

CELEBRATING
90
YEARS
of service

HOT LINES

July 2026



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

OFFICE HOURS: Mon.–Fri. (Oct.–April) 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Mon.–Thur. (May–Sept.) 6:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

419.394.4110 | midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

An update on electric rates and affordability was the main discussion at Midwest Electric's 89th annual meeting held at St. Marys Memorial High School on the evening of June 4. Almost 850 members, families, and guests attended and enjoyed a dinner buffet, pony rides, kids games, bounce houses, a health fair, ice cream, and more.

Director elections were held online and by mail this spring, with results announced at the annual meeting.

- Randy Heintz was unopposed and re-elected to a three-year seat representing District 1 (Auglaize and Shelby counties)
- Steve Butcher was newly elected to a three-year seat for District 2 (Allen and Putnam counties)

Madison Steinlage of St. Henry was the winner of the \$1,000 scholarship drawing, and numerous members won a total of \$2,000 in cash prizes.

CEO Matt Berry discussed our electric rate advantage compared to Ohio's investor-owned utilities, like AEP and AES. "For the average family using 1,500 kilowatt hours per month, our electric bill is \$47 lower, per month, than the standard rate for AES, and \$71 lower than AEP, according to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio," he said.

And Midwest Electric's rates will be even lower through the rest of this year, Berry announced. "On your bill each month, there's an item called the Power Cost Adjustment. This amount changes a little bit each month, slightly up or down from one month to the next," he explained. "It's a pass-through of part of our wholesale power bill from Buckeye Power. And the rate that Buckeye Power charges us will be lower through the rest of this year because of the advantages of owning our power generation in today's electric market.

"As a result, we expect your Power Cost Adjustment to be almost 1 cent per kWh lower than it would have been otherwise. For the average family, this means your bill for the rest of this year will be about \$12 per month lower than it would have been without this reduction from Buckeye Power," Berry said.

"It's our job to manage the costs we can control, before we ever ask members to pay more for their energy," he said. "Our fundamental responsibility to you is to deliver reliable power to your home while keeping bills as low as possible. We are committed to increasing efficiency, reducing costs, and providing reliable, affordable service."

Bill Roberts, Vice President and CFO of Buckeye Power, echoed Berry's comments. "Because cooperatives in Ohio own their generation, we are well positioned to meet growing demand with a goal of keeping rates as affordable and stable as possible," he said. "Financially, we are strong, thanks in large part to generation assets like our Cardinal coal-fired power plant. These facilities continue to do exactly what they were built to do—run when they're needed most."

Roberts also addressed the topic of data centers and their impact on the electric market. Protecting electric cooperative members from the higher costs brought on by all the new data centers is our main concern, he said. "We spend significant time in the legislative and regulatory process to influence the rules for cost allocation, to help ensure that data centers cover the expenses related to their usage."

Board President Jim Wiechart said a new three-year strategic plan was created by staff and the Board late last year. The new strategic plan "was completed as a collaborative effort with some emphasis areas being key staff succession planning, and maintaining Midwest Electric's high level of service to our members," Wiechart said. "This strategic plan, which extends to the end of 2028, provides a deliberate road map of many of the key cooperative areas of focus for this current 3-year period. With this effort and other Board actions, we strive to make every decision such that our members' interests are foremost in our minds."

Wiechart also noted that 2025 was a strong year financially for the cooperative, and the entire \$4.5 million in margins is allocated and eventually paid back to the members.

PEAK ALERTS: same energy. Different impact.

The demand for electricity is typically highest in the late afternoon during peak energy hours. You can help lower demand by shifting when energy-intensive activities happen.



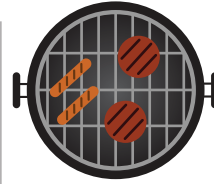
Shift appliance use to off-peak hours.

- Run the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use the oven earlier or later (during off-peak hours.)
- Space out use of major appliances.



Use a programmable or smart thermostat.

- Automatically adjust the temperature setting during peak hours.
- Schedule home cooling cycles for efficiency.



Opt for low-energy alternatives during peak hours.

- Use small appliances like slow cookers or air fryers — or fire up the grill — instead of the oven.
- Air-dry clothes instead of using the dryer.
- Use ceiling fans for additional cooling.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD Political Action Dinner

Join us August 24, 5:30 p.m.
at Wassenberg Art Center
214 S. Washington St., Van Wert, Ohio

This bi-annual adults only event will be held Monday, Aug. 24, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Afterward, around 6:30 p.m., elected officials will address the crowd, take questions, and discuss current industry topics. Guests have included Congressman Jim Jordan, Senator Rob McColley, and local representatives Angela King, and Roy Klopfenstein. Buckeye Power, our wholesale power provider, is also present.

- ☆ **This event is only for PAC members.**
- ☆ **To join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC online visit www.midwestrec.com/PACS**
- ☆ **RSVP for the dinner by calling 419-394-4110 or email info@midwestrec.com. Seating is limited.**



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Community Calendar

- Every Thurs. in July **Line Dancing** at Doc's Hall, 311 N Main St, Delphos
- Every Sat. in July **Bluffton Farmer's Market**, explorebuffton.com/farmers-market
- 2nd & 4th Thurs. in July **Delphos Farmer's Market**, The Lot, delphoschamber.com/downtown-delphos-farmers-market
- July 2 **92.1 The Frog's Red, White and Boots Featuring NIKO MOON!**, Pangle Pavilion, app.fairs.com/e/53dd90468d7645db
- July 3-5 **St. Henry Picnic**, St. Henry, vil.saint-henry.oh.us/events/list
- July 3 **FIRST FRIDAY**, Downtown St. Marys, stmarysmart.com
- July 3-4 **St. Joseph Church Festival**, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, Wapakoneta, facebook.com/stjoe4th
- July 4 **Star Spangled Spectacular for the Freedom 5K**, Faurot Park, runsignup.com/Race/OH/Lima/StarSpangledSpectacular
- July 10 **Henry Cho - The Empty Nest Tour**, Lima Civic Center, limaciviccenter.com
- July 10 **Lost In Paradise Jimmy Buffet Tribute**, Pangle Pavilion, limaohio.com/calendar/lost-in-paradise-jimmy-buffett-tribute
- July 10-11 **Fireman's Jamboree**, Cridersville, villageofcridersville.com
- July 14-19 **Summer Moon Festival**, Wapakoneta, summermoonfestival.com
- July 24 **Jeff Allen**, Grand Opera House, St. Marys, grandoperahouselive.com
- July 23-26 **Annual LARKS Club Big Bird Fly-In**, 7651 Elida Road, Elida, facebook.com/LARKSCLUB
- July 24-26 **Celina Lake Festival**, Lake Shore Drive, Celina, celinalakefest.com
- July 31-Aug. 1 **NTPA Tractor Pulls**, Ambassador Park, Fort Recovery, ntpapull.com

HAPPY
4TH
OF JULY

AMERICA
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