

# HOT LINES

February 2023

News about your community and cooperative



Midwest Electric, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.midwestrec.com

## IMPORTANT MEMBER INFO

### 2023 WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



Midwest Electric is budgeting \$3.3 million in investments in power reliability and electric operations in 2023. After 13 years since our last rate increase in 2010, the cooperative is planning a moderate rate increase later in 2023. Work plans include:

- **Continuing the multiyear installation of a distribution automation (DA) and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.** The upgrades will reduce the length of major outages by using automation to remotely and quickly transfer load (or “backfeed”) from one source to another.
- **Pole testing in the Moulton delivery point and Cridersville substation areas.** All 33,000 of Midwest Electric’s poles are

tested on a 10-year cycle for sturdiness and reliability. Typically, less than 1 percent fail the test, and those are replaced.

- **Buying new equipment,** which includes meters, transformers, line reclosers, voltage regulators, and poles.
- **Tree trimming in the Bluelick, Rockport and Noble substation areas.** Tree pruning is performed on a five-year cycle throughout the co-op’s 1,536 miles of power line. Trees and branches are a primary cause of power outages and blinking lights.

- **Additional information technology (IT) hardware and software** as technology expands deeper into our electric operations areas such as digital electric meters, SCADA, DA, and remote monitoring and control.

For updates on construction throughout the year, follow Midwest Electric on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Have questions about upcoming work? Please call our office.

Someone you know could have unclaimed patronage cash waiting for them!



Check at [midwestrec.com](http://midwestrec.com). Click the “My Co-op” tab, then “Patronage Cash Back.” The list of names is also run in our *Ohio Cooperative Living* magazine.

## Community Calendar

- ◆ Feb. 4-5 **Tri State Gun Show**, Allen Co. Fairgrounds, Lima, [allencofair.com](http://allencofair.com)
- ◆ Feb. 9-12 **Lion in Winter**, Van Wert Civic Theatre, 419-238-9689, [vwct.org](http://vwct.org)
- ◆ Feb. 11 **Right to Life Sweet Heart Dance**, Romer’s, St Henry, [romerscatering.com](http://romerscatering.com)
- ◆ Feb. 12 **Wall to Wall Percussion**, Lima Symphony Orchestra, [limasympphony.com](http://limasympphony.com)
- ◆ Feb. 12 **Puppy Pals**, Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, [vanwertlive.com](http://vanwertlive.com)
- ◆ Feb. 14 **Valentine’s Day**
- ◆ Feb. 16-19 **Lion in Winter**, Van Wert Civic Theatre, 419-238-9689, [vwct.org](http://vwct.org)
- ◆ Feb. 17 **Mitchell Tenpenny**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, [limaciviccenter.com](http://limaciviccenter.com)
- ◆ Feb. 18 **Winter Icebreaker Dance**, Romer’s, Celina, [lakeimprovement.com](http://lakeimprovement.com)
- ◆ Feb. 19 **The Neverending Story**, Veterans Memorial Civic Center, [limaciviccenter.com/groupiemovies](http://limaciviccenter.com/groupiemovies)
- ◆ Feb. 20 **President’s Day**
- ◆ Feb. 23-26 **Hello Dolly**, James Dicke Auditorium, New Bremen, [crescentplayers.com](http://crescentplayers.com)
- ◆ Feb. 24-26 **Walking Across Egypt**, Encore Theatre, Lima, [amiltellers.org](http://amiltellers.org)
- ◆ Feb. 25 **Menopause The Musical**, Niswonger PAC, Van Wert, [vanwertlive.com](http://vanwertlive.com)
- ◆ Feb. 25-26 **Shipshewana on the Road**, Allen County Fairgrounds, [allencofair.com](http://allencofair.com)

# The Value of Your Midwest Electric Membership

**3** reasons why your Midwest Electric membership is valuable:

**1** HISTORY OF STABLE RATES  
Midwest Electric has been proud to maintain the same rates since August 2010 (at an average of only \$6 per day), marking 13 years of value and stability for our members.



**2** TIMELY RESTORATION EFFORTS  
Our lineworker crews work round-the-clock to restore power when you need it most. Midwest Electric also provides real-time outage notifications through SmartHub to keep you informed of restoration efforts.



**3** UNMATCHED POWER RELIABILITY  
We invest \$2 – 3 million every year in upgrades to our electric system and use the most effective power restoration technology, resulting in a 99.98% rate of power availability for members.



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**

