

HOT LINES

MARCH 2023

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



Matt Berry, CEO

After 13 years without an electric rate increase, it looks like we'll have one later this year. We are still working out the full details, but at first glance it should be fairly moderate and acceptable, especially considering it's been 13 years since our last one and the inflation we've been able to manage since then. Watch for details in upcoming Ohio Cooperative Living magazines and on our website.

Electric rates pay for the service. Nobody likes to see costs increase, but please understand a rate increase helps ensure that we'll continue to deliver reliable, affordable, local power.

Thank you for your loyalty over these years. We have a phenomenal group of employees who work hard to earn your respect, guided by dedicated members serving on our board of directors.

Read more in your Ohio Cooperative Living magazine, our bill insert, monthly e-mail news, and other ways that we'll keep you informed on the details of the rate increase. Please send me your questions at mberry@midwestrec.com, or call our office at 800-962-3830. We will be happy to share our responses with all members.

Rate increase expected later this year

Accomplishments over the last 13 years without a rate increase:

- \$19.6 million in patronage cash back to you, our member-owners.
- \$42 million in power reliability investments and electric operations.
- Investments in our billing, accounting, mapping, outage management, metering and other work systems.
- Cybersecurity and information technology upgrades and expenses
- Maintained a strong wage and benefits package, which helps with employee retention and attraction.
- Expansion of our member service programs
- \$50,000 per year donated to area charitable causes through our Community Connection Fund. *This is a separate, voluntary program NOT dependent on our electric rates.*
- \$2.6 million in low-interest economic development loans to help create and keep local jobs. *This is a separate program not rate-dependent and is funded primarily with federal grants.*

TREE SEEDLING reimbursements from Midwest Electric

Midwest Electric has a special offer to help you plant trees in the right place this spring. We will reimburse you for buying a tree seedling packet from your local Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

- Special offer limited to the first 300 members; limit \$15 reimbursement. Purchase must be from the SWCD to be reimbursed.
- The reimbursement will be in the form of an electric bill credit. You must send us your receipt or proof of purchase to receive the reimbursement.

Instructions:

Contact your local SWCD. Typically, they require an order form that can be mailed or downloaded from their websites, and they require payment when your order is placed. Deadlines are usually in early March.

- Allen County SWCD, 419-223-0846
- Auglaize County SWCD, 419-738-4016
- Mercer County SWCD, 419-586-3289
- Van Wert County SWCD, 419-238-9591
- Darke County SWCD, 937-548-1715
- Shelby County SWCD, 937-492-6520
- Putnam County SWCD, 419-523-5159



Delivery is normally mid-April. They typically send out a postcard with the pickup time and location.

JOIN THE TEAM.

RUN FOR THE BOARD



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2023 BOARD ELECTIONS

You have an opportunity to give back and serve your community by running for a seat on the Board. This may be your chance to help set Midwest Electric's policies, direction, and strategic focus. For this year's elections, petitions may be filed by members who reside in:

District 1 (3-year term): Auglaize and Shelby counties

District 2 (3-year term): Allen and Putnam counties

Any member residing in a district up for election may become a candidate by obtaining a petition form from the co-op's office and obtaining at least 15 valid signatures of members who reside within that district.

How to apply

Candidates must complete the official petition packet and turn it in to the co-op's office after March 17 and no later than 8 a.m. May 1. Call us at 800-962-3830 for a petition packet or to learn more.

The Value of Your Midwest Electric Membership

3 reasons why your membership is valuable:

1. HISTORY OF STABLE RATES

Midwest Electric has maintained the same rates since 2010.

2. TIMELY RESTORATION EFFORTS

Our lineworker crews work round-the-clock to restore power when you need it most.

3. UNMATCHED POWER RELIABILITY

Power was available to members 99.98% of the time in 2022.



As a **Midwest member**, for only **\$1**, you could:



Use a computer for **30 hours**



Run your refrigerator for **18 hours**



Play video games for **76 hours**



Use a crockpot on low for **61 hours**



Community Calendar

- ◆ March 3 **Air Supply**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, vanwertlive.com
- ◆ March 4–5 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen County Fair Grounds
- ◆ March 4 **Ft. Recovery VFW Cancer Dance & Auction**, 6pm. open to public, 112 SR 119
- ◆ March 10 **Seussical**, Lima broadwayworld.com
- ◆ March 12 **Cabin Fever Hike**, Miami Erie Canal, St.Marys 1PM-3PM at Noble Township Hall
- ◆ March 18 **Mozart and Salieri**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, limasympphony.com
- ◆ March 19 **St.Patrick's Day 5K**, American Legion Post 648, Saint Henry
www.runsignup.com/Race/OH/SaintHenry/StPatricksDay
- ◆ March 23 **The Simon & Garfunkel Story**, Lima, limaciviccenter.com
- ◆ March 24–26 **Disney's Frozen Jr.**, New Bremen, broadwayworld.com
- ◆ March 24 **Amy Grant**, Lima, limaciviccenter.com
- ◆ March 31 **Chapel Hart**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, vanwertlive.com



Know what's below.
811 before you dig.

April is National Safe Digging Month

Call811.com

