



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Register for our virtual annual meeting and be entered to win **\$300**



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

The 2026 virtual annual meeting will be held on June 10 at 10 a.m. To participate in the virtual meeting, simply register on our website at www.hwe.coop and a link will be sent to your email prior to the 10 a.m. meeting. All members who register to attend will be placed in a drawing for a \$300 bill credit. Our annual business meeting, which reviews the cooperative's financial information, construction projects, and our election results from districts 2, 7, and 9, will be virtual for all members to attend. The video will be available for viewing on our YouTube page, on our Facebook page, and at www.hwe.coop. Members in districts 2 and 9 will be receiving election ballots to vote for trustees to represent their respective districts. Members will be able to vote online or by mail; we cannot accept any ballots at our office.

Annual Meeting Official Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING The annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will take place virtually at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

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, 2026,
by Duane Fry, secretary-treasurer,
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

The following meeting minutes will be approved at the 2026 Virtual Annual Meeting on June 10:

Minutes of Annual Meeting 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The 87th Annual Meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held virtually on June 11, 2025, at the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative Office, North Baltimore, Ohio. Chairman Bill Kale opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chair Lee Anne Dierksheide provided the invocation.

Kale called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Duane Fry Secretary/Treasurer, read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting and the Proof of Mailing. Kale announced last year's Annual Meeting minutes, from June 12, 2024, were distributed and called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. A motion was made by Ed Crawford and seconded by Tim Phillips to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

The Election Committee report was given by the chair of the Election Committee, Brian Terry. This year districts 3, 6, and 8 requested interested members to submit petitions to run for a board seat.

The election committee report is as follows:

- Lee Anne Dierksheide elected representing district 3.
- Duane Fry elected representing district 6.
- Jim Rose elected representing district 8.

A motion was made by Kale to accept the Election Committee report as presented, and Phillips seconded the motion. Pat Sadowski, the corporate general counsel, swore in the trustees.

Earl Ridlen, managing partner with LWG CPA presented the audit results with a clean opinion for the audit statement of Hancock-Wood.

Kale presented his report to members. He reviewed the following items: trustee accomplishments, strategic planning updates, ACSI score, events overview, patronage capital, economic development update and an ORU recap.

Barnhart gave the president's report. He reviewed staffing updates, safety improvement plan goals, reliability, Rural Electric Cyber Advancement Program, operation and maintenance update, construction update, Amplex efforts, political action, Touchstone Energy commercial involvement and a Prism Propane update.

Craig Grooms President and CEO of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives provided a statewide update.

Kale adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your thoughts and opinions on Hancock-Wood Electric
help us better serve you.

In May, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will be working with NRECA Market Research Services to complete member satisfaction surveys.

The random surveys will be conducted by phone and email, and not everyone will be contacted. If you are contacted, we would greatly appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your opinions about the cooperative. All information is confidential.

We strive to provide all member-owners with safe, affordable, reliable, and clean electric service. By participating in the survey, you will help us make decisions that benefit you, your family, and your neighbors.





Front row, from left: Lane Hill, Phinehas Snoke, Ava Tassler, Adin Metzger, Lucas Crates, Odessa Musgrave, Hank Walters, Jillian Heacock, Becca Hathaway, and Reagan Wenzinger. Back row, the Hancock-Wood Board of Trustees, from left: Tim Phillips, Lee Anne Dierksheide, Duane Fry, Ed Crawford, Charles Beagle, James Rose, Max Rader, and Brian Terry.

2026 scholarship and Youth Tour winners

Hancock-Wood Electric is committed to supporting our youth and strengthening the communities we serve. Guided by our seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, we proudly uphold this commitment through our annual scholarship and Youth Tour programs.

This year, we expanded our efforts by introducing three new scholarships for students pursuing trade school education after high school. We are honored to recognize an outstanding group of students and are proud to present the following awards:

Children of Members Scholarships

1st place: Hank Walters, Cory-Rawson High School, was awarded \$3,500.

2nd place: Lucas Crates, Findlay High School, was awarded \$3,000.

Six students received Honorable Mention and were awarded \$2,000 each:

- Caroline Bryan, McComb High School
- Dylan Shaheen, Arlington High School
- Zachary Lammers, Leipsic High School
- Lane Hill, Carey High School
- Adin Metzger, Bowling Green High School
- Ava Tassler, Napoleon High School

New this year, HWE awarded three \$1,000 Trade School Scholarships to the following students:

- Odessa Musgrave, Vanlue High School
- Phinehas Snoke, Homeschooled
- Brady Lance, Van Buren High School

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour traces its origins to NRECA's 1957 Annual Meeting, when then-Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson said in his address to the association, "If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital, where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." More than 100,000 young people from all over the country have participated in this annual trip to Washington, D.C. This year's delegates will be going on the trip to Washington with students from the other Ohio cooperatives from June 14 to 20.

The following sophomores were selected as our 2026 Youth Tour delegates:

- Reagan Wenzinger, Leipsic High School
- Jillian Heacock, Arlington High School
- Becca Hathaway, Patrick Henry High School



Charles Beagle reelected to District 7

Because no other members submitted petitions to run for the board, a formal election for district 7 is not necessary and the members in this district will not receive ballots. This saves the co-op mailing and election costs. Charles Beagle will be elected by affirmation and be sworn into office during the June annual meeting.

Charles Beagle of 10416 Co. Rd. 26, Findlay has been a self-employed electrician for the past 31 years and has farmed for the past 41 years. Beagle is the current president of the Hancock

County Cattleman's Association and has been a Hancock-Wood member since 1983. He graduated from Northwest Business College with a concentration in mechanical diesel and attended Arlington High School. Beagle is married to Karla. He has three children, Levi, Lyle, and Travis, and three stepchildren, Tara, Tyler, and Tiffany.

Ballots for districts 2 and 9 will be mailed at the beginning of May, as we have two candidates on the ballot this year. For more information and to vote online, visit our website, www.hwe.coop

CONTACT

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WEBSITE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William Kale
Chairman

Lee Anne Dierksheide
Vice Chair

Duane Fry
Secretary

Charles Beagle

Ed Crawford

Tim Phillips

Max Rader

Jim Rose

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 