



CTF grants more than \$15,000.



Member thanks HWE employee via Facebook.



Van Buren's eighth-grade students tour HWE.

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MEMBER CONNECTIONS



1399 Business Park Drive South, P. O. Box 190, North Baltimore, OH 45872 • www.hwe.coop • info@hwe.coop • 800-445-4840

A CHANCE FOR MEMBERS TO SPEAK UP



HWE - a powerful value for 77 years.

George Walton, Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative President and CEO

Preparations are underway for your Annual Meeting/ Member Appreciation Day on June 11 at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. HWE uses this opportunity to

thank our valued Members and provide them with updates about the co-op. This is also a great time to share information with our Members about the importance of speaking out against issues that could affect you.

Action.coop is a valuable resource for HWE and the Members we serve. This past November, with the help of our grassroots organizations, the Senate passed resolutions to block the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan (CPP). The CPP goes beyond the rational standards for coal-power plants and will ultimately cause more problems for electric co-ops and will likely raise your electric rates. By joining ACRE, you can play a part in supporting our congressional leaders who work to put an end to the CPP and future legislation that could also negatively affect electric co-ops. I encourage you, while at our Annual Meeting,

to check out the booth supporting ACRE. We will have knowledgeable staff available to answer any questions, and you will be able to sign up that day to keep our voice strong.



CAPITAL CREDITS UNCLAIMED



Typically each year, HWE's board retires a portion of capital credits, depending upon the financial stability of the cooperative. Credits \$5 or more were applied to Members' December bills. The retired portion is removed from each Member's capital credits account and either appears as a credit on his or her bill or is mailed to those Members who have moved away. A check for the present-day value of a patronage capital account can be issued to a deceased Member's estate, but verifiable identification is necessary. Beneficiaries may contact us for more information. Some checks to former Members were returned, and those Members' names will be added to the online unclaimed capital credits list in spring. Learn more at hwe.coop/about-hwec/unclaimed-patronage-capital or call us at 800-445-4840.

LINEMEN VOLUNTEER IN GUATEMALA



Two HWE linemen have volunteered to work for a little more than two weeks in Guatemala to bring light for the first time to villagers in La Soledad in northwestern Guatemala. The effort is part of Project Ohio, coordinated through a partnership between HWE, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation. Lineworkers left Feb. 28 and will return on March 16. Electrifying 70 homes is the project goal. Check back for more details about the project next month!

NOTICE: Don't forget to *spring* your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 13, for daylight saving time.



Seventh-grade students at Elmwood Middle School had fun learning how much energy it took to power lightbulbs on the energy bike! Learn more on page 19.

Hancock-Wood is one of 750 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives nationwide.



SAVE ENERGY, MONEY WITH BRUCE



Bruce Warnecke

For the past few months, I have been writing about items that are geared toward our residential Members. This month, I would like to concentrate on the commercial programs we offer. Hancock-Wood Electric is one of the few co-ops in the state that has a larger percentage of our demand for power coming from commercial Members, as compared to residential. We have specific programs to help our business Members reduce their energy costs that differ from our residential offerings. The funding for these programs is provided by a grant from our statewide organization Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, through Hancock-Wood. These are the current commercial energy savings programs:

- Rebate for installation of LED lighting (up to \$5,000)
- 50% reimbursement of the cost for specialized commercial energy audits (up to \$2,000)
- 50% of the cost of projects from those audit recommendations (up to \$3,000)
- Be E3 Smart school energy efficiency education program
- Power factor study
- Free commercial energy auditing from Hancock-Wood

Most of these programs require filling out an application, so please contact me about your facility, and I will be happy to help look at the best way we can serve you. We also have a considerable amount of valuable commercial information for businesses on our website under hwe.coop/commercial/news. Contained in that news link is an information source called Business Connections, which houses several energy calculators to help you look at specific aspects of your business. You can reach me at bruce@hwe.coop or 419-257-5025 with any of your commercial or residential energy needs.

Bruce Warnecke is a certified commercial energy auditor with an applied business degree from Lima Technical College and universal EPA refrigerant certification. He is a Trane Service One graduate and is an HVAC specialist with more than 21 years of experience.

ORU DONATES MORE THAN \$15,000



In February, the Community Trust Fund (CTF) board granted more than \$15,000 to local nonprofit organizations. Each quarter, the CTF awards grants through HWE's

Operation Round Up to those worthy applicants. The following organizations were presented checks Feb. 2:



- American Red Cross – \$1,500
- The City Mission of Findlay – \$2,156
- Findlay Enrichment Programs – \$600
- Gliding Stars of Findlay – \$6,000
- Liberty-Benton Elementary – \$1,500
- Special Kids Therapy – \$4,000

Next quarter's applications are due April 1, and the board will meet in May to consider the applications. Learn more at hwe.coop/community-involvement/operation-round-up-community-trust-fund.

VOLUNTEERS CAN APPLY FOR CTF BOARD



Members are invited to apply for a voluntary seat on the Community Trust Fund Board of Trustees, which oversees Operation Round Up grant disbursements. If you would like to be considered please call 800-445-4840 or e-mail info@hwe for more information. Applications will accepted until April 15.

Reminder



Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Call 800-445-4840 for more information.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair Tom Kagy, Vice Chair William Kale, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Dierksheide, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Marlene Barker, and trustees David Corbin, James Demler, John Edie, Edward Ingold, Knut Lahrs and Timothy Phillips.

POWER LINE SAFETY CHECKLIST



When outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines and other equipment your co-op uses to get electricity to your home. Always remember to:

- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Don't climb trees near power lines.
- Never fly kites, remote control airplanes, drones or balloons near power lines.
- If you get something stuck on a power line, call HWE at 800-445-4840 and stay away!
- Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines when working with ladders or installing objects like antennas.
- Never touch or go near a downed power line.
- Don't touch anything that may be touching a downed wire, such as any motor vehicle.
- Keep children and pets away from energized lines — electricity can travel!
- If you use a generator, check our website for important safety info.

Learn more safety tips at hwe.coop/safety.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ENERGY

In January, seventh-grade students in Mrs. Smith's class at Elmwood Middle School experimented with an energy bike. By pedaling at varying speeds, the students learned how much energy it requires to power different lightbulbs, including a super-efficient LED and a regular incandescent, a small fan and a hair dryer.



DO YOU WANT TO SAVE \$300?

Did you know you have a chance to win \$300 off your next energy bill?

Visit Hancock-Wood's website, hwe.coop, to sign up for e-mail alerts, news and more to enter to win a quarterly drawing for \$300 off your next electric bill. Click on Members Connect to complete the form.

SHOUT OUT FROM OUR MEMBERS!



On Feb. 1, HWE engineering supervisor Andy Fisher stopped to secure the scene and assist the injured at an accident east of Findlay, within the service area of Washington Township Fire department, where Fisher serves as a volunteer firefighter. "I was glad to be able to help out and use the training that I have been fortunate enough to receive from both Hancock-Wood Electric and the fire department," he said. Hancock-Wood encourages its employees to be involved within the community. There are others employed at Hancock-Wood who serve as volunteers in some capacity in Northwest Ohio.

One of HWE's Members who witnessed the scene, contacted the co-op via Facebook and wrote, "I want to give a huge thank you to the young man who stepped up to the plate today at an accident just east of Findlay on SR 12 ... Makes me proud to be a Hancock-Wood member."

HWE 2016 REBUILD UPDATE



HWE crews began work on the 2016 rebuild project the first week of March. The first project is a single-phase rebuild along County Road 9 in Hancock County, located in Eagle Township. After this is completed, crews will move on to another single-phase project along Township Roads 202 and 190 in Hancock County, located in Marion Township.

we want to hear from you!

Your thoughts and opinions about the cooperative help us to serve you better.

This April and May, Hancock-Wood will complete our annual Member Satisfaction Survey by phone and e-mail. If you are contacted, please share your opinions and help make us the number one co-op this year!

8TH-GRADE VAN BUREN STUDENTS TOUR HWE

In January, nearly 100 eighth-grade students from Van Buren Schools learned the ins-and-outs of the electric co-op world when they toured Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative corporate offices in North Baltimore. The staff at Hancock-Wood, including President and CEO George Walton, was excited to share the technology that has kept Members' lights on for more than 75 years in northwest Ohio.

Walton said, "Giving these students an inside look at our Member services and IT, communications, accounting, engineering and operations functions provides them with a better understanding of how an electric utility works. We emphasized how important their schooling is and what life benefits they could achieve by furthering their education — they might just become our employees one day!" Students toured the offices and warehouses and even visited the "War Room," where operations personnel are dispatched when an outage is reported. Bill Barnhart, vice president of engineering and operations, and Andy Fisher, engineering supervisor, conducted a mock outage so students could see the steps to restoring power as quickly as possible. Allen Riegler, line supervisor, displayed equipment the linemen use every day. The students even had a chance to operate heavy equipment with the help of Lineman Jeff Price.

