

## News Release

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### **COMPETITIVE RATES IN 2009 OUTLINED AT WRIGHT-HENNEPIN'S 73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Rockford, MN (Apr. 8, 2010)** — More than 2,100 members and guests attended Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's (WH) 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on March 30 to learn about WH's strong 2009 performance, including the best outage reliability record in WH's history.

Those in attendance also heard what WH is doing, and has been doing, to keep electric rates stable and competitive in a challenging economy while continuing to provide high reliability and customer satisfaction. Consumers across the nation are being affected by rising power costs, and this year's Annual Meeting theme, "Together We Save" helped members with ways to use electricity more efficiently.

At the meeting, members also re-elected incumbent directors Dale Jans, Buffalo, district 4; Thomas Mach, Maple Grove, district 6; and Donald Lucas, Maple Grove, district 8.

"WH's goal in 2009 was to help members weather the economic storm, while keeping their cooperative in sound financial condition" Board Chairman Lantto told attendees. "We achieved this by providing competitive electric rates, reliable service and controlling local operating costs."

Angie Pribyl, WH's Chief Financial Officer, informed the audience about WH's strong financial condition in 2009, based on a review by independent auditors and lenders. Members further benefited from that excellent financial condition, Pribyl explained, when the cooperative returned \$2.5 million to the members in two different returns in 2009.

WH President and CEO Mark Vogt spoke about the challenges and opportunities going forward for WH, and how the organization received the highest customer

satisfaction score among other electric cooperatives in the nation. Vogt explained that there are many challenges in the industry, but WH has helped counter them by diversifying its power supply portfolio, controlling local operating costs, the growing success of subsidiary organizations and capitalizing on technology innovations.

Visitors to WH's website, [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org), can read or watch the meetings speeches that were presented by Angie Pribyl, Chris Lantto and Mark Vogt. The speeches can be found under the "2010 Annual Meeting" page, which can be accessed through a link on the home page.

Additional highlights from the evening included a free pork chop dinner, a plug in electric vehicle display, a variety of educational booths and a children's activity area. Robert Bauman, Delano, won the grand prize attendance drawing of a Ford Taurus retired from WH's fleet. In addition, several other prizes were given away.

WH is a member-owned non-profit electric utility that provides electric power to Wright County and the western part of Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen in this area since 1937 and currently serves more than 46,000 electric accounts. The utility started its security division in 1989 that provides local home security solutions as well as monitors alarm systems for more than 50,000 customers in 32 states and three Canadian provinces.

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