

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# Board moves to reduce cost with special election in October

This month, Hancock-Wood Electric will be holding a special election. During this special election, the members will be asked to vote on a Code of Regulations change to reduce the number of districts in our service area. Due to the timing of this change, the need for a special election is necessary to make the change before the next annual meeting and our regular election schedule. If the board-recommended code change is passed by the membership, the board will be reduced from 10 members to nine.

The current Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative board is made up of 10 board members, each representing one of the 10 districts in our service area. One board member is nearing the end of his term limit at Hancock-Wood, and the board determined this was a good opportunity to investigate redistricting our service area and eliminating one district to reduce costs to our members.

What is redistricting? Our service area is split up into 10 districts. If the membership votes to approve this change, members in the eliminated district will be moved into another district. Our engineering team determined which districts will gain more members based on the location and current number of members. Per our Code of Regulations, the cooperative redistricts to ensure equitable distribution of members in each of our districts. The proposed change will attempt to simplify districts and minimize splits within townships.

Another reason the board chose to move forward with this special election is that it will be a cost savings to the cooperative by having one less board member. The membership recently voted to change the nomination process and move to a petition process, which saved the cooperative approximately \$19,000 each year. Voting to reduce the number of districts

will save the cooperative approximately \$20,000 per year. After some of our research, we also learned many of the other co-ops in Ohio and surrounding states have nine or fewer board members — we are one of the only cooperatives with 10. Having an odd number of board members will also reduce the possibility of a tied vote.



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

The board members and management of Hancock-Wood Electric feel this is the opportunity to make a change to better the co-op, and we hope the membership will take into consideration the many benefits to our members by reducing a board district.

Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions about the redistricting at 800-445-4840 or email us at [info@hwe.coop](mailto:info@hwe.coop).

### Election timeline:

- **Oct. 14, 2022:** Ballots will be mailed to all members. Online voting will be available.
- **Nov. 14, 2022:** Election closes, all ballots must be returned prior to this date, and the online voting will end.
- Election results will be announced via our website and Facebook page after this process and, if approved, the co-op will move forward with redistricting.

# Run for our Community Trust Fund Board

In October, members in districts 1, 4, and 7 are eligible to run for our Community Trust Fund Board (CTF). The CTF Board is a six-member board, separate from the Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative board, that reviews all the Operation Round Up grant applications quarterly and approves applications for assistance, based on demonstrated need and funds available. The board is responsible for reviewing applications prior to their quarterly meetings on the third Monday of February, May, August, and November. If you are interested in running for the CTF Board, please contact Leslie Guisinger at [leslie@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie@hwe.coop) or 419-257-5015. Applications must be received by Oct. 21, 2022.

## Community Trust Fund Board grants more than \$25,000 to local nonprofits



During the August board meeting, the Community Trust Fund board granted funding to the following organizations through the Operation Round Up Program:

- Hancock Christian Clearing House for emergency assistance
- Kelleys Island Audubon Club for ferry service and shuttles
- Northwest Hancock County Fire District for turnout gear
- Welcome to a New Life for activities fund
- Sisters in Shelter for classroom book to use in support groups

Do you know of a worthy organization that could use assistance with a special project? Operation Round Up is the perfect opportunity to submit a grant request to help nonprofits in our service areas. Applications can be found on our website, [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop), and the next grant applications are due Oct. 17, 2022.



Hancock-Wood Electric  
Cooperative will be closed on  
Monday, Oct. 10, in observance of



# ★ Columbus DAY

THANK YOU!

FOR THE

HIGH  
MARKS



2022



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

\*2022 ACSI® Scores of Municipal and Investor-Owned Utilities generated by ACSI LLC. [Co-op Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.] surveys were administered by NRECA Market Research and modeled by ACSI LLC using the proprietary ACSI methodology. ACSI LLC does not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI is a registered trademark of American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

# Think Energy \$mart *with* Bruce

## How does my electric cooperative calculate electric consumption?



Electric utilities install service meters that continuously record the amount of power and energy a consumer uses. This data is recorded as kilowatts (kW) and kilowatt-hours (kWh). A kilowatt-hour is a term most consumers are familiar with, but many do not

know exactly what it is. A kilowatt-hour is 1,000 watts of power being used for one hour or any equivalent to that — such as 2,000 watts for 30 minutes, or 100 watts for 10 hours. For comparison, 1 kilowatt is about 1.3 horsepower; 1 kilowatt-hour would be 3–4 miles driven in an electric vehicle or bringing 3 gallons of water to boil on an electric range. Many appliances will have

a wattage rating listed on them to inform you of how much power they require.

Hancock-Wood receives readings from electric meters wirelessly. Monthly, these readings are imported to the billing system and the new reading is used to calculate the member's usage.

Along with supplying meter readings for billing, the new AMI (advanced metering infrastructure) system provides information that was not previously available. In most cases, our line crews are notified within minutes of a power outage — speeding our response and restoration of your electric service. You can also view your daily consumption of electricity through your online account under the usage analysis tab. Our staff can also retrieve your hourly kWh consumption to help pinpoint when you are using the most energy.

If you are interested in help looking at your energy cost, please contact me at 419-257-5025 or [bruce@hwe.coop](mailto:bruce@hwe.coop) to set up a time for a free audit.

### CONTACT

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

### WEBSITE

[www.hwe.coop](http://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 Riegle**

**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](mailto:leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop)

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