



GM'S REPORT

ALWAYS ON DUTY

Lineman workday extends around the clock

It's the middle of the night. Outside, rain is pouring down, and the wind is howling. The cellphone on the nightstand chirps. The time is 2 a.m., and the call is from the dispatcher. Time to get moving. Someone, somewhere is without power, and there's a job to do.

While most of us would just pull the covers over our heads and go back to sleep, this scene is a familiar one for the more than 117,000 linemen across the country. They work around the clock to keep power flowing to our communities, often under difficult and dangerous circumstances. Responsible for keeping nearly 1,000 miles of power lines and 26,000 utility poles in top condition, Firelands Electric Cooperative's 12 linemen are charged with a daunting task. But these men are equipped with a strong service-oriented mentality and are always up for the challenge.

Whether it's restoring power after a storm, removing a tree that's threatening reliability, installing service for a new home, or troubleshooting problems, Firelands Electric's linemen are there to meet co-op members' needs.

Since Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, and birthdays, when a storm hits or an emergency arises, our linemen are available 24/7 — setting aside their personal priorities to get the job done.

Linemen are at the heart of the cooperative, and we are proud to honor Firelands Electric's linemen, as well as lineworkers throughout the U.S. To show our gratitude, the cooperative will recognize April 12–18 as Lineman Appreciation Week. We invite members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the important work they do. Be sure to check out www.firelandsec.com and Firelands' Facebook page for an exclusive video recognizing the co-op's linemen, as well as additional posts to celebrate this special week.

Being a lineman is a tough job. Considered one of the top ten most dangerous professions, it requires work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. We hope you will join us in thanking the many linemen — both locally and around the country — who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!



Dan McNaull
GENERAL MANAGER



FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



Firelands Electric linemen like Rob Swiger (above, top), Phil Pickering (above, bottom), and Chris Kent and Chris Rowland (right) work around the clock to keep electricity flowing to the cooperative's members. Join us in saying "Thank You" during Lineman Appreciation Week this April 12–18.



YOUTH PROGRAMS



Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Firelands Electric includes it as one of our seven core principles. Three years ago, the cooperative introduced a program to encourage students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Students in grades 6–8 are invited to become part of “The A Team” and be recognized for their hard work and dedication to education.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Winners of February drawing receive iTunes gift cards



James Buckner
New London Middle School
Son of Maria Eiben



Carlee Young
Loudonville Middle School
Daughter of Scott and Lindsey
Frank and Nathan Young

Send us your grade card and win!
The next drawing will be held on April 10.

How you can win

Students in grades 6–8 who have a minimum of three A's on their most recent report card and whose parents or guardians are members of Firelands Electric Co-op are eligible to apply. A copy of the report card should be submitted by mail to Attn: The A Team, Firelands Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851. Report cards may also be emailed to members@firelandsec.com.

Be sure to include the student's name, age, school, grade, address, phone number, the parents' name(s), and email address on your entry.

Complete program details are available at www.firelandsec.com/content/team.



Leah Ferrell
New London Middle School
Daughter of Rebecca Kovach



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Co-op awards **\$10,300** in college scholarships



Faith Griffiths
FIRST PLACE
ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Clay Schoen
FIRST PLACE
HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Firelands Electric selected Faith Griffiths of Ashland High School and Clay Schoen of Hillsdale High School as the first-place winners of \$1,500 scholarships in the 2020 Senior Scholarship Contest sponsored by the cooperative.

As the top overall applicant, Griffiths will also participate in a statewide contest on April 15 at Ohio's Electric Cooperatives in Columbus, competing with representatives from Ohio's 24 other electric co-ops for a chance to win an additional scholarship worth up to \$3,800.

Griffiths is the daughter of Thomas and Deleasa Griffiths of Ashland. She plans to pursue a degree in communication sciences and disorders but is currently undecided which college she will attend. Schoen is the son of Brian and Audra Schoen of Jeromesville and intends to major in animal science and pre veterinary studies. He is currently undecided where he will study next fall.

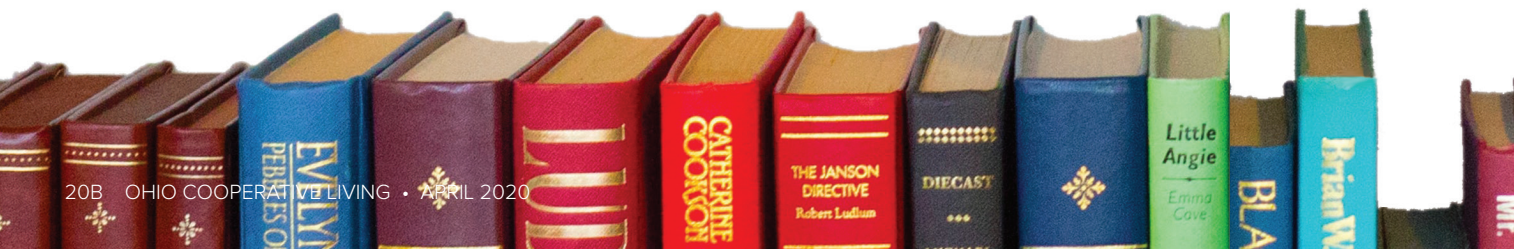
Second-place winners of \$1,250 each are Emily Brannon of Mapleton High School and Zachary Crane of Norwalk High School. Brannon is the daughter of Roger and Valeria Brannon of New London. She plans to study animal science or biology and is currently undecided which college she will attend next fall. Crane is the son of Tom and Jackie Crane of Norwalk. He plans to major in business and sports management at the University of Findlay.

Third-place winners of \$1,000 each are Olivia Gatchall of St. Peter's High School and Logan Baumberger of Loudonville High School. Gatchall is the daughter of Scott and Jennifer Gatchall of Mansfield. She plans to attend Case Western Reserve University in the fall, with a major in

mechanical engineering. Baumberger is the son of Paul and Amy Baumberger of Perrysville. He plans to study computer science at Miami University.

Fourth-place winners of \$750 each are Haylie Hamons of Willard High School and Anthony Cawrse of Loudonville High School. Hamons is the daughter of Dustin and Brandy Hamons of Willard. She plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio next fall, majoring in business administration. Cawrse is the son of Mark and Becky Cawrse of Loudonville and plans to major in mechanical engineering in the fall. He is currently undecided which college he will attend.

Fifth-place winners of \$500 each are Camryn Hedrick of Monroeville High School and Jacob Allen of New London High School. Hedrick is the daughter of Tom and Jane Hedrick of Monroeville. She plans to attend





Emily Brannon
SECOND PLACE
MAPLETON HIGH SCHOOL



Zachary Crane
SECOND PLACE
NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL



Olivia Gatchall
THIRD PLACE
ST. PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL



Logan Baumberger
THIRD PLACE
LOUDONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Haylie Hamons
FOURTH PLACE
WILLARD HIGH SCHOOL



Anthony Cawrse
FOURTH PLACE
LOUDONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Camryn Hedrick
FIFTH PLACE
MONROEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Jacob Allen
FIFTH PLACE
NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL

Heidelberg University in the fall and major in middle childhood education. Allen is the son of Rodney and Tracy Allen of Greenwich. He plans to study computer science and engineering at the University of Toledo.

The winner of a \$300 Judges' Choice award is Savannah Shaver of New London High School. Shaver is the daughter of Craig and Shelley Shaver of New London. She plans to major in integrated social studies at Cleveland State University.

Firelands Electric offers the scholarship contest annually to graduating high school seniors who reside in a home served by the cooperative. Firelands was pleased to have received applications this year from students attending Ashland, Crestview, Hillsdale, Loudonville, Lucas, Mapleton, Monroeville, New London, Norwalk, South Central, St. Peter's, and Willard high schools.

For more information on Firelands' scholarships and youth programs, visit our website, www.firelandsec.com.



Savannah Shaver
JUDGES' CHOICE
NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL





SAFETY

HIDDEN DANGERS

The importance of locating underground power lines

Avoiding contact with power lines is a common theme when we talk about electrical safety. Because you can see the wires strung between utility poles along the road or near your home, steering clear of overhead lines is fairly straightforward. Underground power lines, on the other hand, aren't that easy to spot.

Depending upon when and how they were installed, underground power lines can be buried anywhere from a few inches to several feet below the surface, with no obvious indicator of where they are located. That's why it's important to have them marked by the cooperative before you dig, whether you're planning a complex building project or simply planting a new tree. Not doing so can result in a costly power outage, damage to personal property, serious injury, or even death.

Just a single call to 8-1-1 will get all of your underground utilities properly marked before you begin a digging project. This call will put you in contact with Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS), an organization that works with utility companies throughout the state — electric, gas, water, sewer, and cable — to properly label the location of underground equipment.

When you are ready to start an outdoor project that involves digging or excavating, call 8-1-1 or make a request online at www.oups.org/edig at least 48 hours before you want to begin. The operators at OUPS will notify the utilities in your area, who will then send a representative to locate and mark underground lines with spray paint or flags. Each type of utility uses a different color to indicate their specific lines: red for electricity, blue for water, yellow for gas, and orange for cable. Once marked, you can start your project, following proper safety procedures: Exercise extreme caution and only use hand tools to dig in the area within 18 to 24 inches on either side of the marked utility equipment.



Firelands Meter Technician Ken Keener locates an underground power line on the co-op's system earlier this year.

To find underground power lines, Firelands Electric Co-op and other electric utilities use a device similar to a metal detector. Firelands' equipment, known as an SPX RD7000+ PL, finds electrical current below the surface, even if it is inside a protective conduit. To ensure that the correct wire is being tracked, the locating device is connected to the wire being located via a clamp where it emerges from the ground. Once located, the underground power line is marked by the co-op, and you can safely begin your project!

One of Firelands Electric's top priorities is keeping our co-op members safe. If you're planning an outdoor project this spring, please contact OUPS and get your underground utilities marked. It only takes a minute, it's free, and it could prevent costly damage to the electrical system — or serious injury to you or your family.

If you have questions regarding the electrical equipment connected to the outside of your home, please contact Firelands Electric Cooperative's operations department at 1-800-533-8658 or email operations@firelandsec.com.

CO-OP CONTESTS

WHY WAIT?

Get outage and peak alert information as it happens with SmartHub text messaging

Did you know that Firelands Electric members who sign up for the cooperative's SmartHub app have the option to receive text messages regarding outages, peak alerts, and other account updates?

While the email feature is convenient, text messages are even more so — they pop up on your phone screen without having to navigate to your inbox, and they're less likely to get lost in your spam folder.

Visit www.firelandsec.com/content/smarthub-101 for step-by-step instructions on how to set up your SmartHub account today!



Sign up to get at least **ONE SmartHub notification** via text messaging before **May 15** and you could win a **\$25 bill credit!**

<https://firelandsec.smarthub.coop>



Call **OHIO811.org**
Before You Dig

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

The Firelands Electric Cooperative office will be closed April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

Happy Easter
from
Firelands Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met Jan. 28 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported that the cooperative received 33 membership applications for approval by the board.
- Director of Operations Don Englet reviewed recent activities and projects in the operations department, as well as various safety procedures.
- General Manager Dan McNaull recapped the co-op's tree trimming program for 2019.
- The cooperative's 2019 Power Requirement Study was reviewed and approved.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed the December financials and reported on recent accounting and billing department activities.
- McNaull reviewed the outage report for December.
- District 6 Trustee Kevin Reidy reported on a meeting that he recently attended in Columbus. He also announced his appointment to OEC's ACRE committee.
- District 9 Trustee John Martin reported on a conference he recently attended with fellow trustees Bruce Leimbach, Carl Ayers, and Gene Lamoreaux.
- The board discussed the upcoming OEC Winter Conference in Columbus.
- Director of Communications and Technology Andrea Gravenhorst reported on recent activities involving the member services and IT departments, including the co-op's cybersecurity measures.
- McNaull discussed plans for the completion of a booklet on Firelands' history to mark the co-op's 85th anniversary in 2021.

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 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, at Firelands Electric's facility, located at 103 Industrial Drive, New London.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

103 Industrial Drive
P.O. Box 32
New London, OH 44851
419-929-1571

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

W.E. Anderson
District 8

Steve Gray
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

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 