



## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# Reliable power for today — and tomorrow

As we begin a new year, it's a good time to reflect on where we are and what we have accomplished in the past. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.



Our team at Hancock-Wood Electric is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

I wanted to share with you, our members, how we are working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs. Our co-op has invested more than \$15 million in the past three years alone. This money has all been put into significant upgrades which, in turn, benefit all members.

### Major projects include:

- Rebuild of outdated overhead lines. The rebuild schedule is laid out over four-years through a process called a Construction Work Plan and focuses on different sections all over our service area.
- SCADA upgrades. SCADA is a program that allows operations to remotely switch distribution lines on and off. This upgrade included the necessary hardware and labor for installed SCADA equipment to complete hookups at seven substations.
- Hatton substation rebuild. This substation is located in Wood County, Perry Township, and was completely rebuilt from the ground up. The project included the

demolition, site work, foundations, steel, a transformer, a relay building, and other equipment.

- New service to UPS. This facility is located west of North Baltimore across from CSX. It included an approximately 4,200-foot underground three-phase line extension, multiple switch cabinets, and primary metering.
- New service to OurSolar II, located on TR 215 in Hancock County. This service is how the 2-megawatt solar field leased by Buckeye Power is coupled to HWE distribution facilities and Marion Substation.
- Lakeshore substation rebuild. This substation is located on Kelleys Island, directly north of the office. The substation has been completely converted to pad-mounted gear, reducing the exposure to wildlife and weather events.
- Arlington substation rebuild. This substation is located in Hancock County, Madison Township, and was a complete rebuild from the ground up. The project included demolition, site work, foundations, steel, transformer, relay building and various other equipment. It was also converted from 34.5 kilovolts to 69kV to support AEP's voltage conversion on their transmission line.
- Viper reclosers for sectionalizing. Vipers are three-phase electronic devices that allow us to isolate, open/close, and backfeed from various sources with the SCADA program. We have deployed more than 85 in the field. This helps with identifying, isolating, and restoring faulted areas more quickly and efficiently.

In addition to these projects, one of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Ohio and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2025, Hancock-Wood Electric will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# 2025

## election petitions due

### March 13

Being a member-consumer of an electric cooperative means you have a say in the matters that affect you and your community. Hancock-Wood Electric is guided by a member-elected board of trustees, which is responsible for making decisions related to the co-op's financial goals and other policies. If you're interested in taking a more active role in your cooperative, we urge you to consider running for a seat on the board.

A trustee should have the best interest of the cooperative at heart, without placing his or her own interest or agenda first; no one should serve on the board solely to assist the cooperative or for any personal gain. Trustees should have the capability to guide the president and CEO through the formulation of sound policies that both protect the financial and operating integrity of the cooperative and protect the rights of the membership.

Members who live in districts 3, 6, or 8 are eligible to run for the board in 2025. To find out which district you are in, visit our website, call our office, or check your bill statement.

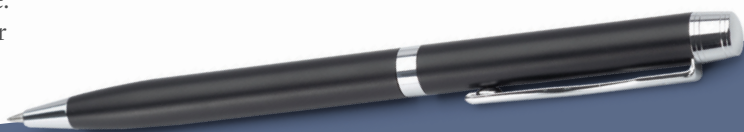
If you are a qualified member in one of those districts, you can obtain a petition form from our office or at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop). After collecting the required signatures, return your

petition form to the office by the March 13 deadline and your name will be placed on the election ballots sent to members in May. The results of our elections will be announced during our virtual annual meeting.

Any member can become a trustee on the board, and each district is designated by geographic area. In addition to completing the petition form, a member must:

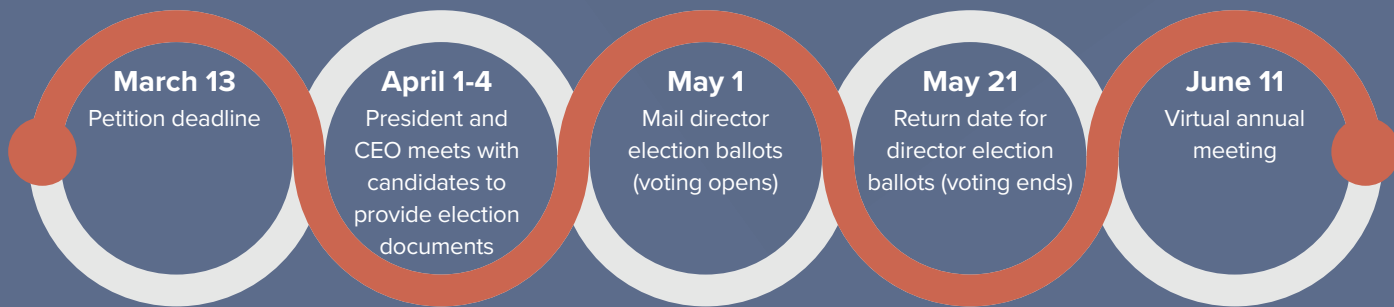
- Have been a member for at least three years.
- Not have been an employee of the cooperative for three years prior.
- Not be closely related to an employee.
- Not be employed by a financially interested competing enterprise, or a business selling electric power or supplies to the cooperative.

If you have any questions about the petition process or the election, please feel free to call our office at 800-445-4840 or email us at [info@hwe.coop](mailto:info@hwe.coop).



# 2025

## trustee election timeline



# Seniors and juniors apply today for Youth Tour!

Each summer, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative sponsors up to four students on an annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The selected winners will also receive a \$500 scholarship, in addition to the trip. Students can learn about our nation's capital, the government, and rural electric cooperatives while seeing the historic and cultural sights of the Washington, D.C., area. The Youth Tour program is an annual opportunity for more than 1,500 high school students from across the nation to represent their electric co-ops in our nation's capital. The Youth Tour will take place June 15 to 21, 2025. For rules and application, *visit our website [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)*.

**Deadline to apply is  
Feb. 14, 2025.**



## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text, or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

*Source: energy.gov*



### CONTACT

800-445-4840  
FAX: 419-257-3024

### WEBSITE

[www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)

### OFFICE

1399 Business Park Drive South  
P.O. Box 190  
North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**William Kale**  
Chairman

**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
Vice Chair

**Duane Fry**  
Secretary

**Charles Beagle**

**Ed Crawford**

**Tim Phillips**

**Max Rader**

**Ron Riegler**

**Brian Terry**

**Bill Barnhart**

President and CEO

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

online, dropbox, office, by phone, or automatic bill pay

### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)



**HANCOCK-WOOD  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative