

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Local voices shape local solutions

October is National Co-op Month

When you hear the word “cooperative,” what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Hancock-Wood Electric.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: They’re led by the people they serve — and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O’Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives — like Hancock-Wood Electric — provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn’t simply to earn a profit; it’s to provide value, meet unique local needs, and strengthen the communities they call home.

That’s exactly what makes Hancock-Wood Electric different.

Our story began in 1938, when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn’t. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We’re still here to provide power and make decisions with our community’s best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That’s why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology, or creating new opportunities for local students.

You’ll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It’s the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members — your neighbors — who help guide decisions for the future.

We’re your neighbor and local energy partner, and we’re committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you.

Whether it’s Hancock-Wood Electric, your local credit union, or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible — and it’s what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.



Bill Barnhart
PRESIDENT & CEO

Operation Round Up grants more than \$7,000 to local nonprofit organizations

Hancock-Wood automatically adjusts members' bills to the nearest dollar and then combines each amount for grants to local organizations and individuals in need.

For example, a monthly bill of \$52.73 is rounded up to \$53.00. The additional \$.27 will be contributed to Hancock-Wood's Operation Round Up fund, managed by the HWE Community Trust Fund Board of Trustees. On average, a member would contribute \$6 annually to the fund. These pennies, nickels, and dimes have helped to raise more than \$1 million to benefit area charities since the program's inception in 2008.

The following organizations received funding through our Operation Round Up program this past August:

Friends of Van Buren
State Park

Leipsic Community
Center

Vanlue Fire
Department

HANCOCK-WOOD
COMMUNITY TRUST FUND
Operation Round Up - Powering Community Change

Applications and more information about the Operation Round Up Fund can be found on our website: www.hwe.coop.

Member bingo is back!

BINGO

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Get ready for an afternoon of fun, prizes, and bingo! Our upcoming Member Bingo event will be held **December 8 and 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.**, and it's exclusively for our members.

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Members may register for one day only, with registration opening November 1. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early! Just call our office at 800-445-4840 to register.

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Players must be 18 years or older to participate and it is limited to two people per household. We'll have bill credit prizes and more throughout the afternoon, so you won't want to miss the fun.

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*Gather your friends, pick your day,
and get ready to shout Bingo!*

You are invited to Member Power Hour!

This is a free, member-only educational event from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on October 13 at the co-op office, 1399 Business Park Drive S, North Baltimore, Ohio.

Topics will include data centers, understanding generation and transmission costs, and water heating and cooling systems. Register by calling our office or visit our website and fill out the online form.



CONTACT

800-445-4840
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WEBSITE

www.hwe.coop

OFFICE

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HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

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Members First! 
HANCOCK-WOOD
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