FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES

GM'S REPORT

A POWERFUL LESSON ON RELIABILITY

Co-op members and elected officials tour Cardinal Power Plant

For more than 87 years, Firelands Electric Cooperative's mission has been to deliver reliable, environmentally responsible electricity to our member-owners and the communities we serve — and to do so at affordable rates. A key component of our efforts to achieve this goal is the Cardinal Power Plant, which provides electricity to 400,000 co-op homes, farms, and businesses throughout Ohio, including 9,200 in Firelands' service territory.

On Sept. 13, during our annual tour of Cardinal, the cooperative was able to provide a very powerful lesson on the importance of this generation facility and the issues that threaten to put it and the nation's electric industry at risk.

Outfitted with more than \$1.2 billion in environmental control equipment, Cardinal is a standout among power plants. The expert operators at Cardinal continue to make improvements to the fuel mix and other environmental



Firelands General Manager Dan McNaull, left, with Cardinal Plant Manager Bethany Schunn and Ohio elected leaders Matt Miller, Melanie Miller, and Marilyn John during the recent tour of the Cardinal Power Plant.

controls, decreasing emissions by 20% in just the past decade. In fact, Cardinal's environmental standards have long been higher than those of the EPA, making it one of the cleanest coal-fired power plants in the world.

For decades, Cardinal has also sold fly ash (a waste product from burning pulverized coal) to companies who repurpose it for use in cement, concrete, and other construction materials. With an ever-increasing demand for this by-product, a recent agreement with Separation Technologies LLC will practically eliminate Cardinal's need to dispose of fly ash in a landfill — further reducing any possible negative impact.

Unfortunately, this dependable energy source is being challenged by the proposal of poorly designed national energy policies and proposed new regulations. Despite Cardinal Power's long history of environmental consciousness, the regulations that are on the table put the plant's future, and its reliable and affordable supply of electricity, in jeopardy. Ohio's electric cooperatives, including Firelands, have even been directed to put a plan in place for potential rolling blackouts.

The electric industry is not standing idly by, however. Organizations such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (electric.coop), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (ferc.gov), and PJM Interconnection (pjm.com) have all been voicing their concerns to policymakers. While efforts to reduce the impact on our environment are crucial, they must be balanced with reality. The practicality of implementing mandated, untested technology and infrastructure by 2030 (the deadline proposed by these new regulations) is simply unattainable.

While electric industry representatives are doing their part in our nation's capital, Firelands is working to educate our members, communities, and legislators about the potential effects of these ill-conceived

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proposed regulations. Ultimately, these rules could force the closure of power plants like Cardinal. You will find information and resources, such as this article, in *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine. Additional information about the Cardinal Power Plant and the EPA's proposed rules can be found on our website at www.firelandsec.com/base-load-generation, as well as at the links at the end of this editorial. We encourage members to join Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP) and America's Electric Cooperatives PAC to make their voices heard.

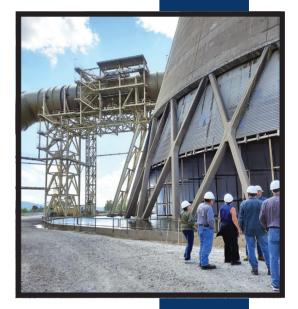
The co-op's recent annual tour of the Cardinal Power Plant provided yet another opportunity to highlight its importance. Twenty-seven cooperative members and guests took part, including State Representative Marilyn John, State Representative Melanie Miller, Ashland Mayor Matt

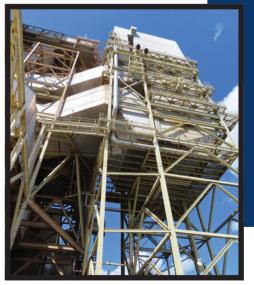


Miller, and myself. Following an informative Q&A session, attendees participated in an hour-long behind-the-scenes look at the plant's facilities, including its numerous environmental control systems.

I am thankful that we had such a large group of members and two legislators devote their entire day to expanding their knowledge about the generation of electricity. We need more people — both elected officials and the general public — who are willing to be advocates for reliable electricity with policymakers in our state and in our nation. And, hopefully, we gained a few ambassadors from reading this editorial.

Please help us carry the message of needing commonsense energy policies to our federal, state, and local elected leaders. For additional information on the current threat to the reliability of electric power and how you can help, visit www.voicesforcooperativepower.com or www.electric.coop/issues-and-policy/reliabilityand-affordability.





The Cardinal Power Plant uses numerous state-of-theart systems to keep pollutants from being released into the environment. Some even allow for waste byproducts to be repurposed into construction materials, and the white plume that rises from the top of the large cooling tower is simply water vapor.

CO-OP NEWS



STEP UP FOR SOLDIERS DRIVE

SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS INCLUDE:

- razors
- cotton swabs
- tissues
- deodorant
- toothpaste
- ear plugsplaying cards

sunscreen

- chewing gum
- hard candy

Visit www.firelandsec.com/uso-ohio or our Facebook page for additional information and a complete list of suggested donation items. Since 2007, Firelands Electric Cooperative has proudly supported U.S. military personnel during the holiday season by serving as a collection location for donated care package items. Once again, we are joining forces with local radio stations WLKR-FM and K96-FM to support USO Ohio's 2023 Step Up for Soldiers annual drive.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 13, and running through Friday, Dec. 15, members of Firelands Electric and the surrounding communities can deliver donated care package items to the co-op's office, located at 103 Industrial Drive in New London. Items may be dropped off in the collection boxes located right inside the front entryway during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The USO of Ohio serves military families throughout Ohio and northern Kentucky. From collecting and distributing donations for care packages to helping those preparing for deployment and connecting families for mutual support, the USO touches the lives of tens of thousands of active duty, guard, and reserve members every day.

To learn other ways that you can help or to make a taxdeductible monetary donation, visit https://ohio.uso.org.

KEN KEENER RETIRES



Ken Keener METER TECHNICIAN

Ken Keener has witnessed a lot of changes since he joined Firelands Electric in 2007. As the cooperative's meter technician, his primary duties have included maintaining the metering system and locating underground lines.

beef jerky

snack packs

trail mix

In the early part of his career, Ken was responsible for the manual adjustment and testing of meters, as well as connecting and disconnecting service to members' homes and businesses. In 2014, however, the co-op upgraded to an advanced metering system with two-way

automatic communications, causing Ken's duties to evolve. In more recent years, he has spent more of his time performing meter exchanges and programming meters, as well as helping troubleshoot the occasional communication issue with the co-op's software. Another large part of Ken's typical workday involves underground line locating. When co-op members need to have their power lines located and marked for an upcoming project on their property, they contact Ohio Utilities Protection Services (OUPS). Ken then visits the site and uses a device with ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology to detect the flow of electricity beneath the surface. These lines are then marked so that the member can complete their project safely.

After more than 16 years of serving Firelands Electric members, Ken retired in early October. Although he will miss helping the co-op's members, he's also looking forward to retirement. "I plan to spend more time working on our farm and with our children and grandchildren," Ken says. He and his wife, Beth, live in the Ashland area and have three sons, eight grandchildren, and one grandchild on the way.

for serving our co-op members and congratulations on your retirement, Ken!

EMPLOYEE NEWS

SALUTING OUR VETERANS



District 2 Trustee Gene Lamoreaux was a member of the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970. During this period, he spent two years training in Germany. Achieving the rank of Specialist Fifth Class, Gene served as a Hawk missile electronics technician.



Journeyman Lineman Chris Kent was a member of the U.S. Army National Guard from 2005 to 2018. After three years serving in the military police, he was selected to be a small arms marksmanship instructor for Ohio. Chris was deployed to the Middle East as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012 and finished his military career having achieved the rank of Sergeant. Since the American Civil War, more than 41 million men and women have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these soldiers, more than 1.3 million lost their lives during combat. While Memorial Day dates back to shortly after the end of the Civil War (1868), a day to recognize ALL military veterans did not come about until the mid-twentieth century.

First organized by Raymond Weeks in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947, Veterans Day became a national holiday in 1954. Today, all Americans who served their country are recognized on Nov. 11 for their contributions.

This Veterans Day, Firelands Electric Cooperative would like to thank all of our members who have served in the armed forces. We are proud to be a part of programs such as USO Ohio's Step Up for Soldiers drive and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Vets Power Us initiative (www.electric.coop/ vetspowerus). Firelands Electric would especially like to recognize our employees and trustees who have served, including those highlighted here.

Thank you for your service



Apprentice Lineman Zach Hart served in the U.S. Marines from 2009 to 2013, achieving the rank of Sergeant. He was deployed to both Afghanistan (March 2010) and the Helmand Province (March 2012) during his tour.

CAPITAL CREDITS

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Official notice is given that the following current or former patrons 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, P.O. Box 32, New London, Ohio 44851, by phone at 1-800-533-8658, or by email at accounting@firelandsec.com.

This is the second of two notices. (Note: This list is an exact duplicate of last month's list.)

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UNCLAIMED FUNDS

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Happy Thanksgiving!

The Firelands Electric Cooperative office will be closed

Nov. 23 and 24

so that our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families. As always, emergency service is available 24/7 by calling 1-800-533-8658.

COOPERATIVE UPDATE

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BOARD MEETING highlights

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

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 25 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Dan McNaull reviewed the cooperative's 2023 Power Requirements Study, which projects a 0.7% increase per year over the next ten years.
- OEC's Missy Kidwell presented detailed results of the cooperative's 2023 ACSI scores. She explained that the overall satisfaction score improved by one point from last year, giving Firelands a rating of 88. She also noted that the co-op scored the highest in the categories of "Friendly" and "Highly Trained and Professional."
- McNaull summarized the tree-trimming and outage reports for the past month.
- The board was reminded of the Cardinal Power Plant Tour on Sept. 13 and the 2024 NRECA Power Xchange in March.

- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the July financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities, including the positive results of a recent audit.
- The board reviewed a report from a safety and training event held on July 26.
- McNaull recapped the OEC Summer Conference, which was held in August.
- In the absence of Director of Communications and Technology Andrea Gravenhorst, McNaull reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reported on activities in the operations department.
- McNaull reported on a recent Buckeye Board meeting.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. 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



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Tom Lucha District 3

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John Martin District 9 **GENERAL MANAGER** Dan McNaull

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION? Email your ideas to: members@firelandsec.com

