

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# 2021 virtual annual meeting

## RSVP today for a chance to win \$500 off your energy bill!



George Walton  
PRESIDENT & CEO

Last month, I updated our membership on the status of our June 12, 2021, annual meeting, letting everyone know we will once again be holding it virtually. If you attended our virtual event last year, you'll already know what to expect, as the format will be staying the same. Members will need to RSVP to our virtual event by calling the office at 800-445-4048 or emailing us at [info@hwe.coop](mailto:info@hwe.coop) with your name, email address, and phone number.

All members who RSVP to the virtual event will have a chance to win a bill credit. First prize is \$500, and we will be selecting 15 additional names to win \$100 each. These winners will be announced by June 14. We're also handing out a giveaway at the office in the month of June. Each member can stop by the office to pick up a free medical kit — one per membership while supplies last.

On June 12 at 10 a.m., members will be able to watch the pre-recorded video on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hwe.coop>) or YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/hancockwoodelectric/videos>) to hear the cooperative update and the election results for districts 1, 4, 5, and 10. Each member who RSVP'd will also

receive a phone call asking you to vote on two items: The first item is to accept the 2020 annual meeting minutes (these minutes are printed in this magazine for your convenience and are also available online at [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop)) and the second item is to accept the election report.

This will be the first year we are holding the election voting online as well as by mail. All members will be receiving proposed code of regulations changes (these are also in the magazine pages this month) and members in districts 1, 4, 5, and 10 will receive information on selecting a board candidate for those respective districts. Members who vote online will receive a \$5 bill credit.

I'd like to thank our members for their continued support of Hancock-Wood Electric, and I hope you will take part in the virtual annual meeting and use your democratic member control by casting your vote this year on the proposed code changes and board representatives. Feel free to reach out to the office if you have any questions.

## Notice of annual meeting

The annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will take place virtually on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 10 a.m.

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 adjournment of the meeting

*Signed this day, March 31, 2021, by LeeAnne Dierksheide, assistant secretary-treasurer, Hancock-Wood Electric*

## HWE announces the winners of the 2021 scholarship awards

Concern for the community is one of our seven cooperative principles, and giving back to the children of our members is one way we display this principle. Students are selected based on their academics,

cooperative knowledge, and community involvement. The scholarship committee interviews and selects these winners each year, and we are pleased to announce the following recipients:

1ST PLACE: \$2,750



Lydia Spaeth  
FINDLAY HS

2ND PLACE: \$2,250



Simon Metzger  
BOWLING GREEN HS

3RD PLACE: \$1,950



Anna Rider  
HOMESCHOOL

4TH PLACE: \$1,750



Michelle Velasquez  
PANDORA-GILBOA HS

5TH PLACE: \$1,500



Kaleb Gillespie  
LEIPSIC HS

6TH PLACE: \$1,250



Trinity Lee  
FINDLAY HS

7TH PLACE: \$1,000



Lilian Meienburg  
FINDLAY HS

**1st place — Lydia Spaeth**, Findlay High School, received \$2,750. She is the daughter of Bret and Tamara Spaeth and plans to attend Miami University, majoring in marketing. Lydia will represent Hancock-Wood at our statewide organization, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, to compete for an additional award.

**2nd place — Simon Metzger**, Bowling Green High School, received \$2,250. He is the son of Jeffrey and Jennifer Metzger and plans to major in jazz studies.

**3rd place — Anna Rider**, homeschooled, received \$1,950. She is the daughter of Chad Rider and Julie Taft-Rider and plans to attend the University of Findlay to major in accounting.

**4th place — Michelle Velasquez**, Pandora-Gilboa High School, received \$1,750. She is the daughter of Rick and Amy Velasquez and plans to major in computer science.

**5th place — Kaleb Gillespie**, Leipsic High School, received \$1,500. He is the son of Troy and Karen Gillespie and plans to attend the University of Findlay, majoring in environmental health and safety.

**6th place — Trinity Lee**, Findlay High School, received \$1,250. She is the daughter of Song-Chong Lee and Kristine Park and plans to attend The Ohio State University, majoring in psychology.

**7th place — Lilian Meienburg**, Findlay High School, received \$1,000. She is the daughter of Danielle Siefer and plans to major in biomedical engineering.

# Congratulations

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



# Proposed code of regulations changes

All items in **orange** are the proposed changes the membership will be voting on; each member will receive a ballot in the mail to cast your vote. You will also receive information on how to vote online for these changes.

## ARTICLE III MEETING OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting of the members shall be held at a time, place and time within the service area of the Cooperative, and manner as permitted herein and as selected by the Board. The date, place and manner of the annual meeting and which shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of reporting on the election of Board members, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year or other annual accounting period and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Meeting. Special meetings of the members may be called by resolution of the Board, or upon a written request signed by any three Board members, or by ten per centum or more of all the members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as herein after provided. Special meetings of the members may be held at the date, place and manner as authorized herein and designated by the Board, and time and ay any place within the service area of the Cooperative as designated by the Board.

SECTION 3. Notice of Members Meeting. Written notice stating the place, manner, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days nor more than thirty-five days before the date of the meeting, either personally, **or** by mail, overnight delivery service, electronic means of communication, or any other means of communication authorized by the member to whom the notice is given, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member.

SECTION 4. Place and manner of meetings. Any annual or special meeting of the membership may be held at a designated place within the service territory of the cooperative, or through the use of authorized communications equipment that permits the voting members to participate in the meeting and to vote on matters submitted, including an opportunity to read or hear the proceedings of the meeting, participate in the proceedings, and contemporaneously communicate with the persons who are physically present at the meeting.

Any voting member who uses authorized communications equipment under this provision is deemed to be present in person at the meeting whether the meeting is held at a designated place or solely by means of authorized communications equipment. The Board may adopt procedures and guidelines for the use of authorized communications equipment in connection with a meeting of voting members to permit the Cooperative to verify that a person is a voting member and to maintain a record of any vote or other action taken at the meeting.

## SECTION 45

## SECTION 56

## SECTION 67

### Section 4. Nominations and Elections

(b) An election ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary along with a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope and mailed at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the annual meeting to each member in the District in which nominations have been held. The ballot shall list the nominees. The completed ballot ~~when voted~~ shall be returned by mail to the Secretary of the Cooperative and post marked at least fifteen (15) days prior to the annual meeting. The Cooperative shall cause the election ballots to be tabulated for the determination of the successful candidate. The same Committee which handled the tabulation of the nominating ballots shall tabulate the ballots for the election of Trustees and shall thereby determine the successful candidates. The results of the election shall be announced by a member of the Election Committee at the annual meeting. Nothing contained in this Section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Board members or any action taken by the Board.

## ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

This Code of Regulations may be altered, amended or repealed by the members at any regular or special meeting by written or electronic ballot, provided the notice of such meeting shall have contained a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal.

# HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Below are the 2020 annual meeting minutes for the membership to review.  
During the June 12, 2021, meeting, members will be asked to accept the following minutes:

## Minutes of annual meeting – June 13, 2020

The 81st annual meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on June 13, 2020, at the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative office, North Baltimore, OH, as a virtual meeting.

Tom Kagy opened the meeting at 10 a.m. after the playing of the national anthem. Bill Kale provided the invocation.

Chairman Kagy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ed Crawford, secretary/treasurer, read the official notice of the annual meeting and the proof of mailing.

Kagy announced that last year's annual meeting minutes, from June 8, 2019, 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 Ed Crawford. The other two members of the election committee were Steven Dunbar and Brad Decker. The committee reported that Bill Kale from District 2, Charles Beagle from District 7, and Thomas Kagy from District 8 had been elected. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the election committee. The motion passed. Bret Spaeth, the corporate general counsel, then swore in the trustees.

Melissa Snyder, CFO, reviewed the audit report that had been conducted by GBQ Partners LLC from Columbus, Ohio, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020. She noted that the cooperative statements are in accordance with the general and accounting standards and the audit firm found no deficiencies in internal control and all bank covenants were met.

Tom Kagy gave a report on the success of the Operation Round Up fund. A total of \$644,711 has been given back to the community in the form of grants.

Kagy gave his chairman's report. He updated the members on how the epidemic COVID-19 impacted not only the annual meeting this year but how it affected how the business was conducted. With the financial hardship that some of the members may experience due to COVID-19, the cooperative had not

disconnected any members and had elected to distribute to the membership the patronage capital early this year. He reported that the sales were down 4.7% this past year. A good portion of this was from the rather mild winter and the COVID-19 virus, because of which some restaurants and other business scaled back or were shut down. Equity ratio ended the year with 53.22%, operating ratio ended with 2.55%, and total times tier at 3.26%. Kagy reported that strategic planning is continuing to be worked on by management, including safety, training, member and community engagement, stabilizing rates, and electronic voting, which the board is reviewing as a alternative voting procedure.

Walton then gave his president's report, during which he discussed electric distribution capital investments, where HWE has invested \$2.7 million. \$5.4 million was invested in the east submarine cable across Lake Erie to Kelleys Island. SCADA also received a significant improvement, and the SCADA improvement allowed HWE to offer a great response time to outages. Two major substation improvements were completed over the past year. HWE completed two feasibility studies, and it was determined that the payback on this project was unacceptable. Succession planning was a goal given to the management by the board of trustees and the cooperative is currently working on this, as some of key employees are getting closer to retirement. Walton updated the membership on the affiliated company Prism Propane and how they conducted business during the COVID-19 pandemic and that they constructed a new operations center building. Walton then updated the membership on the economic development process that is taking place in HWE service territory. Some of these locations include Eastern Woods Senior Housing, the Grob Systems expansion, and the North Pointe development, which is currently focusing on the area across from the CSX Intermodal area.

Kagy adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and noted that the chairman of the board and the company president would be available for any questions after the meeting.

### CONTACT

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

### WEBSITE

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

### OFFICE

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North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Gene Barker**  
Chairman

**William Kale**  
Vice Chairman

**Ed Crawford**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
Assistant Secretary

**Tim Phillips**

**Duane Fry**

**Charles Beagle**

**Tom Kagy**

**Ron Riegle**

**Brian Terry**

**George Walton**

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