

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# 2023 Rate adjustment effective in June

Americans have seen the prices of many items – like groceries and gas – increase in the past few years and your electric provider has experienced rising costs, too. As you can see in the graphic below, our material costs alone have increased significantly.

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative has been fortunate to have not needed a rate increase since 2018, but a cost-of-service study conducted this past winter made it clear that a rate adjustment was necessary. Hancock-Wood's board and staff were involved in the study, which was conducted through the Prime Group, with results presented to the board of trustees. The board then implemented rate changes recommended through the cost-of-service study.

Beginning in June, the average residential member will see an approximate increase of just \$7 on their monthly bill. Also in June, Hancock-Wood will implement a time-of-day rate. To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops have created a time-of-day rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours, when energy is less expensive to provide. Like saving money by attending a matinee, members can keep more money in their wallets simply by using electricity during off-peak time periods. More information about the time-of-day rate is available on our website.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the base cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the customer charge each month to cover basic operational costs. All members are charged the same amount for the cost of operation since all members benefit from the same service. In essence, this gives each co-op member an equal share in Hancock-Wood's operation.

Your co-op is continually looking for ways to operate more efficiently and keep costs stable. As a member, you also can take energy efficiency measures to reduce costs. Every kilowatt-hour the cooperative's members avoid using is one the cooperative doesn't have to purchase and deliver. This magazine and our website

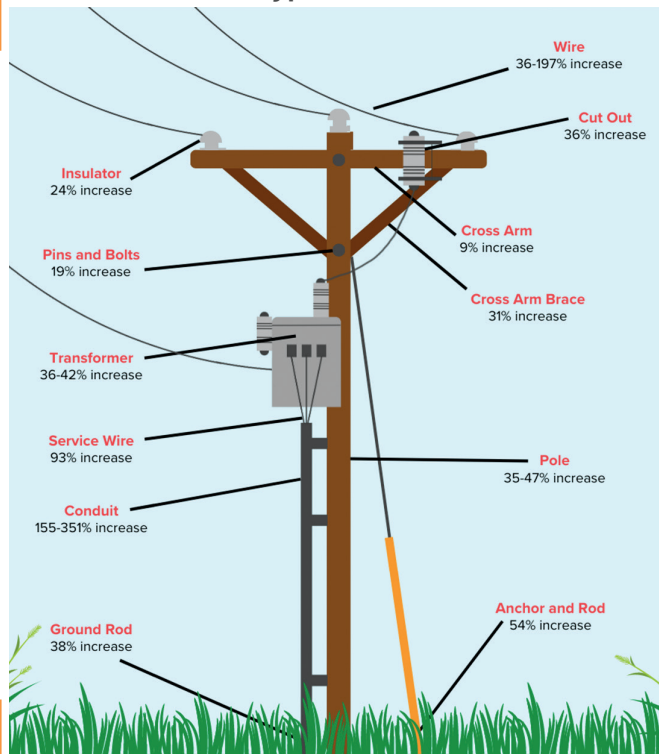
provide many great ways to save on electricity and better manage your energy use.

Additionally, we invest in technology to improve reliability, operations, and efficiency. Hancock-Wood operates by the cooperative difference. As a cooperative, we are not driven by profits and making a return for shareholders; rather, we are service-driven and operate at cost. Our focus is on keeping the business financially strong on behalf of all members, to continue to provide safe, reliable service at the lowest practical cost.



Bill Barnhart  
PRESIDENT & CEO

### Price increases on typical materials since 2021



## HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative announces SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Hancock-Wood trustees presented scholarships to this year's winners. Top row, from left: Trustees Bill Kale, Gene Barker, Tom Kagy, Duane Fry, Lee Anne Dierksheide, Ed Crawford, Tim Phillips, Brian Terry, and Charlie Beagle, President and CEO Bill Barnhart. Bottom row, from left: Jada Todd, Claire Kreischer, Brandon Maag, Andrew Baden, Edison Eschedor, Andrew Sowders, and Dominick Hudson.

Hancock-Wood is pleased to announce the 2023 Children of Members Scholarship recipients. Applications were screened by the Scholarship Committee for academic achievement, including GPA and ACT/SAT test scores, and the variety and quality of extracurricular and community activities. In addition, Hancock-Wood recognizes the two local students selected for the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

### Children of Members Scholarships

**1st place winner, \$2,750:** Katherine Oestreich, Eastwood High School, daughter of Matt and Leslie Oestreich. She went on to compete at the statewide competition and won third place, earning an additional \$2,600 scholarship.

**2nd place winner, \$2,250:** Jada Todd, Liberty-Benton High School, daughter of Jeff and Julie Todd

**3rd place winner, \$1,950:** Claire Kreischer, Ottawa-Glandorf High School, daughter of Tara and Tom Hilty

**4th place winner, \$1,750:** Rylar Essinger, Arlington High School, son of Brian and Stacy Essinger

**5th place winner, \$1,500:** Brandon Maag, Liberty-Benton High School, son of Albert and Mary Maag

**6th place winner, \$1,250:** Andrew Baden, Patrick Henry High School, son of Steve and Tricia Baden

**7th place winner, \$1,000:** Edison Eschedor, Bowling Green High School, son of Scott and Bethany Eschedor

### 2023 Youth Tour

**Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:** Dominick Hudson, son of Allison Rodriguez

**Delegate, plus \$500 scholarship:** Andrew Sowders, son of Gary and Jennifer Sowders



Katherine Oestreich



Rylar Essinger

## Spring legislative meeting

Thank you to all our members who joined us for our Spring Legislative Event! Special thanks to U.S. Congressman Bob Latta, State Senator Theresa Gavarone, Tim Mayle with the Center for Advanced Manufacturing, and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives COO Craig Grooms and Director of Government Affairs Marc Armstrong, who presented about the latest political issues directly affecting Hancock-Wood members.



# Districts 2 and 9 re-elected board of trustees candidates who ran uncontested

Because no other members submitted petitions to run for the board, a formal election for the following districts is not necessary and these districts will not receive ballots. This saves the co-op mail and election costs. The two incumbent trustees will be reelected by affirmation.

## District 2

**William P. Kale** of 12555 Cloverdale Road, Portage. He has recently retired from The Andersons INC, Maumee, Ohio, after 28 years of service and currently farms row crops with his wife, Nicola, in Wood, Hancock, and Sandusky counties. Kale is the current board vice chairman of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative. He served on the Wood County Fair Board for 24 years, holding various offices, including president for seven years. He attends Trinity United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, and currently is serving as chairman of the trustees. Kale is a graduate of Bowling Green High School and attended Heidelberg University. He and his wife have two married daughters and four grandchildren.



## District 9

**Brian Terry** of 515 E. Lakeshore Drive, Kelleys Island, Erie County, has been employed at the Kelleys Island Portside Marina and Dockers restaurant for 15 years and is the current general manager. He has also served on the Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department for three years and the Kelleys Island EMS for one year. Terry attended Kelleys Island High School and received an associate's degree in computer networking from Bowling Green State University – Firelands.



**Ballots for District 7 will be mailed at the beginning of May, as we have three candidates on the ballot this year. For more information and to vote online, visit our website, [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop).**

## Annual Meeting Official Notice

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will take place virtually on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Items of business to be considered include:

- Officers' and auditor's reports
- Report on the election of trustees
- Any other pertinent matters that may come up before the adjournment of the meeting

Signed this day, March 31, 2023, by Tom Kagy, secretary-treasurer, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

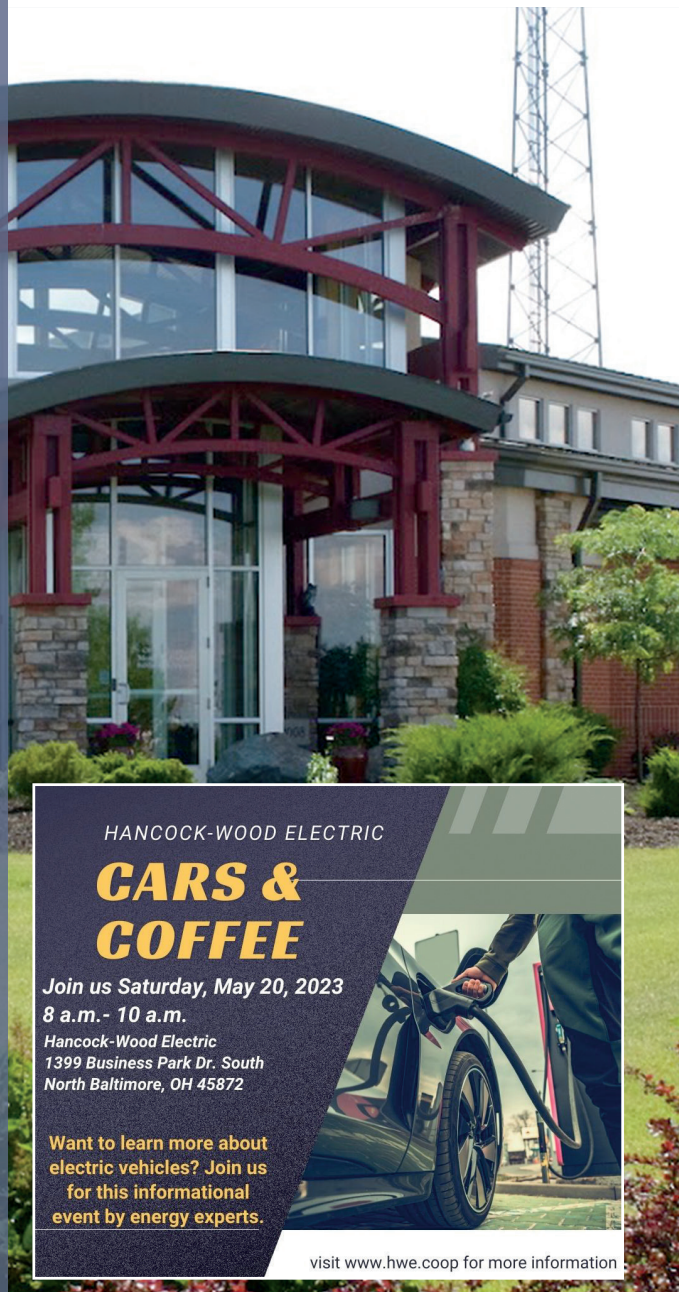


# HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## 2023 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY IS JUNE 6

Mark your calendar for our upcoming **2023 Member Appreciation Day on Tuesday, June 6!** This will be a drive-through event from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at our office, 1399 Business Park Drive South, North Baltimore.

All members who attend will receive a \$15 bill credit and a giveaway bag, while supplies last. Members in attendance will also have a chance to win a \$100 bill credit; we will be drawing 10 members after the event. RSVP today by returning the card on the cover of this magazine or email us your information to [info@hwe.coop](mailto:info@hwe.coop).



HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC

### CARS & COFFEE

Join us Saturday, May 20, 2023  
8 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Hancock-Wood Electric  
1399 Business Park Dr. South  
North Baltimore, OH 45872

Want to learn more about electric vehicles? Join us for this informational event by energy experts.

visit [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop) for more information

#### CONTACT

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

#### WEBSITE

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

**Tom Kagy**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
Assistant Secretary

**Tim Phillips**

**Ed Crawford**

**Duane Fry**

**Charles Beagle**

**Ron Riegle**

**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)

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