



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Fast facts about lineworkers



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

You probably don't think about them until your power goes out, but electric lineworkers protect our homes and communities 24 hours a day. Like other first responders who keep us safe, lineworkers endure all kinds of weather and challenging conditions.

In April, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who power life. Here are some quick facts about lineworkers and the work they do.

Lineworker history

Lineworkers first appeared during the 1840s rush to spread telegraph service across the U.S., stringing wires between trees and other natural objects. It didn't take long for everyone to realize tall poles were safer and more practical.

What electric lineworkers do

Restoring electricity after a power outage is just one of the many duties of lineworkers, who also:

- Install and connect new power lines to homes and businesses
- Maintain and perform upgrades to improve our electric grid
- Diagnose and pinpoint power delivery issues
- Plan and manage large-scale projects
- Ensure safe work practices in often-challenging conditions

Lineworkers are responsible for maintaining and upgrading the nation's electric grid, which connects more than 7,300 power plants to 145 million consumers through 60,000 miles of high-voltage lines, millions of miles of

distribution lines, and more than 50 million transformers.

Geared for safety

Lineworkers climb with up to 40 pounds of safety gear and tools. That's like carrying a 5-gallon water jug! Here's what they typically wear to stay safe while working: Hard hats, safety glasses, flame-resistant clothing, arc flash protective clothes, rubber gloves and sleeves, climbing belts, fall-protection harnesses. They also carry a hot stick (an insulated fiberglass pole to safely moved energized wires).

On-the-job training

Described by the Energy Department as one of the nation's highest-paid professions that doesn't demand postsecondary education, becoming a lineworker typically requires a high school diploma or equivalent, training, and a paid apprenticeship, which typically spans four years. Apprentice lineworkers receive hands-on training and experience in the field before advancing to "journeyman" status.

Inspiring safety

In addition to extreme weather exposure, lineworkers face a variety of dangers, including electric shock, falls from elevated work locations, and roadside traffic accidents.

Safety is always the No. 1 priority, which is why lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

Lineworkers power our lives. If you get a chance, remember to thank lineworkers for the essential work they do.



Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative line crew, from left: Lee Brodman, Isaiah Zapata, Jake Auld, Ryan Stallings, Jamie Cole, Alex Scholl, Josh Kitzler, Clint Patterson, Mark Mareches, Josh Fuson, Jeff Price, Jim Casey, Ross Benton, Rod Barnhisel, and Chase Martens. Not pictured, Rob Schwartz, Ryan Stearns, Dave Ervin, and Kevin VanDePerre.

2024 Election Proposed Code

In May, all members will receive a ballot to vote for several proposed code of regulations changes. The following changes are recommended by your board of trustees. For more information and the complete code change language, visit our website www.hwe.coop.

CHANGE #1 removal of membership certificates:

Purpose for change

Membership Certificates are legally unnecessary, create additional administrative work, overhead, and cost (passed along to the members), and many members do not return their certificates as required by Section 6(b) of the Code.

CHANGE #2 service area more defined:

Purpose for change

Better clarifies eligibility for membership and definition of service area.

CHANGE #3 extending term limits:

Purpose for change

Extending term limits from four to five will help the co-op retain knowledge and investment in the trustee and provide continuity in the leadership who guides the direction of HWE. A considerable amount of financial investment is made by the co-op for training. A trustee is required to take more than 18 classes incorporated across three director certifications. This training deals with industry-related issues, strategic planning, analyzing financial statements, budgeting, and rate training, to name a few. Each current trustee will have to be re-nominated and elected every three years by the membership in his or her district to continue to serve on the board.

CHANGE #4 uncontested election update:

Purpose for change

The change in subsection (b) clarifies that the cooperative need not send ballots to the membership for uncontested elections, saving on postage and administrative cost.

CHANGE #5 separating secretary and treasurer:

Purpose for change

The change in Section 9 cleans up language regarding the assistant secretary (which is covered in new Section 10) and splits the officer descriptions between secretary and treasurer (and assistant secretary and assistant treasurer). The office of secretary and treasurer (and assistant secretary and assistant treasurer) may still be served by one person, consistent with past practice.

CHANGE #6 capital credit via electronic notice:

Purpose for change

It is sometimes very difficult to track down members to reimburse their capital credits. Notably, if a member moves from the service area without a forwarding address, it does little good to send a letter to a former address and give notice in the cooperative newsletter, which the former member no longer receives. The cooperative proposes also adding electronic notice through the cooperative website or otherwise (e.g. email) to give the departing member more opportunities to claim the unreimbursed capital credit.

Your thoughts and opinions on
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative
**help us better
serve you.**

In May, Hancock-Wood will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The random surveys will be conducted by phone and email, and not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions about the cooperative.

All information is confidential.

We strive to provide all members with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!





**HANCOCK-WOOD
COMMUNITY TRUST FUND**
Operation Round Up - Powering Community Change

Operation Round Up program

grants more than
\$11,000 to
local programs

The Community Trust Fund board granted more than \$11,000 to the following grant applicants at the February board meeting:

- Gliding Stars received \$6,000.
- Kelleys Island School received \$2,960.
- Hancock County Special Deputies Dive Team received \$3,000.

We are accepting applications for the next quarter grant cycle due on April 15. For application and instructions visit our website, www.hwe.coop.



**Our Member
Appreciation
Drive-Thru Event
will be held
on July 18.
More details
to come.**

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or
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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop

Members First! 
**HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
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