

HOT LINES



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

January 2020

News about your community and cooperative

419.394.4110 | 1.800.962.3830
www.midwestrec.com

IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

SPECIAL BALLOT COMING THIS MONTH

Vote to amend the Code of Regulations and reduce board size

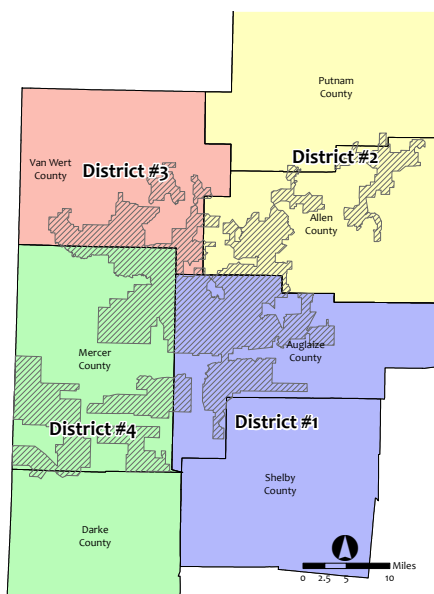
Please keep an eye out for a ballot from Midwest Electric around early January. The Midwest Electric Board of Directors asks for your “YES” vote to support a proposed amendment to the Cooperative’s Code of Regulations. The amendment is to remove the “at-large” position from the board of directors and reduce the size of the Board by one director.

This is called a “special” vote because it needs to take place before this spring’s annual meeting voting.

Why should I vote “yes”?

Reducing the size of the board will contain costs from training, travel, and per diems. Our employees have been aggressively managing costs and improving operational efficiency. Other changes include sharing employees with a neighboring co-op and implementing new technology.

Reducing the size of the board would put Midwest Electric in line with other electric cooperatives across the U.S. There are 900 electric cooperatives in the U.S., and Midwest Electric is smaller than the average electric cooperative. Smaller electric cooperatives are more likely to have fewer than nine Board members than larger co-ops. Midwest Electric currently has nine directors.



Nationally, 38% of electric cooperatives have less than nine directors, 46% have nine directors, and 16% have more than nine directors. The overall national average is 8.5 directors.

All Midwest Electric members will still be represented by two directors from their district. Our districts are as follows: Auglaize-Shelby; Allen-Putnam; Van Wert; and Mercer-Darke.

As a cooperative, Midwest Electric has always been governed by a board of directors elected from the membership (the consumers), by the membership.

How would this impact representation?

The Board feels the at-large position is not necessary because members already vote for directors in every district (county) regardless of where they live. In our annual elections, you already have the ability to vote in an “at-large sense;” meaning, you can vote for each district (county) regardless of where you live. Members are not restricted to voting only for their district, so this amendment does not limit a member’s voting opportunity.

No duly-elected director will lose their seat during this transition or as a result of this Code amendment. The change would be effective after the current At-Large term ends (June 2020).

Such an amendment to the Code of Regulations must first be approved by you, the members. This will require a special vote prior to the annual meeting voting process.

How do I vote? And when will we know the results?

Ballots will be mailed soon, with voting ending on January 21, 2020. You can vote by mail or online at www.midwestrec.com. Results will be announced to members in the March 2020 *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine and through other communications.

Please contact our CEO, Matt Berry, at mberry@midwestrec.com if you have any questions on this. **And please vote yes!**



LARRY VANDEMARK
Board President

CALLING ALL 2020 GRADS:



Need cash for college?
We're giving away
\$11,000
in scholarships!

**Must be a child of a Midwest Electric member and apply by Jan. 15.*

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION:

- Visit www.midwestrec.com > My Community > Scholarships.
- Email kschmerge@midwestrec.com or visit our office in person.
- See your school guidance counselor.



CURIOUS WHY YOUR WINTER ELECTRIC BILLS ARE SO HIGH?

Consider using our online energy audit software or one of our in-person home audit methods:

- **Over-the-phone** – simply call us at 1-800-962-3830 for free, customized advice.
- **Basic Audit** – we will do a free walk-through at your home or business and identify potential savings.
- **Advanced Audit** – This \$200 service features a blower door test to determine air infiltration problem areas plus an infrared thermal gun scan. We provide an extensive follow-up report with specific recommendations to help you prioritize opportunities. If you implement one of our recommendations afterward, you can get the audit for FREE.

Find details and DIY resources to help you reduce your winter electric bill at midwestrec.com. Click the "My Home" tab, then "Energy Audits and Tips."

TAX NOTICE ON THIS MONTH'S BILL

Your December electric bill will include information to use in your income tax filing: your total annual contribution to the Midwest Electric Community Connection Fund. This will be on the left side of your bill, about halfway down, and will say "YTD ROUNDUP AMOUNT" next to the dollar amount (typically between \$4-\$12). This is tax deductible and represents the 12-month total of your monthly round-up contributions to benefit our local community. Thank you for your generosity!



GET A NEW PHONE NUMBER, CREDIT CARD, OR EMAIL? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Call 800-962-3830 or log into SmartHub to update your contact information so we can notify you for planned outages, patronage cash back, and more.

Electricity is a GREAT value!

This winter, U.S. consumers are forecast to pay an average of around 12.7 cents per kilowatt-hour. Midwest Electric's rate is about 11 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Talk about value and stability for your family. THAT'S the cooperative difference.

— Source: Statista/U.S. Dept. of Energy



Community Calendar

- ◆ Dec. 31/Jan. 1 **Office closed at noon on Dec. 31 and all day on New Year's Day**
- ◆ Jan. 4-5 **New Year Jamboree**, Midwest Shooting Center, Cridersville, 419-645-6286
- ◆ Jan. 5 **Instructional Baseball Camp K-12**, FAST, Lima, 866-622-4487
- ◆ Jan. 11 **Dueling Pianos at Overdrive**, Overdrive Entertainment, Celina, 419-925-9999
- ◆ Jan. 16 **Symphony Storytime**, Delphos Public Library, FREE, 419-222-5701
- ◆ Jan. 18 **Purse Bingo in St. Marys**, St. Marys Eagles 767, www.stmarysrams.ticketleap.com/purse-bingo/
- ◆ Jan. 18 **3rd Annual Empty Bowls Mercer County Painting Party**, Brew Nation, Celina, 419-586-4663
- ◆ Jan. 19 **Wild World of Animals**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, Lima, 419-224-1552
- ◆ Jan. 23 **The Bandstand – The Broadway Musical**, Niswonger, Van Wert, 419-238-6722
- ◆ Jan. 25 **Not So Newlywed Game Show**, Wapakoneta, mooncityevent@gmail.com
- ◆ Jan. 26 **Own the Aisle Bridal Show**, UNOH Event Center, Lima, unoh.edu/event-center/