

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

2026 annual meeting highlights

In June, the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative board of trustees held the cooperative's 88th Annual Meeting of 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.

Safety programs

Every year, Hancock-Wood evaluates its safety programs, establishes new objectives, and records these goals in our Safety Improvement Plan, or SIP. The SIP is reviewed and approved by your board of trustees. I'm happy to report the Hancock-Wood team did an amazing job completing the 2025 SIP goals. Those objectives included:

- Battery bank compliance at substations and remote locations.
- Radio procedures and responsibilities when dispatcher is not present.
- Creating an operational manual for each substation

Operations and maintenance:

The cooperative's industry-leading outage performance can be tied directly to effective operations and maintenance procedures. During 2025, the operations department:

- Tested 2,018 meters
- Inspected 15,826 poles
- Replaced 214 obsolete poles
- Inspected 633 miles of overhead line
- Contracted tree trimming for 792 miles of overhead line

Construction:

Along with proper O&M procedures to reduce outages, the operations and engineering departments continue to upgrade and replace facilities utilized to provide our members with electric service. A combination of Hancock-Wood and contract crews were utilized to complete the 2025 rebuild program. Approximately 19 miles of old and obsolete overhead distribution lines were replaced for \$1.6 million.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

2026 Board election

2026 board of trustees election results are:



DISTRICT 2
BILL KALE



DISTRICT 7
CHARLES BEAGLE



DISTRICT 9
MARCUS MUSTER

To hear the entire update, visit our website at www.hwe.coop or our YouTube page to watch the 2026 annual meeting.

Join us for Member Appreciation Week!

Please join us for our Member Appreciation Week, August 24 to 28! All members are invited to stop by our office from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each membership will receive a \$15 bill credit, along with a T-shirt (one T-shirt per membership) and more! Don't forget to bring your four-legged friend for a chance to win a PetSmart gift card! One pet will be chosen each day.



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Living the cooperative principles: Concern for Community in action

At Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, our mission extends beyond providing safe, reliable electricity. As a cooperative, we are guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, which help shape our decisions and strengthen the communities we serve.

These principles include:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

While all seven principles are important, the seventh principle — Concern for Community — is one that our members see in action every day.

What Does “Concern for Community” Mean?

Cooperatives exist to serve people, not make profits. That means looking beyond our poles and power lines to support the communities where our members live, work, and raise their families. Concern for Community encourages cooperatives to work toward the sustainable development and well-being of their local communities.

At Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, this principle is more than a statement — it's a commitment.

Building stronger communities together

In May, HWE employees volunteered their time and skills to assist with the rehabilitation

of a local Wood County Habitat for Humanity home. Their efforts helped improve a family's home while demonstrating the cooperative spirit that has been at the heart of our organization for generations. This project reflects what cooperatives do best: neighbors helping neighbors and working together to make our communities stronger.

Supporting local safety initiatives

Concern for Community also means investing in programs that improve the quality of life for our members. In May, The Operation Round Up Community Trust Fund provided funding to the Special Deputies Organization of Hancock County to support their project to fund an underwater search and recovery program that benefits residents and enhances public safety.

Partnerships like these allow us to support the organizations that serve our communities every day and help ensure our neighborhoods remain safe and vibrant places to live.

More than electricity

Whether we're supporting local schools, nonprofit organizations, first responders, community events, youth programs, or volunteer projects, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative is proud to invest in the people and places that make our service territory special. As a member-owned cooperative, we believe our success is directly connected to the success of our communities. By living the Seven Cooperative Principles — especially Concern for Community — we can continue building a brighter future together.

Thank you for being part of the cooperative difference.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality — helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

One of the best ways to protect yourself from online scams is by using strong passwords. While many people focus on complexity — adding symbols, numbers and capital letters — password length is equally important. A longer password or passphrase is generally harder for cybercriminals to crack than a short, complex one. Consider creating a memorable phrase made up of several unrelated words, and avoid using personal information like birthdays or pet names. Use a unique password for each account and enable multi-factor authentication when possible. Taking these simple steps can help keep your personal information and online accounts secure.

Source: CISA



The Hancock-Wood office
will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7
to observe Labor Day.

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
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