

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

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



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's annual business meeting, which reviews the cooperative's financial information, construction projects, and our election results from districts 3, 6, and 8, will remain virtual this year.

The 2025 virtual annual meeting will be held on June 11 at 10 a.m. To participate in the virtual meeting, simply register on our website at 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. The video will be available for viewing on our YouTube page, on our Facebook page, and at www.hwe.coop. Members in District 6 will be receiving election ballots to vote for a trustee to represent their district. Members will be able to vote online or by mail; we cannot accept any ballots at our office.

Annual Meeting Official Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING The annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will take place virtually on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

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, 2025,
by Duane Fry, secretary-treasurer,
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The following meeting minutes will be approved at the 2025 Virtual Annual Meeting on June 11:

Minutes of Annual Meeting – Wednesday, June 12, 10:00am-10:30am

The 86th Annual Meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held virtually on June 12, 2024, 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 10:00 a.m. and Duane Fry 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 by HWE member Andy Fisher and seconded by HWE member Jennifer Huffman to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

The Election Committee report was given by the chair of the Election Committee, Duane Fry. The Board of Trustees recommended six changes to the Code of Regulations in the 2024 election. The results are as followed:

Change 1 – removal of membership certificates – **Passed**

Change 2 – service area more defined – **Passed**

Change 3 – extending term limits – **Passed**

Change 4 – uncontested election update – **Passed**

Change 5 – separating secretary and treasurer – **Passed**

Change 6 – capital credit via electronic notice – **Passed**

This year districts 1, 4 and 5 requested interested members to submit petitions to run for a board seat.

The election committee report is as follows:

- Tim Phillips representing district 1.
- Max Rader representing district 4.
- Ed Crawford representing district 5.

A motion was made by Fisher to accept the Election Committee report as presented, and Huffman seconded the motion. 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. He reviewed the following items: trustee accomplishments strategic planning update, 2023 ACSI survey, 2023 patronage reimbursement to members, new member appreciation day format, and an update on the economic development progress.

Barnhart gave the president's report. He reviewed 2023 staffing updates, outage statistics for 2023, and the cooperative's future plans.

Pat O'Loughlin President and CEO of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives provided a statewide update.

Barker adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

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- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- 2) Fax: 202-690-7442; or
- 3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Districts 3 and 8 elect trustee candidates who ran uncontested

Because no other members submitted petitions to run for the board, a formal election for the following districts is not necessary and these districts will not receive ballots. This saves the co-op mail and election costs. The two candidates will be elected by affirmation and be sworn into office during the June annual meeting.

District 3



Lee Anne Dierksheide

Dierksheide has served as a Hancock-Wood Electric board member for the last six years and is currently serving as the board vice chair. Dierksheide has been a Hancock-Wood member for more than 50 years. She is a graduate of Elmwood High School and attended classes at the Cleveland Institute of Art. She is retired from the United States Postal Service, where she was a rural mail carrier for 29 years. Dierksheide also worked in the Wood County Planning Commission and Building Inspection Office.

She is also a charter member of the Bowling Green Area Community Band, member of the American Legion Post 183 Auxiliary, and has been the president of the Wood-Lucas County Rural Letter Carriers Association. Dierksheide and her husband, Tom, have two children, Jennifer (Brian) Ruckstuhl and Kelli (Brett) Young

District 8



James Rose

Rose is a graduate of Riverdale High School. He is a self-employed carpenter with 40 years of experience and has also worked for Worthington Industries for nine years and is a farmer.

Rose has been a Delaware Township Trustee for eight years. He is also a member of the Grain Elevator Co-op. He and his wife, Susan, have a son, Raymond.

Ballots for District 6 will be mailed at the beginning of May, as we have two candidates on the ballot this year. For more information and to vote online, visit our website, www.hwe.coop.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

In May, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative 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 member-owners 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.



Children of Members Scholarship winners and 2025 Youth Tour delegates

Hancock-Wood is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025 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 four local students selected for the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

Children of Members Scholarships

1st place winner, Daniel Jung of Findlay High School, received the \$3,500 scholarship. He is the son of SeaHwa Jung and Su-Jung Shin.

2nd place winner, Lindsay Clarke of Findlay High School, received the \$3,000 scholarship. She is the daughter of James and Melanie Clarke.

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

- Grace Flippin of Liberty-Benton High School, daughter of Diana and Todd Flippin
- Isaiah Boyce of North Baltimore High School, son of Michael and Candace Boyce
- Clay Hurt of Arlington High School, son of Brian and Amy Hurt
- Lucas Harrington of Van Buren High School, son of Matt and Nicki Harrington
- Nicholas Schroeder of Leipsic High School, son of David and Jill Schroeder

2025 Youth Tour

Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:
Claire McDaniel, daughter of Christopher and Christine McDaniel

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

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

Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:
Bridget Brooks, daughter of Patrick and Lori Brooks

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Chairman

Lee Anne Dierksheide
Vice Chair

Duane Fry
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Ed Crawford

Tim Phillips

Max Rader

Ron Riegle

Brian Terry

Bill Barnhart

President and CEO

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

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

Members First! 
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