

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Want to help make decisions that affect your co-op?

Run for a position on the board of trustees

Being a consumer-member of an electric cooperative means you have a say in the matters that affect you and your community. Hancock-Wood Electric is guided by a member-elected board of trustees that is responsible for making decisions related to the co-op's financial goals and other policies. If you're someone who is interested in taking a more active role in your cooperative, we urge you to consider running for a seat on the board.

A trustee should have the best interests of the cooperative at heart, without placing his or her own interests or agenda first, and serve on the board solely to assist the cooperative, not for any personal gain. They should have the capability to guide the president and CEO through the formulation of sound policies, which protect the financial and operating integrity of the cooperative as well as protect the rights of the membership.

If you live in districts 3, 6, or 9, we will be sending out a letter for nominations. Not sure which district you're in? It's located on your bill on the top right or call our office to verify. If you or someone you know is interested, just write their name on the nomination card and send it

back in the postage-paid envelope. Our co-op will then contact the members with the most nominations to learn if they would like to run for our board of trustees election, which will take place in April. The results of our elections will be announced during our annual meeting.

Any member can become a trustee on the board, and each district is designated by geographic area. To run, a position must be available in your area. Qualifications are as follows:

- Must have been a member for at least three years.
- Must have not been an employee for three years prior.
- Must not be closely related to an employee.
- Must not be employed by a financially interested competing enterprise or a business selling electric power or supplies to the cooperative.

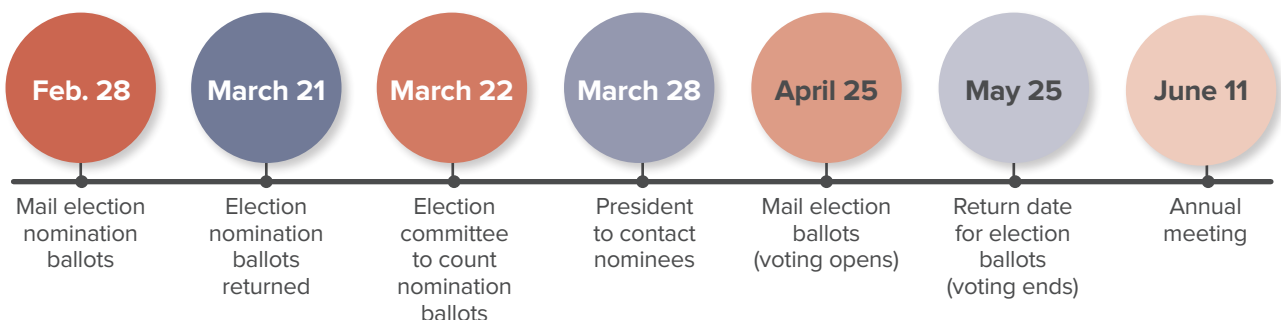
Please visit our website or contact our office for questions.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. 2022

Trustee election timeline





Rebuild projects for 2022

In 2022, our operations department will be rebuilding 18.1 miles of line in our service territory, investing approximately \$1,534,100. These projects will help improve reliability and service to our members in Hancock, Wood, and Putnam counties. If you would like to see specific line rebuild project locations, visit our website at www.hwe.coop. Under the residential tab, click on “rebuild program projects.”

Unclaimed capital credits

Each year, Hancock-Wood returns patronage capital to members as tangible evidence of one of the benefits of being a cooperative member. Last December, the board of trustees retired over \$2.3 million to HWE members.

We have a list of past members' names on our website who are nearly out of time to claim their checks.

According to our Code of Regulations, if a past member fails to claim patronage capital within four years of its issuance, the money is allocated to current members' patronage accounts. Visit hwe.coop/about-us/unclaimed-patronage-capital to see the current list.



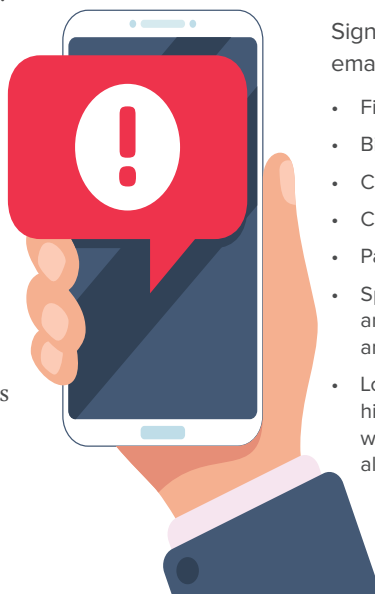
New! Texting and email alerts now available

HWE is now offering new text and email alerts. Members can sign up to receive information such as beat the peak or load control alerts, final bill notification, bill creation notifications, custom bill due date reminders, cutoff notifications, payment receipts, and special alerts. To sign up, log into your online account and select notifications and choose how you want to receive your alerts. You will need to register and verify your email or texting phone number and then select from the list of available options.

Load control is activated when the likelihood of a high-energy-use scenario exists. If the scenario escalates to a level where controlling is necessary to keep energy costs stabilized, Hancock-Wood will issue a load control alert and activate radio-controlled switches (RCS) affixed to appliances of participating members. These timeframes are typically from 6–9 a.m. or 3–6 p.m. Load control helps us “beat the peak” and keep prices down by avoiding a new peak-use charge from our energy provider.

Special alerts may include reminders or details about HWE events such as the annual meeting or our legislative meeting.

NEW EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS



Sign up today to receive text/email alerts for the following:

- Final bill notification
- Bill creation notification
- Custom bill due date reminder
- Cutoff notification
- Payment receipt
- Special alerts (annual meeting and other special co-op event announcements)
- Load control alerts (during high-energy-use timeframes, we will issue a local control alert for participating members)

To sign up, log in to your online account and select notifications.



Employee promotion

Congratulations to Andy Fisher on his recent promotion to vice president of engineering and operations. Andy was the previous engineering supervisor and has worked at HWE since 2001.

CONGRATULATIONS

Andy



Update your contact information

Do you have a new phone number or email address? Be sure to call our office or log into your online account to update your contact information.

We are able to send out quicker communications to members if we have an updated email address!



Avoid solar energy scams

Solar energy is booming, and the future is brighter than ever. Using rooftop solar panels, many homeowners can now harness the sun's natural rays to produce their own electricity that's environmentally friendly and cost effective. But with the increasing popularity of solar, unfortunately, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers who are interested in generating their own energy through rooftop panels. While many solar companies are genuine and truly want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are the occasional bad apples. You've likely heard a story or two about solar vendors that promised rooftop panels that would generate enough electricity to power the entire home. Then, after the homeowner has paid thousands of dollars for the installation, the solar panels aren't delivering as promised, and the vendor is nowhere to be found. Sadly, this story has been the reality for many consumers. If you're interested in solar panels for your home, consider these tips before installation:

- Contact your energy advisor, Bruce Warnecke, at bruce@hwe.coop or 419-257-5025. We want you to feel confident about any decisions you make about your home energy use, especially decisions about generating energy at home.
- Collect at least three quotes from different solar companies to ensure you're getting a competitive deal. As with any major purchase, research is key, so thoroughly

read customer reviews for each of the three solar vendors.

- Some solar companies have used Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in their advertisements, stating we will install solar panels. This is not correct — Hancock-Wood does not install solar panels.
- If you speak to a solar vendor and they use high-pressure tactics, like an offer that's only good for 24 hours, run! Any reputable solar company will recognize that you need time to review a proposal and thoroughly weigh your decision.
- You know if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If a solar company is making promises that sound unachievable and outlandish, they probably are. Remember, if you have any questions, you can always count on your electric co-op for advice.
- Finally, when it's time to review and sign a solar contract, make sure the language is clear and easy to understand. Ensure any prior verbal (or emailed) promises are also included in the contract. Going solar is a major decision, so you'll want to conduct a good bit of research first. If you're looking for a general starting point, check out the Department of Energy's Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar.



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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 