

Members First!



**HANCOCK-WOOD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HANCOCK-WOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

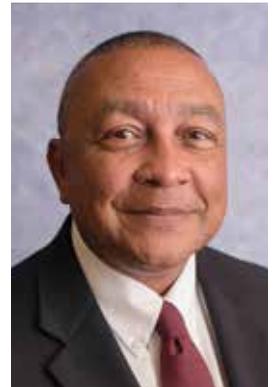
When you think of October, certain things naturally come to mind, like pumpkins, Halloween, and beautiful fall foliage. But October is notable for another reason — it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need. Similar to how Hancock-Wood Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you. We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels, or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs. Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community."

We participate in Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. We hope you will think of Hancock-Wood Electric as more than your energy provider. We're also a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you — because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



George Walton
PRESIDENT & CEO



October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms, and schools in 48 states.



Think **Energy \$mart** With Bruce

We are heading toward Halloween at the end of this month, and the timing is perfect to provide you information about how to manage the “phantom” or “vampire” electric consumption in your home.

The term phantom load, or vampire load, is a widely accepted term for energy consumed by appliances when are switched off or in a standby mode.

In the past, phantom load was largely a non-issue for electricity consumers. The addition of digital clocks, rechargeable batteries, and stored settings in appliances has increased the amount of electricity an appliance consumes when it's not in use. In 2017, Consumer Fraunhofer USA estimated the average U.S. household owns 30 electronic products. Each one of these products has the potential to

use energy while not in use, accounting for approximately 5 to 10% of residential electricity use. The Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory has determined that an informed aggressive approach can reduce a consumer's vampire load by up to 30%. While it is virtually impossible to eliminate standby energy consumption, here are some suggestions to help you in your home:

- Unplug devices that don't get used frequently, such as sound systems, DVD players, gaming systems, guest room clocks, and televisions.
- When shopping, search for low standby products. ENERGY STAR products have lower standby use.
- Buy a watt meter to measure the energy used by devices in your home so you can target the largest consumers.

Hopefully these suggestions will help you control how much energy those phantoms are consuming every month, making your electric bill creep higher!

Operation Round Up grants **\$13,609** to local organizations

At the August Community Trust Fund board meeting, the board granted \$13,609 to the following local organizations:

- Youth for Christ of NW Ohio: \$3,000
- Findlay Enrichment Program: \$3,000
- Putnam County YMCA: \$2,000
- Northview Primary School: \$2,359.84
- Awakening Minds: \$3,250

These grants are made possible by all our members who contribute to the Operation Round Up Program! The program rounds member bills to the next dollar, with the extra change donated to the fund. Every quarter, the CTF board reviews the applications submitted by local organizations and determines funding. HWE is currently accepting applications for the November CTF board meeting. Applications for grants are due by Oct. 21. If your organization would like to apply, visit our website at hwe.coop/community-involvement and click on Operation Round Up on the left or contact Leslie Guisinger at leslie@hwe.coop.



Volunteers for the Community Trust Fund Board

Hancock-Wood is accepting volunteers for the Community Trust Fund Board (CTF). The CTF board oversees the Operation Round Up program. This program funds special projects in our communities for local nonprofit organizations. Some organizations recently receiving grants include the Putnam County YMCA for the second-grade swim program; Youth for Christ, for their Independent Living program; and Findlay Enrichment Program, for their COSI on Wheels program. If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact us at 800-445-4840 or by email at info@hwe.coop.



Thank you
for the

HIGH MARKS

71	70	84
Municipal Utilities	Investor-Owned Utilities	Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc.

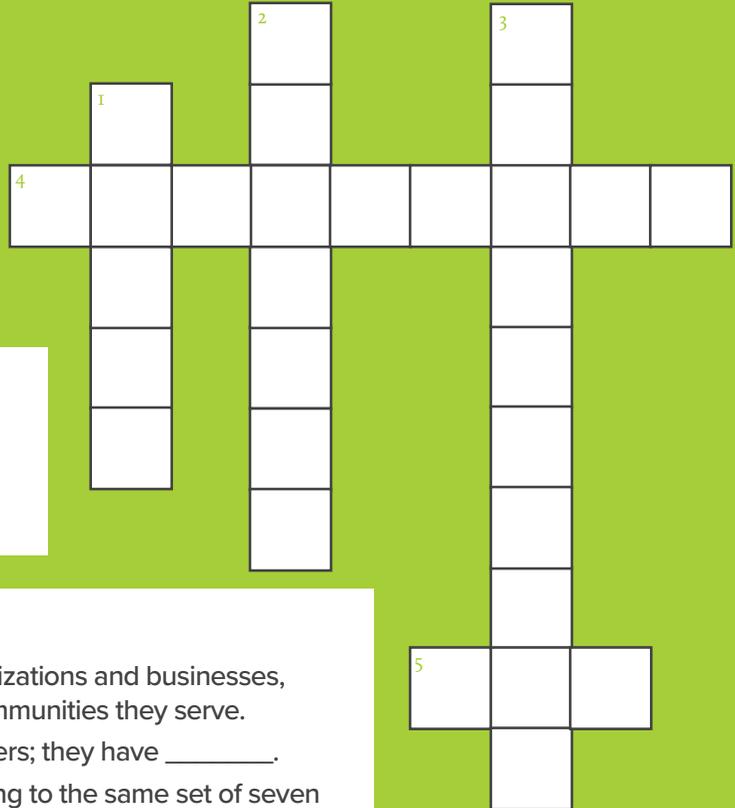
2019

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Member satisfaction data from 2019 ACSI Utility Sector Report

CO-OP MONTH CROSSWORD

October is National Co-op Month! Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about ways co-ops are unique. Need a hint? Use the work bank below.



WORD BANK:

LED
MEMBERS
LOCAL
COMMUNITY
PRINCIPLES

CLUES:

1. **DOWN:** Co-ops are _____ organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
2. **DOWN:** Co-ops don't have customers; they have _____.
3. **DOWN:** All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. **ACROSS:** "Concern for _____" is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. **ACROSS:** Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.

ANSWER KEY

1. DOWN: LOCAL
2. DOWN: MEMBERS
3. DOWN: PRINCIPLES
4. ACROSS: COMMUNITY
5. ACROSS: LED

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

Email your ideas to:
leslie.guisinger@hwe.coop

