

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Many cooperatives, one strong voice in Washington

One electric cooperative doesn't have much influence on federal policy. But hundreds of cooperatives, working together, provide a strong voice that can encourage legislators to consider the concerns and needs of co-ops and their members.

Such strength in unity is what brings leaders from co-ops around the country to Washington, D.C., each April for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference. This year, about 70 leaders from Ohio cooperatives and our statewide association joined nearly 2,000 colleagues from other states for the two-day conference. Hancock-Wood Electric was represented by District 5 Trustee Ed Crawford and myself.

The stakes are high. Federal regulations affect generation and transmission cooperatives' ability to produce and transport the electricity needed to power the homes and businesses of members of distribution co-ops like Hancock-Wood. Federal policy also directly influences how efficiently and cost-effectively co-ops like ours can make system improvements to provide the reliable, affordable energy our members need and expect.

During the legislative conference, we met with Sen. Bernie Moreno, Rep. Bob Latta, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, and Rep. David Joyce and discussed several key topics, including:

- Environmental Protection Agency regulations: The previous administration ushered in a suite of EPA rules that were harmful to power generation, imposing significant new costs and threatening the reliability of electricity for cooperatives.
- Permitting reform: The federal government has enacted many regulations that make it difficult

to obtain permits for new infrastructure to increase and improve electrical generation, transmission, and distribution. As the demand for power increases, we need to be able to act more quickly in permitting and siting projects that will ensure there's enough energy being produced and getting where it needs to be to meet our members' needs.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

- The Rural Utilities Service loan program: Since their advent in the 1930s, electric co-ops have been able to use federal loans to build and improve infrastructure to ensure rural areas have access to adequate electricity. We're asking legislators to support continued funding for RUS loans, which are an important part of how co-ops finance key projects. Cooperatives borrow through these loans then repay them with interest, so it's a win-win situation for the co-ops and the treasury

Generally, we get a good reception from Ohio's elected officials when we talk to them. We're familiar faces, we come back every year, and our legislators like to hear what's on the mind of electric co-ops.

This annual conference is a great grassroots show of force that reminds legislators of the importance of electric co-ops and constituents in rural areas. Cooperatives aren't necessarily the biggest voice in Washington, but when we come together, we amplify our voices for the benefit of our co-ops and our members.

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS

Join us for Member Appreciation Week August 25-29

**8 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's office
1399 Business Park Drive South, North Baltimore, OH 45872**

All members are invited to stop by our office between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. any day from Aug. 25-29 to receive a \$15 bill credit, a T-shirt, and more! (One per membership.) Look for the tent in the office parking lot in front of our building.

We had a great turnout at our Member Appreciation Drive Thru event last year, with more than 700 members attending. We love to show our members appreciation but, unfortunately, many people saw traffic issues and long lines during our event. To better accommodate all our members and reduce traffic/wait times, we decided to extend Member Appreciation Day to this weeklong event.

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

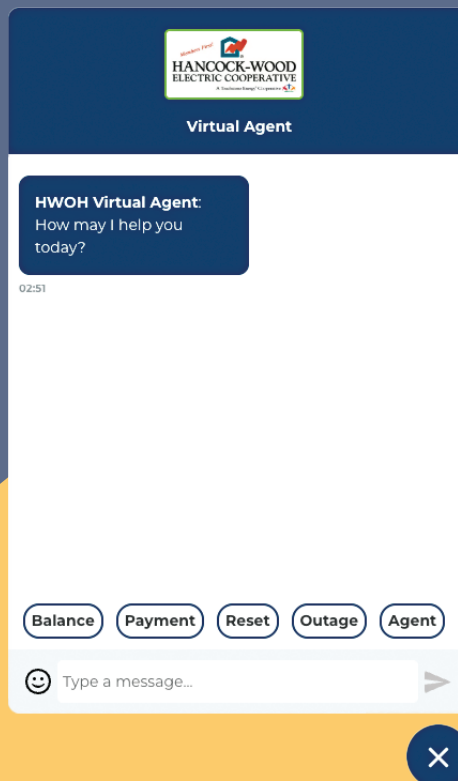
Introducing the new “chat” feature on the website!

How to use:

Navigate to the bottom, right corner of the website and click on the chat icon



Utilize the chat feature and make accessing your bill, making a payment, reporting an outage, or speaking to a member service representative easier!



Prism Propane has all your propane needs!

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- Forklift Cylinder Refill
- Propane Autogas
- Agricultural Gas
- Grill Cylinder Refill

Ohio Counties We Serve: Allen County • Hancock County • Hardin County • Henry County • Putnam County • Sandusky County • Seneca County • Wood County • Wyandot County

**Call 877-887-7476
for pricing details.**

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Always be cautious of unsolicited calls (or in-person visits) to your home from companies claiming to conduct energy audits. These are typically telemarketing firms that claim to be a third-party company or pose as a representative from your electric utility to gain access to homes and sell services with the promise of government rebates. Many electric utilities provide energy audit services, but they are typically scheduled at the customer's request.

Source: Better Business Bureau



Happy 4TH OF JULY

The Hancock-Wood
office will be closed on
Friday, July 4.

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