

2026 WINTER CONFERENCE OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Phil Irwin

President, Federated
Rural Electric
Insurance Exchange



Brad Wenstrup

Doctor, Former
Congressman; Veteran

MONDAY AGENDA

- 3:00 p.m. – Conference registration opens
- 4:00 p.m. – Welcome program begins
- 5:30 p.m. – Plated dinner
- 6:30 p.m. – Insure your Safety
***Phil Irwin**, President, Federated Rural
Electric Insurance Exchange*
- 7:00 p.m. – 9/11, 25 Years Later – Keynote
***Brad Wenstrup**, Doctor, Former
Congressman; Veteran*
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February 9–10, 2026

OHIO'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 



Marriott Columbus Northwest
5605 Blazer Pkwy, Dublin, OH
43017

[Visit Conference
Website](#)

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SPEAKERS



Richard Fagerlin

President
Peak Solutions



Bethany Schunn

Plant Manager
Cardinal



Kevin Zemanek

Vice President
Operations
Ohio's Electric Cooperatives



Ruby Johnston

2025 Ohio YLC



Craig Grooms

President & CEO
Buckeye Power
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives



Dwight Miller

Senior Director
Safety Training and Loss Prevention
Ohio's Electric Cooperatives



Doug Miller

Vice President
Statewide Services,
Ohio's Electric Cooperatives

TUESDAY AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. ● **Chairman's Welcome, Pledge, and Invocation**
Mitch Headley, Chairman, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
- 8:10 a.m. ● **The Future Ready Board – How to Prepare Your Board for (almost) Anything**
Richard Fagerlin, President, Peak Solutions
- 9:00 a.m. ● **Strength in the Grid: Cardinal Plant's Performance Path**
Bethany Schunn, Plant Manager, Cardinal
- 9:50 a.m. ● **BREAK**
- 10:10 a.m. ● **Power Play: Orchestrating the Future of Resource Planning**
Kevin Zemanek, Vice President, Operations, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives
- 11:10 a.m. ● **Future Forward: Youth Perspectives That Matter**
Missy Kidwell, Manager, Cooperative Development, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives
Ruby Johnston, 2025 Ohio Youth Leadership Council, LMRE
- 11:30 a.m. ● **LUNCH**
- 12:30 p.m. ● **Charging Ahead: A President/CEO's Perspective on What's Next with Q&A**
Craig Grooms, President & CEO, Buckeye Power & Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
- 1:30 p.m. ● **Safe Work Practices and the Leadership Factor: How Actions of Leaders Drive Behaviors in the Field**
Dwight Miller, Senior Director, Safety Training and Loss Prevention, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives
- 2:30 p.m. ● **Every Step Matters: A Safety Message for the Ones We Serve, the Ones We Love, and the One We Lost**
Moderator: Doug Miller, Vice President, Statewide Services, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives
Panelists: Melanie Lawrence, CEO, Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative
Krista Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative
Danny Krum, Safety & Loss Coordinator, Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative
Brandie and Brandon Hale, Parents of Blake Rodgers
- 3:15 p.m. ● **Adjourn**