



GM'S REPORT

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineman Appreciation Day — April 9, 2018



Dan McNaull
General Manager

As we move into the month of April, the season brings showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy period that can inherently cause power outages. While Firelands Electric Co-op strives to provide safe and reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there

is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst — co-op lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, Firelands Electric's linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform potentially dangerous tasks working next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, our cooperative's linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. Communications permit outage management systems and other utility

software to collect up-to-the-second information from the co-op's advanced metering infrastructure with two-way communication, which can pinpoint an outage from miles away. In our community, Firelands Electric Co-op linemen are responsible for keeping 995 miles of lines across four counties working to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, their dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions. During hurricanes, blizzards, or severe storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power — giving it all they have until the job is done.

Express your gratitude

In April, there is a day set aside to thank a lineman. Lineman Appreciation Day is April 9. So, if you see a lineman this month, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power, and let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on.





FIRELANDS ELECTRIC WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

Gene Lamoreaux brings leadership experience to the board



Gene Lamoreaux
District 2 Trustee

After the passing of former trustee Lowell Kreager, who represented the members of District 2 for nearly 32 years, Firelands Electric Cooperative was forced to appoint a new representative. Following the process of choosing a new trustee, the board filled the position in February by appointing Gene Lamoreaux to represent the members of District 2.

Lamoreaux brings a vast amount of business experience to Firelands Electric's board. He retired from Guardian Manufacturing (formerly Brunswick Defense) in Willard after 46 years, where he was president of the company for 23 years. He served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for several years, where he was an electronic technician for the Hawk missile system. Lamoreaux has a degree in mechanical engineering and encompasses a vast amount of leadership skills.

He has been involved in numerous community and civic organizations throughout his career. Lamoreaux has served as an elder and governing board member of New London Alliance Church for over 25 years. He was on the Mercy Hospital of Willard Board of Trustees for nine years and was active with South Central Local Schools, where he served on the board for eight years and was involved in the school's Athletic Boosters for five years.

Lamoreaux says his past administration skills combined with his business knowledge enable him to make sound financial decisions, while providing guidance relative to policy and procedures for Firelands Electric to achieve its goals.

He believes that maintaining reliable system equipment while providing members with affordable power is a challenge facing the electric utility industry today. He feels it's imperative for the cooperative to continue delivering reliable electric power that is cost effective, while meeting the future needs of Firelands Electric's membership.

Lamoreaux and his wife, Sandy, live in the rural Greenwich area. They have three children, all married, and 16 grandchildren. In addition to attending his grandchildren's events and spending time with family, Lamoreaux enjoys traveling with his wife and occasional small game hunting.

Firelands Electric Cooperative serves 9,130 members throughout rural areas of Ashland, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties. The co-op's service territory is composed of nine districts, each represented by a member — a trustee — elected to serve a three-year term on the board of trustees that governs the operations of the co-op.

The board of trustees' nine representatives meet monthly to review, discuss, and approve issues. They determine the strategic direction for Firelands Electric, test the cooperative's business strategy, approve key investment decisions, and set the rates to ensure the co-op meets its financial responsibilities and remains focused on its member-driven mission.

accountability

integrity

innovation

community commitment

A brown dog, possibly a Weimaraner, is captured in mid-air, jumping towards the viewer. It has its mouth open, holding a dark stick horizontally. The dog's ears are large and pointed upwards. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and grass.

We want to HEAR FROM YOU!

Your thoughts and opinions
about Firelands Electric Co-op
help us to serve you better.

In April, Firelands Electric Cooperative will be working
with NRECA Market Research Services to
complete a member satisfaction survey.

The surveys will be both by phone and e-mail, but not
everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would
greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your
opinions of the cooperative.

We strive to provide all members with
safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service.
By participating in the survey, you will help us make
decisions that benefit you,
your family, and your neighbors.

Thank you!

All information is confidential.

Firelands
Electric
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner





BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE



For eighth-graders at Willard City Schools, studying the American Revolution is much more than just reading a chapter in a textbook. It's a hands-on experience which culminates in the 8th Grade Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment, a two-day event held every May.

They discover the science behind the medicine of the period, use their math skills to survey land, and tap into their inner artist to create pottery. Teachers from several subject areas get involved, allowing students to experience so much more than just a simple history lesson.

The encampment portion of the event was added about five years ago. Students who choose to do an optional research project on a Revolutionary War soldier and do an "autobiography," or character sketch, portray that character during a military ball held on the first night of the event. These same students also earn the privilege of camping in colonial-era tents on the school grounds overnight.

"Our goal is to make the eighth-graders the experts, so they can teach the community on the second day of the event," says von Kamp.

It must be working. "We had a record-breaking 26 kids do the research project and overnight experience last spring," says von Kamp, "and more high school students return to help each year."

This year's reenactment will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, at the Willard City School grounds. The event is open to the public, and admission is free. To learn more or find out how you can volunteer, search for Willard's 8th Grade Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment on Facebook or visit www.willardrevwar.com.



At the helm of this event is Kyle von Kamp, a history teacher at Willard Middle School.

Von Kamp has taken on the challenge of organizing the reenactment for more than a decade.

Art teacher Zita Smith has assisted von Kamp since 2016. With roughly 150 eighth-grade students participating each year, the pair rely on the support of many volunteers. "We have about 40 high school students and 30 community volunteers," says von Kamp, "and the school district is very supportive."

Volunteers, teachers, and students dress in period clothing, and everything is kept as true to historical records as possible. Redcoats and Patriots face off in several skirmishes, and events such as the Boston Tea Party and Washington's crossing of the Delaware are recreated.

Students also learn about the day-to-day life of the colonists and soldiers, including hearth cooking, food preservation, astronomy, and leather-making.

Places & Faces is a monthly feature showcasing people, businesses, and organizations located throughout the Firelands Electric Cooperative service territory.

At top, students practice writing with quills during Willard City Schools' annual 8th Grade Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment. At right, colonial "troops" prepare for battle. (Photos courtesy of Kyle von Kamp)





CO-OP NEWS



Looking out for you!

That's the cooperative difference

Firelands Electric Co-op is guided by an elected board of trustees who represent its members' best interests when making important decisions. Being a member of the co-op's board is an incredibly important position in our community. A trustee's decisions will impact issues such as service rates, rights-of-way, and work plans.

The cooperative's service area is divided into nine districts, which are drawn based on equitable representation of the geographic areas. Firelands Electric's board is a democratically elected body nominated by members of the cooperative's service territory and voted into position by any member who chooses to participate in the cooperative's open election. Any co-op member who is in good standing and resides in a district with an open spot on the board is welcome to run for that position.

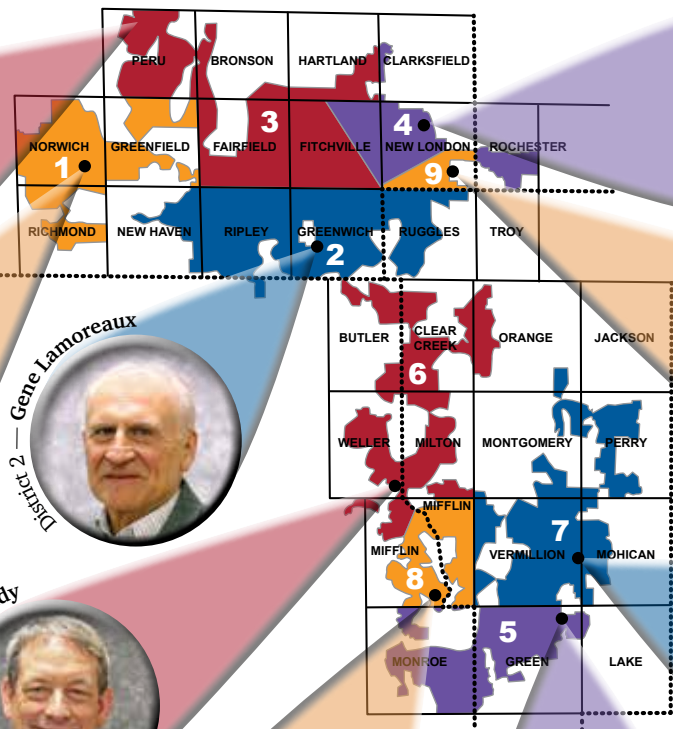
Firelands Electric will hold elections during the cooperative's annual meeting on June 23; board members for districts 2, 7, and 9 will be decided by those members who vote. Candidate applicants are required to receive 20 member signatures from within his or her district, and submit an election application by April 18. Trustees matter and can make a difference. Call 1-800-533-8658 or visit www.firelandsec.com for details.



District 3 — Steve Gray



District 1 — Dan Schloemer



District 2 — Gene Lamoreaux



District 9 — Kevin Reidy



District 8 — W.E. Anderson



District 4 — Bruce Leimbach



District 9 — Neil Winslow



District 7 — Rob Turk



District 5 — Carl Ayers





CO-OP NEWS

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Firelands Electric Co-op moves forward with new all-in-one facility

Firelands Electric Cooperative held an official groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 30 for the construction of its new facility in New London. Contractors completed some ground work before having to suspend construction in December.

Monroeville-based firm Janotta & Herner has been selected to construct the building. The property will incorporate a community solar project, which will be available as a generation resource to Firelands Electric's membership.

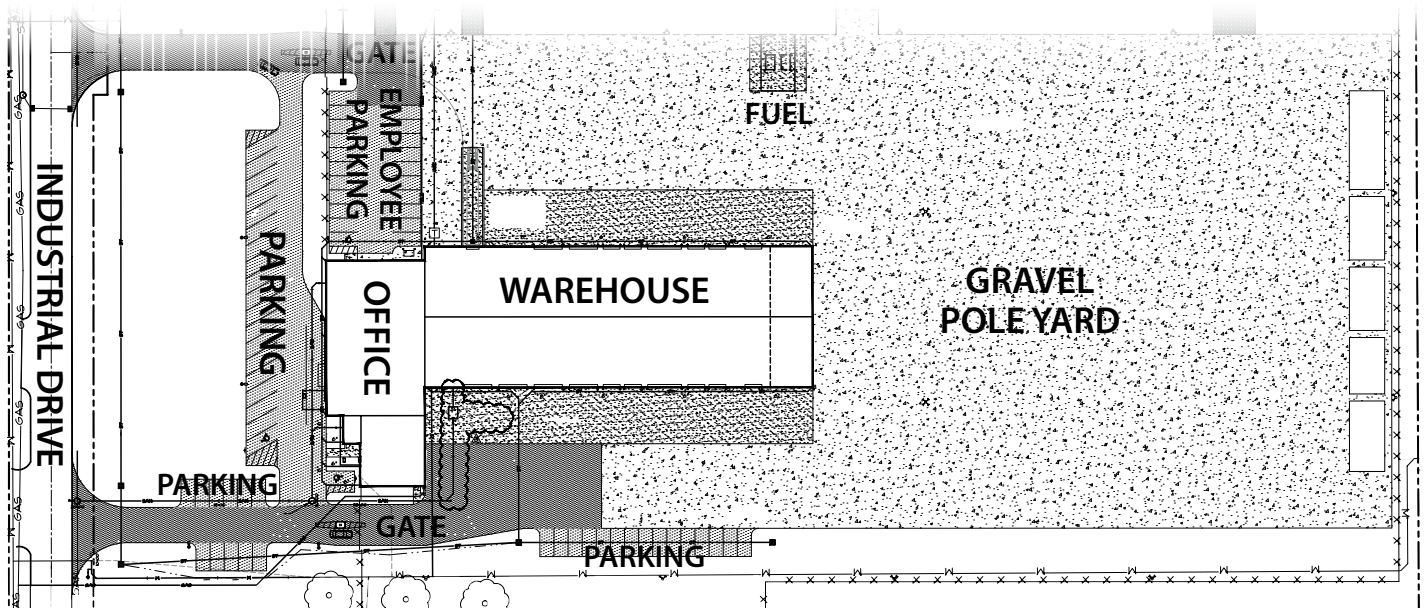
The cooperative's board and management exercised due diligence by researching costs to maintain and repair their present three deteriorating facilities, versus building a new structure to meet the co-op's needs. Having the cooperative's facilities under one roof will offer improved communications and operating efficiencies, as well as provide a long-lasting structure to serve the co-op for many years.

"The new building is an investment in both our future and in the community, and is reflective of the comprehensive strength and financial health of Firelands Electric Cooperative," says General Manager Dan McNaul.

Janotta & Herner has provided a general timeline for the project. The tentative schedule is dependent on weather conditions.

- April/May – Start site work and grading; begin foundations, pour walls, and pre-engineer metal structure erection.
- June – Begin interior site prep: concrete floors, roof construction, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC radiant floor heating system.
- July – Finish the roof system prior to starting exterior walls and finishes.
- August – Complete wall and ceiling finishes; mechanical subcontractors finish electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems within 30 days.
- September/October – Complete interior and exterior wall finishes, plumbing, and flooring; install fencing; excavating contractors finish grading work.
- November – Complete installation of the auto gates; pave concrete and asphalt areas; complete final finishes.

Your cooperative will continue to implement due diligence on this project and do its best to keep members informed. Please stay tuned for details.





CO-OP CONTEST

Take charge with

smarthub

**Enroll
before May 1
for your chance
to win a
\$25 bill credit.**

Firelands Electric Co-op's SmartHub system now offers even more ways for members to take charge of their electric account.

SmartHub isn't just for paying bills or monitoring electric use. It also has the ability to send important account notifications to members via e-mail, text message, or a combination of both. Members can add multiple contact numbers and e-mail addresses, as well as choose which notifications are sent to each contact. Selections can be changed at any time, giving members total flexibility and control.

A variety of notifications are available, including:

- Payment Confirmation
- Credit Card Expiration
- Power Usage
- Planned Power Outage
- Power Outage
- Power Restored
- Peak Alert (Load Management)

Detailed descriptions of SmartHub's features, as well as step-by-step instructions for setting up your account and notifications, are available at www.firelandsec.com/content/smarthub-101.

Sign up for a chance to win

Join T.E.A.M. SmartHub between now and May 1 to be entered into a drawing for the chance to win one of several \$25 bill credits.

Just follow these simple steps to enter:

1. Visit <https://firelandsec.smarthub.coop>
2. Enroll in SmartHub.
3. Sign up to receive at least one notification.

Winners will be drawn on April 1 and May 1. Winners' names will be published in an upcoming issue of *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine, as well as on Firelands' social media outlets.

Contact Firelands Electric's member services department at 1-800-533-8658 or e-mail members@firelandsec.com with questions regarding SmartHub or the contest.

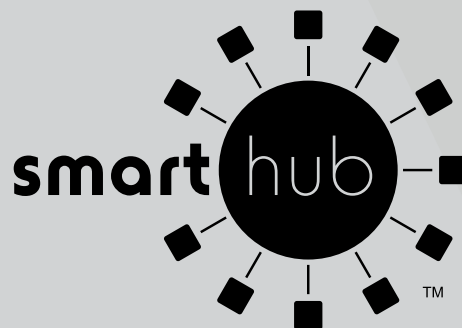
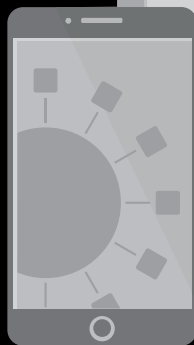
T.E.A.M.

T – Take charge of your electric use!

E – Enroll in SmartHub.

A – Add your contact information.

M – Make your notification choices.





FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LOCAL PAGES



REBATE PROGRAMS

GET \$100 WITH COOL RETURNS

Your co-op wants to save energy and help you save money

Looking to save energy and help keep costs down? It's easy with Firelands Electric's PeakBuster programs — and your electric cooperative will pay you \$100*.

The PeakBuster program offered by Firelands Electric during the summer months is called Cool Returns. Using load management devices, Cool Returns allows co-op members to reduce energy use when demand for energy is at its highest, generally on extremely hot and humid summer days, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. This strategy helps control future energy prices.

Cool Returns never completely shuts off your central air conditioner, heat pump, or geothermal system. The load management device used merely limits the amount of time your cooling system compressor can run during each peak hour. The system compressor will never be off more than 12 minutes during any half-hour period, and your system's fan continues to run, circulating air throughout your home to maximize comfort.

*The Cool Returns incentive is available to co-op members who have central air conditioning, heat pumps, or geothermal systems that DO NOT already have a Cool Returns device installed. Participating members will receive a \$100 credit on their electric bill, and a \$10 per month bill credit during the summer months (June through September).

Ductless heat pumps and older central air-conditioning systems are not compatible with Firelands Electric's load management devices and do not qualify for the program. The cooperative reserves the right to refuse installation of a PeakBuster device where the air conditioner, heat pump, or geothermal system is, in the opinion of our service technician, too old or in need of maintenance.

Help control energy costs and get \$100. To find out if you qualify, visit our website, www.firelandsec.com, or give us a call at 1-800-533-8658. You can be part of the energy solution!

**Visit [www.firelandsec.com/
content/energy-education](http://www.firelandsec.com/content/energy-education)
and discover additional
ways to save!**





YOUTH PROGRAMS



Education helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. That's why Firelands Electric includes it as one of our seven core principles. In 2017, the cooperative introduced a new 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 awarded iTunes gift cards



Katelyn Smeltzer

*Hillsdale Middle School
Daughter of Jason and Jennifer Smeltzer*



Mason Weber

*Hillsdale Middle School
Son of Michael and Belinda Weber*

Send us your grade card and win!
The next drawing will be held 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 must be submitted by mail to Firelands Electric Co-op, Attn: The A Team, P.O. Box 32, New London, OH 44851. Report cards may also be e-mailed to members@firelandsec.com.

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

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



Logan Squire

*New London Middle School
Son of Lee and Kelly Squire*



Co-op awards

\$10,000 in scholarships



Taylor Rebman — First place
Hillsdale High School

Taylor Rebman and William Yeater, both students at Hillsdale High School, are the first-place winners of \$1,500 scholarships in the 2018 Senior Scholarship Contest sponsored by Firelands Electric Cooperative.

Yeater was also selected as the top overall applicant and will participate in a statewide contest on April 17 at Ohio's Electric Cooperatives in Columbus. At this event, he will compete with representatives from Ohio's 24 other rural electric co-ops for additional scholarships worth up to \$3,600.

Rebman is the daughter of Matthew and Heather Rebman of Ashland. She plans to attend Ashland University next fall to study accounting and finance. Yeater is the son of Keith and Heidi Yeater of Ashland. He plans to major in mechanical engineering at Miami University.

Second-place winners of \$1,250 each are Carrie Smith of New London High School and Jackson Hauger of Lucas High School. Smith is the daughter of Clark and Donna Smith of New London. She is planning to attend Ashland

University with a major in digital media production. Hauger is the son of Val Winters of Perrysville. He plans to major in engineering at The Ohio State University in the fall.

Third-place winners of \$1,000 each are Taylor Swindall of Mansfield Christian High School and Peter Zimmermann of Ashland High School. Swindall is the daughter of Marvin and Toni Swindall of Perrysville. She plans to attend the University of Akron in the fall and major in business marketing. Zimmermann is the son of Bernd and Carol Zimmermann of Ashland. He plans to study environmental science and geology at Allegheny College.

Fourth-place winners of \$750 each are Ashlyn Tommas of Monroeville High School and Weston Eibel of New London High School. Tommas is the daughter of Michael and Joan Tommas of Willard. She plans to attend Lourdes University next fall, with a major in nursing. Eibel is the son of James and Kimberly Eibel of New London. He plans to major in pharmacy at the University of Toledo in the fall.

Fifth-place winners of \$500 each are Maryellen Bliss of Hillsdale High School and Amos (Levi) Hill of Willard High School. Bliss is the daughter of Dion and Rhdawnda Bliss of Ashland. She plans to attend The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in the fall, majoring in agriscience education. Hill is the son of Amos Hill of Willard. He plans to study pre-pharmacy at the University of Toledo.

Firelands Electric Cooperative's scholarship contest is offered annually to children of members who are graduating high school seniors and reside in a home served by the cooperative. Firelands was pleased to receive applications this year from students attending Ashland, Genesis Christian, Hillsdale, Loudonville, Lucas, Mansfield Christian, Monroeville, New London, South Central, St. Paul, Wellington, Western Reserve, and Willard high schools.

For more information about the cooperative's youth programs and scholarship opportunities, visit www.firelandsec.com/content/youth-programs.



William Yeater — First place
Hillsdale High School



Carrie Smith — Second place
New London High School



Jackson Hauger — Second place
Lucas High School



Taylor Swindall — Third place
Mansfield Christian High School



Peter Zimmermann — Third place
Ashland High School



Ashlyn Tommas — Fourth place
Monroeville High School



Weston Eibel — Fourth place
New London High School



Maryellen Bliss — Fifth place
Hillsdale High School



Amos (Levi) Hill — Fifth place
Willard High School



LINEMEN POWER OUR LIVES!

**NATIONAL LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 9, 2018**

Remember to
#ThankALineworker



COOPERATIVE UPDATE

BOARD MEETING *highlights*

Firelands Electric Cooperative's board of trustees met Jan. 23 and covered the following items:

- Board President Dan Schloemer reported the cooperative received 32 membership applications for approval by the board.
- Director of Finance and Accounting Tabi Shepherd reviewed December financials and reported on accounting and billing department activities. She also reviewed the cooperative's policy regarding work orders and how job costs are estimated and recovered with the board.
- The board reviewed safety and training report from Dec. 21.
- General Manager April Bordas reviewed and discussed the cooperative's safety policy, bulletin 3-34, with the board. The review was conducted pursuant to the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, which requires an annual review of the policy.
- April Bordas reviewed the cooperative's 2018 depreciation schedule, which was approved by the board.

- The board reviewed a report prepared by Director of Electric Operations Denny Marugg on recent projects in the operations department.

- Line Superintendent Don Englet reported on recent line crew activities and projects.

- The board reviewed a report from Director of Member Services Andrea Gravenhorst on recent communications pieces and upcoming activities involving the member services department.

- The board thanked Bordas for her many years of faithful and dedicated service to the cooperative, as this was her final meeting before retirement.

Firelands Electric 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 24, at Firelands Electric's office, located at One Energy Place, New London.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OUTAGE HOTLINE
1-800-533-8658

OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.FirelandsEC.com



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Neil Winslow
District 9

GENERAL MANAGER

Dan McNaul

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