordability. And with all of the choices available today, there is sure to be one that can help you save energy and money.

## CO-OP NEWS

# ZACH COLLINS

## CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



Zach Collins  
LINEMAN SUPERINTENDENT

Zach Collins marks his 20th anniversary with the cooperative this month. He joined Firelands Electric in August 2002 as a member services technician, performing water heater repairs and load management installations.

In May 2004, he was selected to enter the Central Ohio Lineman Training (COLT) apprenticeship program at Marion Technical College

(MTC). COLT is a four-year program that trains candidates for the high-tech work that linemen in the electric utility industry must master. After completing the coursework and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, Zach was the first Firelands Electric lineman to graduate from the COLT

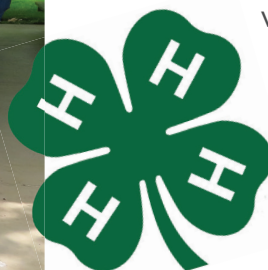
Program of MTC and was recognized by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council.

Firelands Electric named Zach a journeyman lineman in 2007 and selected him for a lead lineman position in 2008. In May 2018, Zach was promoted to his current position of line superintendent. In this position, Zach is responsible for scheduling projects for Firelands Electric's line crews, which consists of three lead linemen, five journeymen, and two apprentice linemen. Facility maintenance, purchasing, and maintenance of trucks, tools, and equipment are some of his other duties.

"I'm very fortunate to work with an excellent group of people," he says. According to Zach, being a lineman has taught him to live life with appreciation, making the time spent outside of work with friends and family count to the fullest. "We work very hard to make sure everyone goes home safe at the end of the day," he says.

A native of the area, Zach lives near Ruggles in Ashland County with his wife, Amanda, and their two children, Daniel and Hannah. In addition to spending quality time with his family, he enjoys hunting waterfowl, fishing, and riding ATVs.

## 4-H CAMP CONGER



In June, Firelands Electric Co-op employees Andrea Gravenhorst and Bob Stokes visited Huron County's 4-H Camp Conger. The pair assisted more than 20 campers with the completion of extension cord projects, continuing a long-standing tradition between the co-op and the camp.



## CO-OP NEWS

# Summer storms bring destruction

At approximately 11 p.m. on Monday, June 13, the first of several strong storms started making their way through Firelands Electric Cooperative's territory. Part of a derecho weather event, the storms and high winds continued overnight, with a second round arriving in the area about 3 a.m. on Tuesday. Unfortunately, the result was some of the worst damage the cooperative has seen to its distribution system in the past 20 years.

At the height of the storms, over 4,000 members, which represent about 45% of Firelands' territory, were experiencing outages, including every member served by four of our substations: Ashland, Mifflin, Jeromesville, and Coulter.

The first 24 hours following the storms, line crews spent their time primarily responding to 9-1-1 calls, where roads were blocked by downed — and sometimes energized — power lines. As is standard protocol, co-op crews worked to address safety concerns first, then focused on resolving those issues that would restore the largest number of members. With the help of multiple tree contractors and several line crews from North Central Electric Cooperative in Attica and South Central Power Company of Lancaster and Hillsboro, Firelands was able to quadruple its efforts to restore power. Working almost continuously for nearly five days, crews made slow, but steady progress. They faced areas of devastating damage in the southern portion of our territory, as well as additional damage caused just a couple of days into the restoration process by another storm. Roughly 20 broken utility poles, countless downed trees, and extreme heat made repairs even more challenging.

The sheer number of outages, extensive damage, and proximity of the needed repairs made the restoration work extremely dangerous. The potential for line crews' accidental contact with re-energized lines or improperly connected generators increased this concern. Careful planning was critical to prevent electric shock — or even worse.

Below are just a few statistics from the week of June 13:

- Operations employees worked approximately 701 man-hours.
- Line crews from other cooperatives worked an additional 445 man-hours.
- Three tree-trimming contractors worked roughly 138 man-hours.

Firelands Electric would like to  
extend an enormous

# THANK YOU

to our members for their patience  
and to our employees for  
their perseverance during the  
aftermath of this recent storm.







In June, many areas of Ohio suffered extensive damage following a line of severe storms, including Firelands Electric. At the peak, over 4,000 of the cooperative's members were without power.





## COOPERATIVE UPDATE

# BOARD MEETING *highlights*

*Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met May 24 and covered the following items:*

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 51 membership applications for approval by the board.
- The board reviewed a report for a safety and training meeting held May 12.
- General Manager Dan McNaull reviewed the cooperative's options for the retirement of capital credits. Following discussion, it was decided to refund \$1 million in 2022.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reviewed recent activities and projects in the operations department, including the progress on the 69 kV transmission line upgrade.
- McNaull reviewed the progress of the trustee elections and reminded the board that voting ended on June 12.
- Englet reviewed the Management Internship Program report and thanked the board for the opportunity to participate in the program.
- McNaull discussed plans for the 2022 Member Appreciation Day and annual meeting scheduled for June 18.

- The board learned that District 8 candidate Elaine Oswald replaced her teller on the election committee with Kelly Spencer.
- McNaull reviewed the OEC 2022 spring managers meeting report.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the April financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- McNaull reviewed the monthly tree-trimming and outage reports.
- The board recognized Trustee Kevin Reidy's involvement with the OREC board and selected Board President Dan Schloemer to represent Firelands on the board moving forward.
- McNaull reviewed recent activities involving the member services and IT department on behalf of Director of Communications and Technology Andrea Gravenhorst.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 23. 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  
P.O. Box 32  
New London, OH 44851  
1-800-533-8658

#### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
[www.firelandsec.com](http://www.firelandsec.com)



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Schloemer  
President, District 1

Bruce Leimbach  
Vice President, District 4

Carl Ayers  
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Elaine Oswald  
District 8

Tom Lucha  
District 3

Gene Lamoreaux  
District 2

John Martin  
District 9

Kevin Reidy  
District 6

Rob Turk  
District 7

### GENERAL MANAGER

Dan McNaull

#### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[members@firelandsec.com](mailto:members@firelandsec.com)

**Firelands**  
**Electric**  
**COOPERATIVE**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 