

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

I'd like to introduce myself to our membership. I am Bill Barnhart, and I have been appointed by your board to the role of interim president and CEO of Hancock-Wood Electric. My career with Hancock-Wood began in 1998, when I was hired as the distribution engineer. Prior to this, I worked with a consulting engineering company, AVCA Corporation, where projects focused on the glass and petroleum industries. I am also a proud engineering graduate of the University of Toledo, received my MBA from Ohio University while working for the co-op, and hold an electrical engineering license in Ohio. I have served our co-op members as the vice president of engineering and operations since 2000.

October is a special month for Hancock-Wood as we celebrate National Co-op Month. Let's look at the first three cooperative principles, which have provided the framework of electric co-ops.

Voluntary and open membership

Just like all co-ops, HWE was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. In 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. The newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be long ago, key parts of that heritage remain — the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

Democratic member control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. HWE's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, is also composed of members who live locally, on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions.

Members' economic participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of HWE. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments, and supporting other activities.

HWE is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.



Bill Barnhart
INTERIM
PRESIDENT & CEO

**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month!

Get to know the Hancock-Wood Board of Trustees



Brian Terry

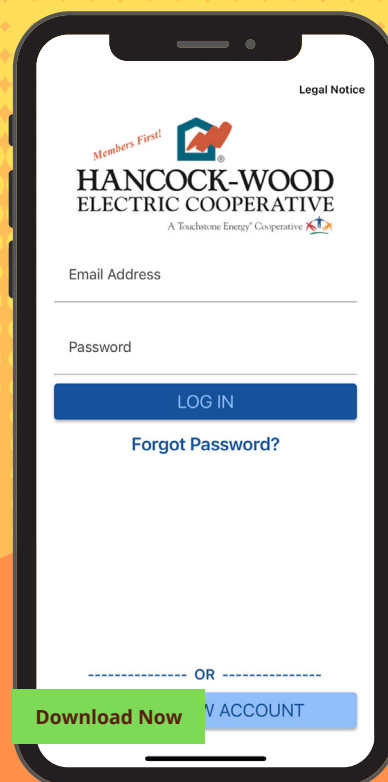
Brian Terry is the current District 10 trustee, serving Kelleys Island. Kelleys Island was added to our service territory in 1967 when Lake Erie Electric Cooperative accounts were absorbed.

Terry has been employed at the Kelleys Island Portside Marina and Dockers restaurant for 12 years and is the current general manager. He has also served on the Kelleys Island Volunteer Fire Department for three years and the Kelleys Island EMS for one year. Terry has served on the Hancock-Wood board since 2018.

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- Report outages



CTF board grants \$5,000 to North Baltimore Youth Travel League

The Community Trust Fund board, which oversees the Operation Round Up Program, granted \$5,000 to help purchase new equipment for the North Baltimore Youth Travel League. The travel team plays on five fields and did not have enough equipment to maintain the fields. Concern for Community is another one of our seven cooperative principles and includes improving the communities we serve.



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OCTOBER IS

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MONTH**

For more information, visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org

Think Energy \$mart with Bruce



To continue the series of information about water heaters, this month I am providing facts about tankless gas water heaters. The price to purchase a tankless gas water heater from a box store is \$1,200 to \$1,500. If you have a contractor

install it, the cost will be will around \$3,000.

Here are a couple advantages of using a tankless gas water heater.

- **Space saver**

- ◊ A gas tankless water heating unit consumes considerably less space than a tank model. This can be helpful when the unit is installed in a closet or small area.

- **Large amount of hot water**

- ◊ These units heat water as it is being used, so they can supply a large amount of hot water per hour.

- **Longer life expectancy/warranty**

- ◊ Tankless gas water heaters will typically last longer than a tank gas unit and will provide you with longer

warranty coverage on the unit as well.

Here are a couple disadvantages of using a tankless gas water heater.

- **Possible gas service upgrades needed**

- ◊ In some cases, upgrades to the existing gas service line and or supply line to the appliance are required. These upgrades need to be completed by a professional and can raise the cost of installation significantly.

- **Annual maintenance**

- ◊ Tankless waters heaters should be descaled annually, especially if you use well water. This process requires flushing the unit with vinegar to descale it. Tank heater manufacturers suggest draining the tank annually, which is much easier.

Next month, I will share information about heat pump water heaters.



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