



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Announcing my retirement from Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative

After close to 24 years at Hancock-Wood Electric, I will be retiring from my position Jan. 3, 2022. It's been a great journey, and I enjoy reflecting and sharing some of the highlights of my working career. My career began with HWE in 1998, managing operations and engineering. In 2000, the board of trustees announced me as the cooperative president and CEO. In 2001, I was appointed as president and COO of Prism Propane Services of Ohio LLC, a subsidiary of HWE.

Prior to coming to HWE, I had a 15-year career working in various engineering and management positions at Appalachian Power Company and later was appointed as a corporate business development manager at American

Electric Power (AEP). Over my career at AEP, I held positions in electrical distribution and substation engineering areas and as an area supervisor, region administrator, energy services supervisor, meter supervisor, and I worked in the transmission design engineering department. I received the AEP Award of Excellence for my performance.

Under my leadership, the cooperative has grown from 10,838 accounts to 13,432 accounts. Operating revenue increased from \$18 million to approximately \$46 million over my 24-year career, and the total value of HWE's electric plant increased more than 250%. The cooperative also constructed a new corporate headquarters in 2008, which allowed employees to better serve the members.



George Walton
PRESIDENT & CEO

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HAPPY Retirement

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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During my tenure, the cooperative experienced a rapid growth in technology and operational capabilities. I placed a significant focus on electric distribution improvements, which included rebuilding electric lines and substations. The co-op also incorporated technologies such as automatic metering devices, SCADA, and distribution automation capabilities, which improved service reliability to cooperative members. We also invested in right-of-way areas, which reduced outage duration time to members.

I leave this position in January with the blessing of being given a tremendous career opportunity in the electric utility industry. The most memorable and rewarding experience during the 24 years of my career at HWE was having a great group of employees, staff, board, and cooperative membership that supported my accomplishments of corporate goals, which directly improved service reliability to member-owners.

I want to give honor and thanks to my family who continue to support me as well as my deceased parents, Lula and Booker Walton, who taught me the value of hard work and to always look toward God for guidance and direction throughout my career. I will always give thanks to God for my accomplishments over a total career of 39 years between Hancock-Wood and American Electric Power.

During the transition period, the HWE board of trustees has selected William Barnhart as the interim president and CEO. Barnhart has been with HWE since 1998 and was previously serving as the vice president of engineering and operations.



LABOR DAY

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

Happy Labor Day!

Three red stars.

The graphic features the words 'LABOR DAY' in large, stylized letters with a red, white, and blue star pattern. To the right, text announces the closure of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day. Below the text are three red stars and the phrase 'Happy Labor Day!'.

TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. The hard work and long hours are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous — even deadly — when farming near electrical equipment.

Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages. These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.

- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is deenergized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

September 19–25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week, but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



Ohio's Crawford to NRECA board

HWE board member Ed Crawford was recently elected to serve on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) board as the Ohio delegate. The association's 48-person board comprises one locally elected director from each state in which a voting member of NRECA is located.

Congratulations **ED**

Think Energy \$mart with Bruce



I am seeing more interest in members wanting to convert their domestic hot water generation to a tankless system versus a traditional tank system. The information I am providing this month is about a tankless electric water heater. For everyday use, an electric tankless water heater does not provide much operating cost savings compared to a tank unit. The price to purchase one of these heaters from a box store

is \$500 to \$1,000. If you have a contractor install it, the cost will be around \$1,000 to \$1,500, plus the cost of any electrical service upgrades.

Here are a couple advantages of using a tankless electric water heater.

- **Space saver**

- ◊ An electric tankless water heating unit consumes considerably less space than a tank model. This can be helpful when the unit is installed in a closet or small area.

- **Lower standby loss**

- ◊ These units do not lose heat during standby (non-use) like a traditional tank heating unit. This is only significant during long periods of standby.

Here are a couple disadvantages of using a tankless electric water heater.

- **Electric service upgrades needed**

- ◊ In many cases, upgrades to the existing electric service and/or utility transformer are needed for these units to work properly. With the insignificant operational cost savings of one of these units compared to a tank unit, those infrastructure costs will not be recaptured.

- **Possibly of utility rate class change**

- ◊ These units consume a considerable amount of energy in a short period of time. Based on the current rate structure, installation of a tankless electric water heater will quite often subject our members to being placed on a general service rate instead of a residential rate. This could result in higher utility costs.

Next month I will share information about tankless gas water tanks.



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