

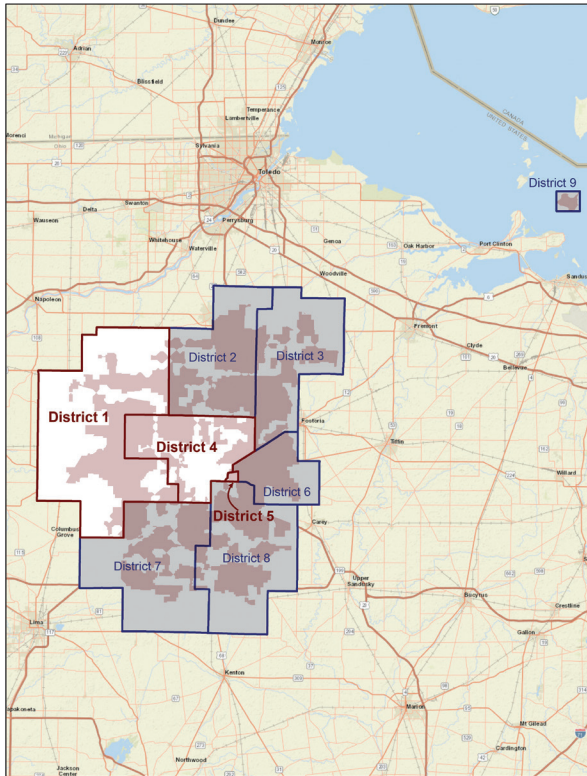


MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Now accepting petitions for the 2024 board election

Being a member-consumer of an electric cooperative means you have a say in the matters that affect you and your community. Hancock-Wood Electric is guided by a member-elected board of trustees, which is responsible for making decisions related to the co-op's financial goals and other policies. If you're interested in taking a more active role in your cooperative, we urge you to consider running for a seat on the board.

A trustee should have the best interests of the cooperative at heart, without placing his or her own interest or agenda first; no one should serve on the board solely to assist the cooperative or for any personal gain.



Trustee candidates should have the capability to guide the president and CEO through the formulation of sound policies that both protect the financial and operating integrity of the cooperative and protect the rights of the membership.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Members who live in districts 1, 4, or 5 are eligible to run for the board in 2024. District 1 consists of portions of Putnam and Henry counties. District 4 consists of portions of Putnam, Henry, and Wood counties and District 5 consists of Hancock County (east side of Findlay). Not sure which district you're in? Check your bill, where it's noted on the top right, or you can call our office to verify. If you are a qualified member in one of those districts, you can obtain a petition form from our office or at www.hwe.coop. After collecting the required signatures, return your petition form to the office by the March 15 deadline and your name will be placed on the election ballots sent to members in May. The results of our elections will be announced during our virtual annual meeting.

Any eligible member may become a trustee on the board, and each district is designated by geographic area. In addition to completing the petition form, a member must:

- Have been a member for at least three years.
- Not have been an employee for three years prior.
- Not be closely related to an employee.
- Not be employed by a financially interested competing enterprise, or a business selling electric power or supplies to the cooperative.

If you have any questions about the petition process or the election, please feel free to call our office at 800-445-4840 or email us at info@hwe.coop.

2024 Election Timeline

March 15	●	Petition deadline
April 1	●	President and CEO meets with candidates to provide election documents
May 1	●	Mailing of director election ballots (voting opens)
May 22	●	Return date for director election ballots (voting ends)
June 12	●	Virtual annual meeting

Congratulations



Marquette and Riegle graduate statewide leadership program

Hancock-Wood Electric's Manager of Information Technology Ryan Marquette and Line Superintendent Allen Riegle graduated from a statewide program aiming to hone the skills of the next generation of electric cooperative leaders.

The one-year Cooperative Leadership Edge program was hosted by Hancock-Wood's trade association, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, and required six courses, two assessments, and a capstone project. Coursework focused on coaching employees, managing conflict, adapting communication approaches, carrying out difficult conversations and delivering results.



Barnhart graduates statewide leadership program

Hancock-Wood Electric's President and CEO Bill Barnhart has graduated from a statewide program aiming to strengthen the leadership skills of Ohio's electric cooperative general managers and CEOs.

The five-month Leadership Excellence program was hosted by Hancock-Wood's trade association, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, and required five courses and assessments between each session. The program's coursework is focused on improving operational efficiencies, overall performance, and bottom-line results through enhanced collaboration and teamwork, recruiting and retaining talent, aligning teams to focus on a common goal, and creating a climate of trust.



How extreme winter weather affects reliability

When outdoor temperatures drop, our electricity use increases. That's because we're doing more activities inside, and our heating systems are running longer and more often to counteract colder outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same times — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, we work closely with our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T.

In winter months, when even more electricity is being used simultaneously across the country, it is possible for electricity demand to exceed supply, especially if an unexpected event like a sudden snow or ice storm or equipment malfunction occurs. If this happens, which is rare, the grid operator for our region of the country may call for rolling power outages to relieve pressure on the grid, and Hancock-Wood will inform you about the situation.

Hancock-Wood and our G&T, Buckeye Power, take proactive steps to create a resilient portion of the grid and ensure electric reliability in extreme weather, including regular system maintenance, grid modernization efforts, and disaster response planning, but it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

- Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat

temp and the outdoor temp. Pro tip: Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

- Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens, and clothes dryers. Pro tip: Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.
- Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation. Pro tip: Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.
- When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs. Pro tip: Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
- Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy. Pro tip: Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

As we face the challenges posed by winter weather, understanding its impact on energy demand is crucial for maintaining a reliable power supply. By adopting energy conservation practices during periods of extreme cold, not only can you save money on your electric bills, but you can also each contribute to the resilience of the power grid, keeping our local community warm and connected.





Community Trust Fund

Community Trust Fund board member Karen Schuh served her last Operation Round Up meeting in November. HWE would like to thank her for eight years of service on the CTF board.

Juniors and seniors can win a trip to Washington, D.C.

on an annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The selected winners will also receive a \$500 scholarship in addition to the trip. Students learn about our nation's capital, the government, and rural electric cooperatives while seeing the historic and cultural sights of the Washington, D.C., area. The Youth Tour program is an annual opportunity for more than 1,500 high school students from across the nation to represent their electric co-ops in our nation's capital. For rules and application, visit our website www.hwe.coop.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 16, 2024, by 4:30 p.m.

Each summer, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative sponsors up to four students



Happy Presidents Day

Our office will be closed Feb. 19 in observation of Presidents Day.

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

Gene Barker
Chairman

William Kale
Vice Chairman

Duane Fry
Secretary/Treasurer

Lee Anne Dierksheide
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Tim Phillips

Ed Crawford

Charles Beagle

Ron Riegler

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

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