

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# Preparing to serve you better

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for Hancock-Wood Electric. These days, power reliability seems to be making news more than ever. As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, including vehicles, machinery, and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid.

With summer storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do, too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages. That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. An ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Hancock-Wood to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

## Modernizing vegetation management

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability. However, traditional vegetation management

is costly and time-consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Although this approach has worked for decades, advances and improvements in technology have allowed us to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

## Planned outages improve reliability

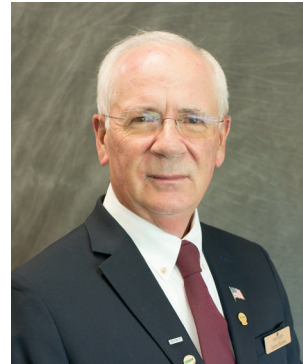
Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, our co-op can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Planned outages can also be used to balance energy demand, but only in rare circumstances. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest emails or texts.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

Lastly, I encourage you to follow Hancock-Wood on social media so you can learn about the latest co-op updates.

# Barker and Riegle earn board leadership certification

Recently, Chairman Gene Barker of District 4 and Trustee Ron Riegle of District 8 completed their Board Leadership Certification. In order to fulfill duties, HWE trustees complete varying levels of certification through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. HWE encourages all its trustees to earn these certifications because the coursework required dramatically broadens a trustee's knowledge of the electric cooperative industry, thereby enhancing his or her value to all HWE's member-consumers. All electric cooperatives in the U.S. utilize similar training. The first required certificate is the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), which covers director duties, board operation, strategic planning, and more. After receiving the CCD, the trustee then goes on to the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), which provides specialized knowledge in power supply, the cooperative business model, technology, and more. The final certification is the Director Gold Credential, which is required to be completed every two years.



Gene Barker of District 4



Ron Riegle of District 8

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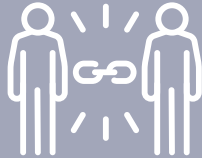
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# 2023 Member Appreciation Day



June 6



Mark your calendar for our upcoming 2023 Member Appreciation Day on Tuesday, June 6! The event will be a drive-through from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at our office, located at 1399 Business Park Drive South, North Baltimore. All members who attend will receive a \$15 bill credit (one bill credit per membership) 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. We hope to see you there!

## Register now for our virtual annual meeting on June 10

Hancock-Wood's virtual annual meeting will be broadcast on June 10, 2023. The virtual annual meeting will highlight the year at Hancock-Wood Electric, our audit information, and the election results. All members can access this video through our YouTube page, a link on our website ([www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)), or a link on our Facebook page. You can register with us through [info@hwe.coop](mailto:info@hwe.coop) and a direct link will be sent to your email address.

Below are the 2022 annual meeting minutes for the membership to review. During the June 10, 2023, meeting, members will be asked to accept the following minutes.

### HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### Minutes of Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The 83rd Annual Meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held virtually on June 11, 2022, at the Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative Office, North Baltimore, Ohio.

Chairman Gene Barker opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chair Bill Kale provided the invocation.

Barker called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Tom Kagy, secretary/treasurer, read the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting and the Proof of Mailing. Barker announced last year's annual meeting minutes, from June 12, 2021, were distributed and called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

The Election Committee report was given by Kagy. Members voted on a code of regulation change to go from a nomination process to a petition process and the change was approved

by the membership. Members in districts 3, 6, and 9 elected trustees to represent them for terms of three years each. The following were elected in their respective districts: District 3, Lee Anne Dierksheide; District 6, Duane Fry; and District 9, Ron Riegle. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Election Committee. The motion passed. Bret Spaeth, 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. Barker gave a report on the success of the Operation Round Up fund. A total of \$75,664.05 was donated in 2021. All funds have been invested back into our local communities.

Barker presented his report to the members. He thanked past CEO and President George Walton for the work he achieved at the cooperative during his time and stated Bill Barnhart was named the interim CEO and president in July and made permanent in November of 2021. Barker reviewed the following items: key strategic goals for Hancock-Wood, the 2021 ACSI score, patronage to members in 2021, and the cooperative's economic development efforts.

Barnhart gave the president's report. He reviewed the 2021 outage statistics and operations projects completed over the year, OurSolar expansion, the construction workplan approval for 2022, fiber to the home, and a Prism Propane update.

Pat O'Loughlin, president and CEO of Ohio's Electric Cooperative, provided a statewide update.

Barker adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m. and noted he and the company president would be available for any questions after the meeting.

## Think Energy \$mart *with* Bruce

I often get asked if it is a good idea to replace old windows in a home to save money or energy. To the relief of homeowners, I most often tell them to keep the windows they have. The simple payback in energy savings for replacing a typical 25-year-old double pane window typically takes at least 15 years. If they are having problems with a specific window, I suggest repairing or replacing that window only.

If a window is damaged or fogged up constantly, have it checked by a professional to make recommendations on repairing or replacing it. A window should not be replaced just because it is older. A typical residential window will last 20 to 50 years. Thirty years is a wide replacement timeframe for windows and many factors will affect each window's lifespan.

Moisture is the biggest problem that causes failure of a window, much as it does for many other building materials. Moisture can affect a window in several different ways.

Outside moisture from rain or snow can cause window failure, entering when the outdoor cladding system is damaged or not correctly installed. All windows should be inspected annually for damage. Excess indoor moisture can also cause premature window failure. Excess moisture allows condensation to build up on the window surface, causing mold, mildew and rotting of the window material. Always monitor inside humidity

levels to maintain them between 30% and 50% Rh. Window treatments may also prevent warm air from reaching windows, causing excess condensation. In the winter, check your windows monthly for excess moisture.

A draft near your windows may be caused by issues in the area around the window, where the trim is installed, rather than by the window itself. Identify the problem area to determine whether sealing the area around the window by removing the wood trim — instead of replacing the window — can fix your issue.

If you have any other window or energy questions please contact me at 419-257-5025 or [bruce@hwe.coop](mailto:bruce@hwe.coop).

*Bruce Warnecke is Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's energy advisor. He's been helping members learn how to save energy — and money — for more than eight years.*



### CONTACT

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FAX: 419-257-3024

### WEBSITE

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

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
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**Ed Crawford**

**Duane Fry**

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**Ron Riegler**

**Brian Terry**

### Bill Barnhart

President and CEO

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### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:  
[leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)

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