

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

2022 Annual Meeting/Member Appreciation Day

Join us on June 11!

We are excited to see our members in person this year at the 2022 Annual Meeting/Member Appreciation Day on June 11. As you might remember from previous years, our members are invited to the Hancock County Fairgrounds for food, fun, and fellowship with co-op members. Each membership that attends will receive a free giveaway bag (while supplies last) and be entered into our bill credit drawing. Five bill credit winners will be drawn, with a chance to win \$100, \$150, \$200, \$250, and \$300. We will have plenty of activities for kids including inflatables, a zip line, and carnival games, and we will also have bingo for all ages. You don't want to miss the free lunch provided by Harlan's BBQ to all who attend.

Our annual business meeting, which reviews the cooperative's financial information, construction projects, and our election results from districts 3, 6 and 9, will remain

virtual this year. The video will be available for viewing on our YouTube page, Facebook page, and at www.hwe.coop.

Members in districts 3, 6, and 9 will be receiving election ballots to vote for trustees to represent their respective districts. Members will be able to vote online or by mail — we cannot accept any ballots at our office. All members will be receiving the ballot to vote on the code of regulations change, which is also in this magazine for review.

Be sure to fill out the RSVP card on the cover of this magazine and plan to attend this great co-op event on June 11, 2022, 10 a.m., at the Hancock County Fairgrounds.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO



Join us!

June 11, 10 a.m.
Hancock County Fairgrounds

Proposed code of regulations changes

As a member of Hancock-Wood Electric, you have the opportunity to vote in our upcoming election beginning in April. Members in districts 3, 6, and 9 will be voting for their district trustee, and all members are voting on a change to our code of regulations. The proposed change replaces our current trustee nomination process with a petition process.

The current nomination process not only costs the co-op more money in additional mailings, but it also does not always provide the co-op with members who are interested in running for our board. Because anyone can nominate a member, some of the nominees are not interested in serving on the board. With a petition process, members will be required to submit a form with 20 or more signatures of members in their voting district, similar to the way township trustees apply to run for office. Any member securing at least 20 signatures will be placed on the ballot. For details on this code change, visit our website, www.hwe.coop, or view it in your election materials that will be mailed to every member.

Ballots for our election will be mailed to members on April 25. Members can choose to vote either online by visiting our website and following the instructions or by returning your ballot in the postage-paid envelope. Please do not mail or drop off your ballot to our office. All ballots must be received by May 25.

PROPOSED CODE CHANGES REGARDING NOMINATION THROUGH PETITION PROCESS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Any expired term resulting in an open seat on the Board of Trustees may be filled through a Petition Process by any interested and eligible Member residing within the District of the open seat.

An eligible Member of the Cooperative who is willing to serve as a Trustee may be nominated for election by a petition signed by twenty (20) or more Voting Members within the same District as the open seat. Any eligible Member who obtains and timely submits their application and required signatures will be nominated for election by the Voting Members of the District. The Member's completed application and signature form shall be submitted to the Election Committee the last Friday in February by 4 pm. The Election Committee or their assignees shall make a determination that any Member who timely submits their application with the required signatures is otherwise qualified to serve as a Trustee.

The slate of eligible and qualified candidates shall be submitted for vote to the Members within the District.

The candidate with the most votes from Members within their respective Districts shall be declared the Trustee for the open seat.



**Vote by mail
or online by
May 25**

Minutes of annual meeting

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10–10:30 a.m.

Below are the 2021 annual meeting minutes for the membership to review. During the June 11, 2022, meeting, members will be asked to accept the following minutes.

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held virtually on June 12, 2021, at the Hancock -Wood Electric Cooperative Office, North Baltimore, OH.

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. Lee Anne Dierksheide, Assistant 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 13, 2020, 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 Dierksheide. Members voted on code of regulations changes and the results were: Article III Sections 1,2 and 3- passed, Article III Section 4- passed, Article XII Amendments- passed. Member in districts 1, 4, 5 and 10 elected trustees to represent them for terms of three years each. The following were elected in their respective districts: district 1- Tim Phillips, district 4- Gene Barker, district 5- Ed Crawford and district 10- Brian Terry. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Election Committee. The motion passed. Robert Hollister, 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. Ridlen presented all the adjustment journal entries, and any policies or procedures that may need to be altered for board review.

Barker gave a report on the success of the Operation Round Up fund. A total of \$773,566.73 was donated since the inception of the program in 2008. All funds have been invested back into our local communities.

Barker presented the chairman's report and highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 virus, the cooperative's update on strategic planning goals for 2022, the impact of economic development in our area, and financial information from the 2020 audit. Because of the impact of the

COVID-19 virus and the uncertainty of how it could affect Hancock-Wood and our members, HWE applied for the Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP). In March of 2021, the funds received plus the interest accrued on the funds have been forgiven by the Small Business Administration. Barker stated management and the board did not anticipate any additional residential rate increases for 2021. Barker noted Hancock -Wood was directly engaged in several key projects to aid in growth in our service territory for the 2020.

Walton presented the president's report during which he discussed operations updates for 2020, safety RESAP program, and Prism Propane. He stated Hancock-Wood Electric invested \$3.0M in line rebuilds, new services, and replacement of electric plant facilities for 2020. Walton shared Hancock-Wood Electric completed major substation capital improvement projects in 2020. Hatton Substation, near West Millgrove, was demolished and completely rebuilt at a cost of \$1.9M. The Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, RESAP onsite observation took place in August and the onsite observation team conducted a full safety audit of Hancock-Wood's facility, equipment, work practices, safety rules, documentation, and regulation compliance at the North Baltimore location. HWE received an overall satisfactory performance review and has improved in five categories. Walton noted the money Prism Propane received from the PPP, plus interest accrued on the funds were forgiven by the Small Business Administration.

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

Barker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m. and noted he and the company president will be available for any questions after the meeting.

2022 scholarship and Youth Tour winners

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	Sydney Swisher, Findlay High School	\$2,750
2nd	Vanessa Heck, Liberty-Benton High School	\$2,250
3rd	Taelor Miller, Pandora-Gilboa High School	\$1,950
4th	David Borkosky, Riverdale High School	\$1,750
5th	William Seedorf, Patrick Henry High School	\$1,500
6th	Kennedy O'Dell, Findlay High School	\$1,250
7th	Marissa Maag, Ottawa-Glandorf High School	\$1,000

Sydney will also be competing at OEC on April 12, 2022, in the statewide competition.

Each summer, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative sponsors two students on an annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The selected winners will receive a \$500 scholarship in addition to the trip. Students can learn about our nation's capital, the government, and rural electric cooperatives while seeing the historic and cultural sights of the Washington, D.C. area.

Youth Tour winners are:

Lauren Brooks	Elmwood High School
Grant Rider	Home-schooled



Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative's 2022 scholarship and Youth Tour winners.



Lauren Brooks



Marissa Maag

CONTACT

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

WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

1399 Business Park Drive South
P.O. Box 190
North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-0190

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gene Barker
Chairman

William Kale
Vice Chairman

Tom Kagy
Secretary/Treasurer

Lee Anne Dierksheide
Assistant Secretary

Tim Phillips

Ed Crawford

Duane Fry

Charles Beagle

Ron Riegler

Brian Terry

Bill Barnhart

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

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