

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Now accepting petitions for the 2026 board election

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 interests 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. Trustee candidates 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 2, 7, or 9 are eligible to run for the board in 2026. District 2 consists of portions of North Baltimore, Cygnet, Jerry City, Bowling Green, and Portage. District 7 consists of the Bluffton, Ada, and Mt. Cory areas, and District 9 consists of Kelleys Island. Not sure which district you're in? Check your bill, where

it's noted on the top right, or you can call our office to verify. 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. After collecting the required signatures, return your petition form to the office by the March 12 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 eligible member may 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 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.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

2026 Trustee election timeline

Feb. 1	March 12	March 17	March 24	April 1-3	May 1	May 22	May 29	June 4	June 10
Call for petitions (magazine article, website, and social media campaigns)	Petition deadline	Election Committee to vet petitions	Election Committee submits names of qualified candidates to board at regular meeting	President and CEO meets with candidates to provide election documents	Director election ballots mailed (voting opens)	Return date for director election ballots (voting ends)	Final election results come from SBS	Virtual Annual Meeting filmed	Virtual Annual Meeting



Farewell to John Cheney, a Hancock-Wood legend



We were saddened to learn of the passing of John Cheney, former president and CEO of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative.

John began his career at Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in 1954 as a system cartographer and was later promoted to system engineer. In 1966, he became manager of operations and engineering, a role

he held until 1982, when he was appointed president and CEO. He served in that position until his retirement in 1995.

During his distinguished career, John served for 13 years on the board of Buckeye Power, including time on the executive committee, and held terms as secretary and vice chairman. He also represented Buckeye Power at the Electric Power Research Institute and was an active member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, where he served a term as chairman.

Following his retirement, John remained a valued friend of the cooperative, always willing to share his knowledge, insights, and stories from years past with current employees. His leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions have left an enduring legacy at Hancock-Wood Electric, and he will be fondly remembered.

HWE thanks Lineman Jim Casey for 40 years of service

We would like to congratulate and thank Jim Casey for his 40 years of service at Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative. Enjoy your retirement!



MAKE YOUR MARK!



Youth Tour applications are due on February 13

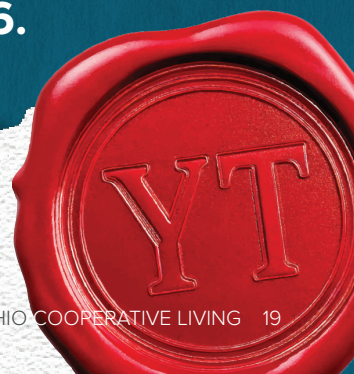
Seniors and juniors apply today for Youth Tour!

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 14-20, 2026.

Learn more about applying at
www.hwe.coop/youth-tour-program.

MAKE YOUR MARK!



2026

construction rebuild

Our rebuild crews will be working in Wood, Hancock, Hardin, and Wyandot counties in 2026 to help improve service reliability and update any outdated and aging equipment. HWE is rebuilding 15.36 miles of line in our service area in 2026. Members will receive a detailed letter if this rebuild work is affecting their service.



CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

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P.O. Box 190
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Kale
Chairman

Lee Anne Dierksheide
Vice Chair

Duane Fry
Secretary

Charles Beagle

Ed Crawford

Tim Phillips

Max Rader

Jim Rose

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

Members First! 
HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 