



GM'S REPORT

PROPERTY ACCESS IS TO RELIABILITY

KEY

Like you, I consider the security and safety of my family and property to be my top priority. In a world filled with cell phones and social media, privacy can be scarce, though. Here at Firelands Electric Cooperative, we completely understand and respect our members' desire — and right — to retreat to the peace and quiet of their homes. While having line crews on your land can be necessary for repairs, maintenance, and upgrades, we emphasize the importance of showing respect to others and their property, while still upholding our commitment to providing safe, reliable power to our members.

We do our best to keep co-op members informed of work that is planned on or near their property. Members are sent postcards and emails when contractors are scheduled to start tree-trimming in their area. Planned outages to complete upgrades are communicated by mailings (if time permits), emails, and phone calls. In some cases, line crews will even go old-school, knocking on doors when they arrive on scene.

Overlooked obstacles

Our members are generally very helpful and easy-going when our crews need to enter their property. One obstacle that is easy to overlook, though, is gaining access to the co-op's meters, lines, and other equipment that's behind a locked gate or securely fenced-in area. While access to a property for planned maintenance can be scheduled, in the event of an outage or other emergency, inaccessible equipment can significantly slow down response time and power restoration for your neighborhood — and pose a hazard to you, your family, and our crews.

Many of you with gates have given the co-op permission to install an interlock, which can be used in conjunction with the member's own lock, or have provided us with an access code. Rest assured, we take protecting this information very seriously. In addition, our trucks and those of contractors working on our system are clearly marked with the Firelands Electric logo so you know who is on your property.

An important partnership

If you currently have or plan to add a lock to your gate or fenced area, please contact our office at 1-800-533-8658 so that we can discuss options that will allow Firelands' crews access to our equipment should the need arise. Also, keep the entrance to these areas

clear of obstructions. If you recently purchased a property with a locked gate, please contact us and our operations department will be happy to go over details with you.

It's also important to make sure you have updated contact information on file with the co-op so we can reach you about scheduled maintenance or during an emergency. Members who have inactive landlines on file or recently changed their cell numbers should reach out to our office to update their accounts. Correct contact information is crucial for communicating important information regarding repairs or updates to our system.

We are so thankful that our members support our staff, both in the office and in the field. Your patience and support allow our crews to safely and quickly restore power to you and your neighbors. While we understand your hesitation to allow others access to your property, please understand that Firelands Electric has an obligation to our members to resolve power outages and other issues impacting their service as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate you taking these steps to maintain a safe, reliable supply of electricity. And by partnering with us, we can all be part of the solution to keep the lights on.



Don Englet
GENERAL MANAGER



87th Annual MEETING OF MEMBERS

Ashland University Myers Convocation Center

638 Jefferson St., Ashland, OH 44805

Saturday, March 29

DOORS OPEN: 8:30 A.M. | BREAKFAST SERVED: 8:30 – 9:00 A.M.

BUSINESS MEETING: 9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

MEMBER PRIZE DRAWINGS: 10:00 – 10:15 A.M.

Please join us for Firelands Electric Cooperative's 87th annual meeting on Saturday, March 29, at the Ashland University Myers Convocation Center.

Members and their families will be treated to a complimentary hot breakfast buffet, followed by a brief business meeting, announcement of trustee election results, and special prize drawings. Seating for the breakfast portion of the event is limited, so be sure to RSVP by March 24. Members may RSVP by visiting www.firelandsec.com/annual-meeting-members OR by calling our office at 1-800-533-8658.

Official invitations were mailed in late February, and members must bring this card with them on March 29 in order to receive their complimentary membership bag and gift and be entered in special prize drawings. Winners must be present to win.

Shuttle service will be provided from Ashland University parking areas, which are accessed from Broad and Jefferson streets. To view a parking map, visit www.firelandsec.com/annual-meeting-members.

Firelands Electric will also be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House of Akron at the cooperative's annual meeting. Please bring a container or resealable plastic bag filled with pop tabs and help make a difference.

Results of the trustee elections will be announced at the annual meeting.

Detailed information about the cooperative's 2024 financial reports will also be available at the meeting on March 29, as well as in your April issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

**SHINING A
LIGHT ON
Community**



25th Anniversary



CURRENT POSITION: GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

ROOKIE YEAR: 2000

STARTING POSITION: ENGINEERING
SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

SPOUSE: SARA

FAMILY: ADULT SONS CLAYTON
AND JACKSON

BIGGEST FAN: WALTER, THE LAB WHO
DOESN'T KNOW HE'S A DOG

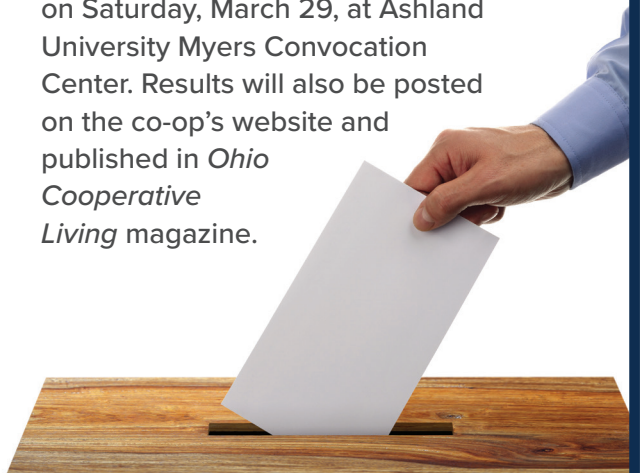
PREVIOUS TEAM: CNC MACHINIST
AND WELDER

FAVORITES: FISHING,
CAMPING, AND
RIDING HIS HARLEY

CAST YOUR BALLOT BY MARCH 23

Voting for trustees to represent Firelands Electric board districts 4, 5, and 8 is still open!

- Candidate biographies and a paper ballot were mailed to every member in early February. Video introductions are also available on our website at www.firelandsec.com/cooperative-elections.
- Members can vote by returning their completed paper ballot in the envelope provided or online at www.firelandsec.com. If casting your vote online, you will need your account number, which is found on your printed or emailed monthly billing statement.
- No photocopied ballots — original ballots only. Paper ballots must be mailed. The co-op office cannot accept them.
- Voting closes Sunday, March 23, at 11:59 p.m.
- Winners will be announced at Firelands Electric Cooperative's annual meeting on Saturday, March 29, at Ashland University Myers Convocation Center. Results will also be posted on the co-op's website and published in *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.





COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees met Dec. 20 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 46 membership applications for approval by the board.
- General Manager Don Englet reviewed the monthly tree-trimming and outage reports.
- Director of Operations Rick Bowers reported on activities in the operations department, including an update on AEP's transmission upgrade in New London.
- Consumer Service/AMI Coordinator Stephanie Schmidt provided a wrap up of 2024 employee events.
- Englet advised that four petitions had been submitted for the three open seats in the 2025 trustee elections.
- The board reviewed current trends in the Wholesale Power Adjustment, which fluctuates each month depending upon the market and consumer demand for electricity.
- Englet provided the board with OEC's 2024 Youth Impact report.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the November financial reports and provided an update on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- Director of Communications and IT Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments, including updates on cybersecurity protocols.
- Schloemer reported on the recent OREC Board meeting he attended.

Firelands Electric Co-op is democratically controlled and governed by local people committed to policies that result in a safe and reliable electric system, fair rates, financial responsibility, and superior member service.

The cooperative's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25. 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

Bruce Leimbach
Vice President, District 4

Carl Ayers
Secretary/Treasurer, District 5

Joe Williams
District 2

Tom Lucha
District 3

Kevin Reidy
District 6

Greg Hess
District 7

Elaine Oswald
District 8

Brian Cucco
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Don Englet

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
members@firelandsec.com



COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 