

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

# Join us for our annual meeting in June

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Hancock-Wood Electric’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Hancock-Wood exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its consumer-members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable — and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss accomplishments and challenges and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. Items under consideration include substation construction and maintenance, economic development partnerships, and more. The annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you, the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Hancock-Wood is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Hancock-Wood wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future. While Hancock-Wood provides convenient electronic options for bill paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting or if it’s been a while, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, fun, and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on June 11, 2022, at the Hancock County Fairgrounds.



**Bill Barnhart**  
PRESIDENT & CEO





## Member spotlight

Hancock-Wood Electric members Joe and Brenda Stearns of Fostoria have developed various themed gardens over the past 25 years. Their unique gardens have been featured on garden tours including Hancock Co. Master Gardeners, Fostoria Ladies Garden Tour, various private garden tours, fundraisers, and more.

The gardens span across 5 acres with a number of themes, including perennial garden, rock garden, knot garden, Victorian rose garden, Grecian garden, Japanese garden, wood garden, secret garden, and white garden, as well as an assortment of art pieces throughout the gardens.

The perennial garden was started in June 1991 and served as the venue for the wedding of Brenda's sister. According to Joe, it was the true beginning of the obsession! After the first garden, the other space was developed into theme or general garden beds. "The English rose garden was first planted in spring 1998 for our daughter's high school graduation celebration," says Joe. The peony garden has early, mid and late bloomers, but the most sentimental are the peonies that were from Joe's grandmother's garden.

"Our favorite is the Japanese tea garden. We started planning for this type of garden in 1977 after a visit to the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco. Over the intervening years we collected magazine photos and purchased many books on Japanese gardens," says Joe. It was a lucky day when Joe drove past AguaFina Gardens, a business in Michigan that specializes in Oriental garden development. He stopped, and after a visit with the owner/developer, there was a plan to begin the dream. That garden is now about 13 years into maturity and is a lovely spot to relax.

"We have no plans to begin new gardens, but will be constantly improving and refreshing the existing gardens," Joe says.



If you have something unique to share with other members, feel free to contact us for a magazine article. Email Leslie at [leslie@hwe.coop](mailto:leslie@hwe.coop).

## ORU donates more than \$38,000 to local nonprofits

The following organizations received funding for the fourth quarter grant cycle.

**Delaware Twp. Fire Department: \$9,773.23**  
**Forest Jackson Public Library: \$2,716.47**  
**Gliding Stars Skating of Findlay: \$6,000**  
**Putnam County Habitat for Humanity: \$7,829**  
**Kelleys Island Fire Department: \$7,217.60**

The Community Trust Fund also granted \$5,000 to the Hancock-Wood Board of Trustees to choose a worthy organization in their respective districts. The next Operation Round Up grant deadline is Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. Applications are available on our website, [www.hwe.coop](http://www.hwe.coop).



Gliding Stars received a grant to fund their ice rental time.



# High school sophomores, juniors, and seniors!

Interested in a life-changing leadership experience in Washington, D.C.?



## What is Youth Tour?

The Ohio's Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour is an annual leadership program sponsored by Hancock-Wood Electric. It's a weeklong, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., that gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to meet with their congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, make new friends from across the state and country, and see many of the famous Washington sights.

Please note that Youth Tour 2022 is subject to change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association are continually monitoring state and federal guidance and will adjust plans accordingly if needed.

For more information and to apply, visit [hwe.coop](http://hwe.coop) or call Hancock-Wood Electric at 800-445-4840. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2022.

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

**OHIO'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES**

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

# 2022 GRADS

You could win more than

**\$3,900** in our  
**Children of Members  
Scholarship** program!

- Visit [hwe.coop](http://hwe.coop)
- Call the co-op at 800-445-4840
- Stop by the co-op office
- Ask your guidance counselor

**Deadline to apply: Feb. 11, 2022**

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## Residential rebates for 2022

**Air conditioner rebate:** HWE offers a **\$250** rebate on ENERGY STAR new or replacement central air system installation. Installation of a radio-controlled switch is required for rebate; however, not all systems are able to accept having a switch installed. This will only affect \$100 of the entire rebate.

**Clothes washer rebate:** **\$75** for new ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washers.

**Geothermal:** HWE offers a **\$900** rebate on new ENERGY STAR or replacement geothermal system installations. Installation of a radio-controlled switch is required for rebate; however, not all systems are able to accept having a switch installed. This will only affect \$100 of the entire rebate.

**Heat pump/dual fuel/air source rebate:** HWE offers a **\$700** rebate on new ENERGY STAR or replacement heat pump/dual fuel/air source system installations. Installation of a radio-controlled switch or RCS on one of the above systems is required for rebate; however, not all systems are able to accept having a switch installed. This will only affect \$100 of the entire rebate. Dual-fuel system consists of an oil, gas, or propane furnace with an add-on electric heat pump.

**LED lighting rebate:** up to a **\$50** rebate for new ENERGY STAR-labeled LED lightbulbs. Members may receive a savings of 25% on an LED purchase with a maximum rebate of \$50.

**Refrigerator rebate:** Replace your old, inefficient refrigerator in your home with an ENERGY STAR refrigerator to receive a **\$100** Hancock-Wood rebate and save on your energy costs.

**HVAC maintenance rebate:** Schedule maintenance of your residential HVAC system and receive a 20% rebate up to **\$50**.

**Electric vehicle charger:** Install a Level 2 electric vehicle charger at your home or business and receive a rebate of **\$250/port**. Max two ports residential/six ports nonresidential.

**Water heater rebate:** **\$250** for standard water heater/**\$400** for heat pump water heater. A radio-controlled switch must be installed on the water heater to receive the rebate. **\$250/\$400** for new homes and fuel-to-electric conversions (natural gas, propane, or fuel oil). Standard water heater will receive a \$250 rebate.

**Weatherization rebate for DIY installation:** 10% of the cost, up to **\$500**, for qualifying insulation, air sealing products, windows, skylights, and doors.

**Weatherization rebate for professional installation:** Up to **\$800** for insulation projects. Receive a 50% rebate for the total cost of professional installation of insulation in electrically heated homes only.



## Isaac hired as service planner

Isaac Moritz has been hired as a service planner for Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative. Moritz previously worked for another utility and is married with four children. He enjoys attending church, playing cards, ping-pong, and outdoor activities with his family. Welcome to the co-op family, Isaac!

### 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

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**Tom Kagy**  
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**Lee Anne Dierksheide**  
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**Tim Phillips**

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**Ron Riegler**

**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)

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