

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

# Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative has another successful year

In June, the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees held the 86th annual meeting for the members. I am happy to report the cooperative continues to maintain our positive financial standing and has completed several goals over the past year, while also providing safe and reliable electricity to our membership.

**The 2024 trustee election results are as follows:**



Tim Phillips was reelected to serve as the District 1 trustee.



Ed Crawford was reelected to serve as the District 5 trustee.



Max Rader was elected to serve as the District 4 trustee.

**All six of the proposed Code of Regulations changes were approved by the membership. Those changes included:**

1. The removal of membership certificates, which were deemed unnecessary and created administrative burdens.
2. The service area definition was also updated to better clarify eligibility for membership.
3. The term limits for board members were extended from four to five terms, allowing for more continuity and retaining knowledge and investment in the trustees.
4. Uncontested election procedures update. 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.
5. Separating secretary and treasurer. 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.

6. Capital credits via electronic notifications. 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

The changes aim to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and make it easier for members to claim unreimbursed capital credits. The updates will help the cooperative better serve its members and improve its overall operations.

Hancock-Wood's primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of electric service, safely, at a fair price. The key measure of quality in the eyes of our members is the number of times their lights go out. In 2023, the average member experienced slightly less than one outage and a total of 70 outage minutes for the year. Hancock Wood crews responded quickly and safely to address outage issues. Even though our electrical system totals almost 1,587 miles of line and covers 10 counties, the average length of an outage was only 81 minutes. When compared to our five-year averages, members experienced half as much outage time. Our crews were not only available 24/7 to respond to electric service issues for our members, but they also provided mutual aid to other Ohio cooperatives, such as Midwest. By reaching out to assist other electric cooperatives with outage restoration, our crews demonstrate the cooperative principle of Cooperation among Cooperatives.

Hancock-Wood also reported on cooperative staffing changes, retirements, our safety improvement plan, Amplex partnership, and an update to our economic development efforts. To hear the entire update, visit our website [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop) or our YouTube page to watch the 2024 Annual Meeting.



**Bill Barnhart**  
 PRESIDENT & CEO

# HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

**BRANDT SCHULTE**  
*Linemen III*

Brandt is from Ottawa, OH and he has four older brothers. When he's not spending time with his family, you can find him riding ATVs, enjoying the outdoors, or hunting. His favorite sports team is the Buckeyes and his favorite restaurant is Fricker's.

Join us in welcoming Brandt to our team!



**Congratulations to Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative on their high member satisfaction score!**



Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, collected in May - June, 2024. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit [www.theacsi.org](http://www.theacsi.org).

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Hancock-Wood scholarship, applicants must be the child or legal ward of an HWE member or the child/ward of a person living on Hancock-Wood's lines. If your parents are Hancock-Wood members in their own name, regardless of residency, you are eligible to apply. Children of renters are only eligible if their parents receive electricity in their name, and employees of businesses on Hancock-Wood's lines and their children are not considered Hancock-Wood members.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY SCHOLARSHIP

Hancock-Wood sponsors a scholarship at the University of Findlay, open only to current U of F students (not incoming freshmen). If you have any questions, please contact the University of Findlay financial aid office at **419-434-6923**.

## OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Hancock-Wood also sponsors scholarships at Owens Community College, which has Toledo and Findlay campuses.

You must call their financial aid office at **567-429-3540** for information on how to apply.



Members First!

**HANCOCK-WOOD**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

# EXPLORE THE OHIO STATEHOUSE WITH YOUR COOPERATIVE

Hancock-Wood Electric is looking for high school sophomores and juniors to attend this year's Cooperative Youth Day in Columbus!

Do you know a high school student interested in history, government, and the political world? Encourage them to apply for this year's Cooperative Youth Day, being held on **Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024.**

**Questions? Contact our office at 800-445-4840 or email [marcy@hwe.coop](mailto:marcy@hwe.coop).**

Applying is easy! Simply visit our website, download a fillable PDF, and submit it to [marcy@hwe.coop](mailto:marcy@hwe.coop).

Cooperative Youth Day is also a great introduction to the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and students will be given additional information on this once-in-a-lifetime co-op opportunity during Youth Day.

## COOPERATIVE YOUTH DAY INCLUDES:

- Tour of the Ohio Statehouse
- The Ohio History Center
- Visits with our state legislators
- Breakfast and lunch for all participants
- The Ohio Statehouse Museum

**APPLY BY: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024**

### CONTACT

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

### WEBSITE

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

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
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**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)

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