



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Standing up for reliable, affordable energy

I know our members look to Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative to provide electricity that is both reliable and affordable. For decades, we've been doing just that.

For about a year, though, electricity industry leaders have been talking about threats posed by proposed new regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In April, those rules were released, and the theoretical danger to energy availability in this country became all too real.

These regulations demand that coal-fired power plants essentially eliminate carbon dioxide emissions by 2032 or be shut down. The problem is that the required reductions aren't actually feasible because the technology needed for carbon capture and storage is still being developed and not yet commercially available.

What this means to our co-op

In the short term, Hancock-Wood will continue providing you the affordable, reliable electricity you expect from us. But I think all members should understand these new regulations threaten our ability to provide the same level of this vital service in the future.

Nearly 70% of generation capacity for Ohio's electric cooperatives comes from the Cardinal Power Plant, which delivers baseload power to more than a million people in 77 of Ohio's 88 counties. Member-owned Buckeye Power has spent more than \$1 billion on emissions controls at Cardinal, which has been recognized as one of the cleanest-operating coal-fired plants in the world.

Electricity from Cardinal Plant has helped Ohio's cooperatives avoid much of the recent volatility in energy prices and keep rate increases as low as possible. Without this always-available electricity supply, cooperative members would face significantly higher costs and an ever-growing likelihood of insufficient power availability and increasing risk of rolling blackouts.

What your co-op is doing

Please understand that we support environmentally responsible energy goals, including a well-planned and strategically executed transition to carbon-free electricity sources. Our all-of-the-above approach includes growth in renewable energy resources and ongoing reductions in

fossil-fuel dependence. Realistically, this transition requires more time than the EPA rules allow.

With that in mind, leaders from Ohio cooperatives joined others from around the country in Washington, D.C., in April both to educate legislators about reliability threats in the new rules and to encourage congressional action to stop their implementation.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

I, along with other co-op leaders, will continue to advocate for commonsense policies and realistic timelines for reducing carbon emissions while reinforcing the importance of reliable and affordable electricity. We expect the NRECA, our national trade group, and other reliable energy proponents to challenge the new regulations in court on behalf of all our members.

What you can do

As a member, you can stand up for energy reliability in several ways. First, you can educate yourself on the issues. Read details of the EPA rules and their implications starting on page 4 of this magazine. Follow Hancock-Wood on Facebook to stay on top of new developments. Research the energy policies supported by candidates for elected office, and support candidates who value reliable electricity.

Additionally, you can join other cooperative members from around the country to advocate for responsible energy policy through Voices for Cooperative Power. Visit <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com> to learn more about this grassroots effort. If you'd like to amplify your voice through political support for reliable energy advocates, join America's Electric Cooperatives PAC, which financially backs candidates who support the interests of electric cooperative members. Contact the cooperative at 800-445-4840 or info@hwe.coop to learn more or join.

Your cooperative, along with our statewide and national organizations, will always advocate for reliable, affordable energy for our members. I hope you will join us in these efforts.



VIRTUAL annual meeting



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 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, Facebook page and at www.hwe.coop.



Date
June 12, 2024



Time
At 10:00 A.M.



Hancock-Wood scholarship recipient **WINS THIRD PLACE** at statewide competition



Ava Loch of Findlay was awarded a \$2,800 scholarship at the Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' Children of Members Scholarship competition on April 16, 2024. Loch, the daughter of Britnie and Brian, was sponsored by Hancock-Wood. She is a senior at Findlay High School.

Twenty-four high school seniors representing each of the Ohio-based electric distribution cooperatives competed for \$51,000 in scholarships. A panel of independent judges reviewed the applications and interviewed the finalists before determining the scholarship winners.



Hancock-Wood would like to wish

Robyn Mercer, member service supervisor, a happy retirement. Robyn has worked in the member service department for 26 years.

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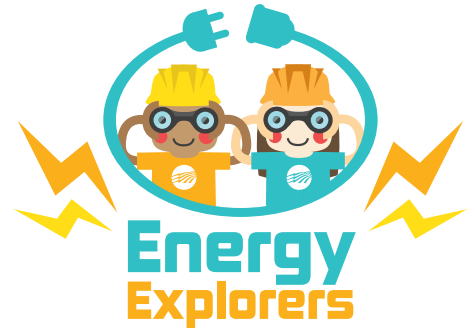
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WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key.

1. When possible, use _____ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
2. If you hear _____ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
3. Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
4. All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept _____.
5. Never handle electrical devices if you are _____ from swimming or other water activities.



WORD BANK

thunder

wet

battery

dry

electrical



Answer Key: 1) battery 2) thunder 3) electrical 4) dry 5) wet

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
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Members First!

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