

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Be ready for storm season

Preparedness is the best defense



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Spring is on our doorstep and, like many of you, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Hancock-Wood's crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials like diapers and toiletries.
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA weather radio for storm and emergency information, and check Hancock-Wood's Facebook page for restoration updates.

Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and follow us on Facebook for the latest power restoration updates. If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 800-445-4840 — this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.

I hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Hancock-Wood, we recommend that you make a plan today, because storm preparedness is always our best defense.



Are you interested in running for our board of trustees?

Did you know you have a say in how your electric cooperative operates?

Members who live in districts 3, 6, or 8 are eligible to run for our member-operated board. Simply complete a petition and return it to our office by March 13 to be on the election ballot.

Visit our website www.hwe.coop, or give us a call for more details at 800-445-4840.

SPRING FLING BINGO

Join us on **March 20** for a Spring Fling Bingo Day at the co-op! This is a free members-only event and will run from 1 p.m. to 3p.m. Members will enjoy bingo with gift card prizes. Please call our office to register. Seating is limited to **50 members**.

No children under 18 are permitted to attend.



Unclaimed capital credits

Each year, Hancock-Wood returns patronage capital to members as tangible evidence of one of the benefits of being a cooperative member. Last December, the board of trustees retired more than \$3 million to HWE members. On our website, there is a search option with the names of past members who are nearly out of time to claim their patronage capital checks. According to our code of regulations, if a past member fails to claim patronage capital within four years of its issuance, the money is allocated to current members' patronage accounts.

Scan the QR code below to search for a past member's name.



2025

Rebate program

Hancock-Wood offers residential rebate programs to our members.

Members can save up to \$900 by applying for the following rebates.

- Mini-split ductless heat pump
- Air conditioning
- Clothes washer
- Electric vehicle charger
- Freezer
- Geothermal system
- Heat pump electric water heater
- HVAC maintenance
- LED lighting
- Refrigerator
- Water heater
- Weatherization for DIY or professional installation



Visit our website at www.hwe.coop for more information.

New employees join the co-op family

In January, Hancock-Wood welcomed the following employees in their respective roles:



Caleb Masters,
IT technician



Isaac Gaietto,
Apprentice lineworker



Wilson Otto,
Lineworker

We are excited for each of the new employees to begin his career at HWE!

CONTACT

800-445-4840
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WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Kale
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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 