



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# Register for our **virtual** annual meeting and be entered to **win \$300**

The 2024 virtual annual meeting will be held on June 12 at 10 a.m. To participate in the virtual meeting, simply register on our website at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop) and a link will be sent to your email prior to the 10 a.m. meeting. All members who register to attend will be placed in a drawing for a \$300 bill credit.

Our annual business meeting, which reviews the cooperative's financial information, construction projects, and our election results from districts 1, 4, and 5, will remain virtual this year. The video will be available for viewing on our YouTube page, on our Facebook page, and at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop).

Members in districts 1, 4, and 5 will be receiving election ballots to vote for trustees to represent their respective districts. Members will be able to vote online or by mail; we cannot accept any ballots at our office. All members will be receiving the code of regulations change to vote on. Please see page 20 for more information and our website for complete code language changes.



Bill Barnhart  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## Annual Meeting Official Notice

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will take place virtually on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Items of business to be considered include:

- Officers' and auditor's reports
- Report on the election of trustees
- Any other pertinent matters that may come up before the adjournment of the meeting

Signed this day, March 31, 2024, by Duane Fry, secretary-treasurer, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

# Memorial Day is May 27



Our office will be closed as we honor the brave men and women lost in the pursuit of freedom.

## 2023 annual meeting minutes

The following meeting minutes will be approved at the 2024 Virtual Annual Meeting on June 12:

**Minutes of Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

The 85th Annual Meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held virtually on June 10, 2023, at the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Office, North Baltimore, Ohio. Chairman Gene Barker opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chair Bill Kale provided the invocation.

Barker called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Lee Anne Dierksheide, secretary/treasurer, read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting and the Proof of Mailing. Barker announced last year's Annual Meeting minutes, from June 11, 2022, were distributed and called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

The Election Committee report was given by the chair of the Election Committee, Duane Fry. This year, districts 2, 7, and 9 requested interested members to submit petitions to run for a board seat. In districts 2 and 9, the incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected by affirmation. Because no other members submitted petitions to run for the board, a formal election for districts 2 and 9 were not necessary. This saves the co-op mail and election costs.

**The election committee report is as follows:**

- Bill Kale, representing district 2
- Charlie Beagle, representing district 7
- Brian Terry, representing district 9

The motion passed to accept the election report. Pat Sadowski, the corporate general counsel, swore in the trustees.

Earl Ridlen, managing partner with LWG CPA, presented the audit results with a clean opinion for the audit statement of Hancock-Wood.

Barker presented his report to members. Barker reviewed the following items: reducing board districts and redistricting, new petition process, strategic planning update, 2022 ACSI survey, 2022 patronage reimbursement to members, and an update on the economic development progress.

Bill Barnhart gave the president's report. He reviewed the 2022 RESAP program, outage statistics for 2022, and the upcoming rate adjustment.

Pat O'Loughlin, president and CEO of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, provided a statewide update. Barker adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

## Think Energy \$mart *with Bruce*

When browsing social media, or the internet in general, we are constantly bombarded with advertisements for products we may or may not need. Usually, the advertisements are linked to a recent internet search we have conducted for a product or service. With the cost increase of many goods and services recently, consumers are inquiring on ways to save money. One of those products offered in a search to save money has me concerned.

The product I am referencing is an electricity power saver box. This device is offered under many impressive names such as Power Save, Stop Watt, or Esaver. The device is advertised as an Elon Musk invention and is a scam, and I am encouraging you not to purchase it. If you are considering one of these devices or have already purchased one, I encourage

you to view some of the many YouTube videos discussing this product. Most of these devices consist of a small circuit board to illuminate an LED light and a small black box that may or may not be a capacitor. Since these units have electrical components inside them, units will probably slightly increase your electrical consumption.



*If you discover an electrical savings product that interests you, please conduct research before purchasing or reach out to me [bruce@hwe.coop](mailto:bruce@hwe.coop).*

# Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative announces SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



NOT PICTURED ABOVE:



Emma Garmatter

Kate Ernst

Pictured, from left: Lee Anne Dierksheide, Alex Basinger, Bill Kale, Bryanna Wilson, Gene Barker, Ron Riegler, Matthew Weber, Brian Terry, Eli Metzger, Duane Fry, Ben Mayle, Carson Skulina, Charlie Beagle, Matthew Guthrie, Ed Crawford, Ava Loch, and Tim Phillips.

Hancock-Wood is pleased to announce the winners of its 2024 scholarship competition. All students who applied were screened by the Scholarship Committee for academic achievement, including GPA and ACT/SAT test scores, and the variety and quality of extracurricular and community activities. In addition, Hancock-Wood recognizes the two local students selected for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

## Children of Members Scholarships

**1st place winner**, Ava Loch of Findlay High School, received the \$3,500 scholarship. She is the daughter of Brian and Britnie Loch.

**2nd place winner**, Eli Metzger of Bowling Green High School, received the \$3,000 scholarship. He is the son of Jeffrey and Jennifer Metzger.

## The following six honorable mentions received \$2,000 each:

- **Emma Garmatter** of Liberty-Benton High School, daughter of Jerry and Wendy Garmatter
- **Matthew Guthrie** of Findlay High School, son of Chad and Elizabeth Guthrie
- **Ben Mayle** of Findlay High School, son of Tim and Sarah Mayle
- **Carson Skulina** of Cory-Rawson High School, son of Mike and Beth Skulina
- **Matthew Weber** of Findlay High School, son of John Jr. and Wendy Weber
- **Bryanna Wilson** of Arcadia High School, daughter of April Wilson

## 2024 Youth Tour

**Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:** Kate Ernst, daughter of Chad and Lori Ernst

**Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:** Alex Basinger, son of Tina and Mark Basinger





## 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](http://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.

#### **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**

**Gene Barker**  
Chairman

**William Kale**  
Vice Chairman

**Duane Fry**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

**Tim Phillips**

**Ed Crawford**

**Charles Beagle**

**Ron Riegle**

**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)

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