

HOTLINE UPDATE

Wright-Hennepin awards \$27,700 in scholarships to local students



This year's scholarship recipients posed for a photo with WH's board directors. Board directors who attended the scholarship banquet included (back row, left to right) Burton Horsch, Chris Lantto, Kenneth Hiebel, Dale Jans, Butch Lindenfelser, Timothy Young, Erick Heinz, Thomas Mach and Donald Lucas. Scholarship recipients included (middle row, left to right) Daniel Morris, Jacob Wurm, Megan Stein, Michelle Lang, Phoebe O'Brien, Bryan Haider, Matthew Kellogg, Michael Hoberg, Zachary Sandquist, Stephanie Dixon, (front row, left to right) Christina Ruiz, Catherine Funk, Brooke Decker, Rachel Bartelt, Carl Wojcik, Andrea Anderson, William Schanus, Katie Hirsch and Trevor Springer.

Twenty local students received scholarships from WH Holding – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH). This year's scholarships totaled \$27,700, raising the amount the cooperative has awarded to \$546,000 since its scholarship program began in 1988.

WH awarded the scholarships during a banquet at its headquarters in Rockford, Minn. on May 24. The scholarships are funded through donations from WH's diversified non-electric businesses – WH Security, WH Services, HeatMyFloors.com, WH Generation and WH International Response Center – under the umbrella of the WH Holding

Company. By using this funding method, WH's education program is not financed through members' electric rates.

"The value of a good education in today's competitive world cannot be understated," said Mark Vogt, WH

Scholarships cont. on Pg. 7

Save energy and win prizes through new contest

Would you like to save energy, but need a little incentive to get started? Do you think you can save more energy than your friends and neighbors? Wright-Hennepin's (WH) The Littlest User 2 contest can give you the push you need to start conserving energy and saving on your monthly electricity bills.

Whereas last year's The Littlest User contest was limited to six WH households, The Littlest User 2 will be open to all qualifying WH members. Through this contest, you can join your friends and neighbors in a friendly competition to see who can save the most electricity and earn the title of The Littlest User 2. Participating households will compete against each other to see who can reduce their energy use by the largest percent compared to their use during the same time frame last year.



In addition to saving significantly on their energy costs, the winning household will receive a \$1,000 travel voucher. Members of the second place household will be rewarded with passes for an overnight stay at a water park, and third place will receive a gift certificate for a household pizza night. Additionally, everyone who saves energy "wins" by having lower energy bills.

Participants will be able to track their daily energy-conserving efforts by using MyMeter. MyMeter is an energy-use tracking Web portal that allows its users to view daily and monthly energy use data in a simple graphic format. This allows the participants to view how changes they've made around their homes directly affect their energy use.

The contest will run from July 1 through September 30. All participants must register by June 30.

If you'd like to sign up, go to www.whe.org, click on "Littlest User 2 contest," which can be found in the featured links section, and fill out the application form.

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Find us on:





The spirit and leadership of Don Paumen

We've had a loss in the family. Don Paumen of Maple Lake – former board chair – passed away last month at the age of 88. We extend to his wife Angie and his family our sympathy – along with our thanks for sharing Don with us.

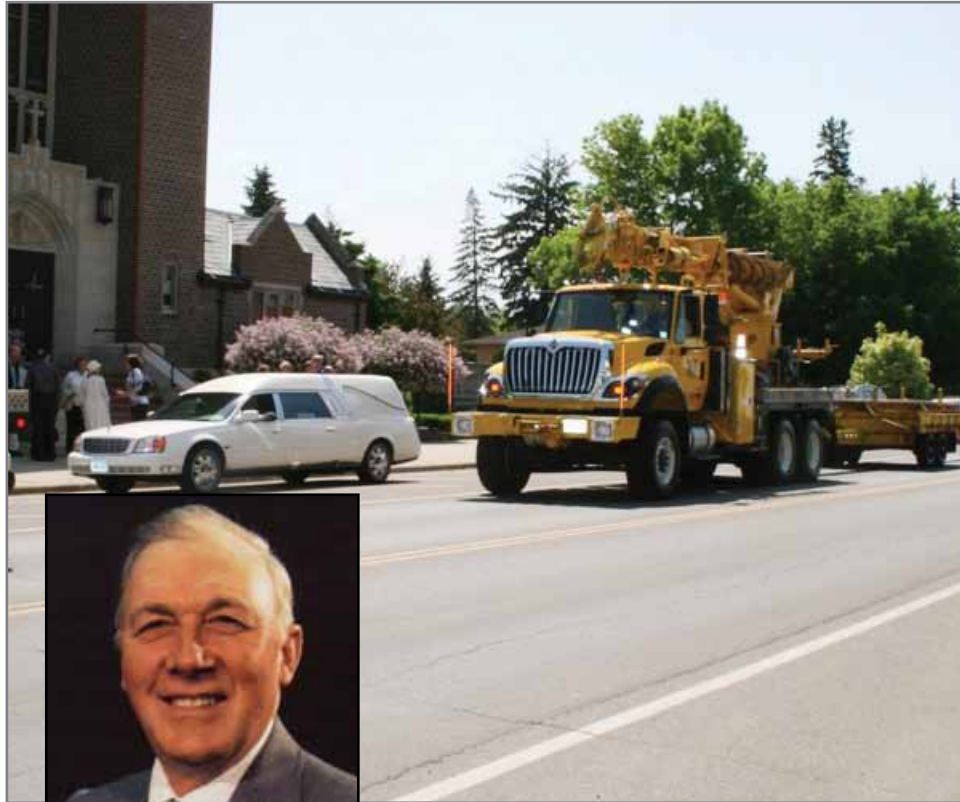
I'd like to use this column to share some memories of Don and to offer a few observations on how he approached his job as director and board chair.

Don was one of six WH members who have held the position of board chair in the cooperative's 75-year history. He was the fourth board chair, serving in that role from 1983 to 1992. He served as a director from 1969 to 1992.

As a combat veteran of World War II, Don was a member of "The Greatest Generation." In fact, he was a pilot of one of the big bombers during WWII. I knew Don to be a modest man – he always deflected talk of himself – but he loved to talk about aircraft, and on a long drive back from an industry meeting, he gave me a real insider's view of a mission in one of those big bombers. The comment I remember most was his memory of the amount of aviation fuel that regularly leaked into the fuselage of those big planes on every flight. Don flew 33 missions in Europe, surviving not only the danger of enemy fire, but what must also have been the constant threat of a gasoline-induced inferno while flying high over enemy territory. It was a rare, fascinating glimpse into Don's life and one I felt privileged to hear.

Don fascinated me in other ways, too. Because my career came out of the marketing and communications side of this business, I appreciated Don's hands-on style regarding his speeches, newsletter columns and letters to the membership. Today, as I re-read Don's speeches and newsletter columns, I am

"I am reminded of his genuine passion regarding the advantages of cooperative membership. Across the years, you can still sense, too, Don's near reverence about the concept of local control over something so essential as electricity."



WH line trucks were part of Don Paumen's funeral procession on May 15.



reminded of his genuine passion regarding the advantages of cooperative membership. Across the years, you can still sense, too, Don's near reverence about the concept of local control over something so essential as electricity.

As Don wrote to the membership right after he became board chair, "The emphasis (on) equal ownership and control, the idea that service is provided on a non-profit basis – these are the characteristics of the cooperative philosophy and the basic rules (that) govern Wright-Hennepin."

A few years later, he offered further perspective on the advantages of local control: "Your local (director) lives less than a half hour from your home. Your employees live in 17 different communities of our service territory. If you don't have an opportunity to talk to us at the office or at one of our member functions, you can catch us at the local grocery store, church, school or probably next door."

Time and again Don's writing contrasted the advantage of electric cooperative membership to the limited input available to consumers of energy suppliers with absentee ownership and unknown board directors.

"To me, (the local control we members have) is the biggest and most

overlooked advantage of belonging to an electric cooperative," he said.

He expanded on that theme in 1989: "What (board directors) do affects many people. Local people understand the impact of change," he went on, adding, "unlike other utility customers, we have our destiny in our own hands. We, the members, make our own decisions. And this has to be the most palatable way to receive service from any monopoly."

I believe this is why Don championed a board-sponsored bylaw change in 1991 that offered WH members easier participation in the business of the cooperative. Don wrote of it as a "truly historic change in the way we member-consumers will conduct the business of our cooperative."

He added: "In our previous 54 years, the annual meeting served as the polling place and ballots were (only) distributed (to members who attended the meeting). But next week, for the first time, each of our...members (can vote) via the mail."

This bylaw change has encouraged higher voting participation ever since by WH members and is still in practice today.

Don Paumen cont. on Pg. 3

April board meeting highlights:

- The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted April 10, 2012. A quorum of directors was present. At the meeting, the board:
- Welcomed newly elected director Kenneth Hiebel of District 7.
 - Critiqued the Annual Meeting, congratulated management and employees for a well-received event by the members, and approved the date of Tuesday, April 2, 2013 for next year's Annual Meeting.
 - Approved the continuance of the Energy Conversation Loan Program of Rural Utilities Service.
 - Approved applying for Integrity Fund Grant from the Cooperative Finance Corporation.
 - Approved new Pay As You Go policy and rate.
 - Approved rescheduling the May board meeting to Tuesday, May 15, 2012.
 - Heartland safety director presented WH's annual safety report and noted that WH had a very good overall safety year in 2011.
 - Directors were briefed on the latest home automation and energy management products as introduced at the 2012 Consumer Electronics Show.

April & May highlights cont. on Pg. 8

WH's board of directors

Chris Lantto, board chair.....	District 5
Thomas Mach, vice chair.....	District 6
Dale Jans, secretary/treasurer....	District 4
Timothy Young.....	District 1
Butch Lindenfelser.....	District 2
Burton Horsch.....	District 3
Kenneth Hiebel.....	District 7
Donald Lucas.....	District 8
Erick Heinz.....	District 9

The board of directors meets monthly at the cooperative's office in Rockford. Regular meetings are generally scheduled the second Tuesday of each month for 2012. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the president and CEO to confirm meeting date and time.

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WH receives innovation award for the development of new outage software

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) recently received GeoDigital Solutions' Innovation Award for a project designed to expedite the cooperative's outage reporting process.

GeoDigital provides work management software for the

cooperative and assisted WH with further enhancing its software to make power outage reporting much more efficient. This allows WH's line crews to update outage information from the field, eliminating excess radio traffic and duplicate data entry in the cooperative's dispatch center.

Additionally, the software gives WH line crews the ability to view live information about locations of outages occurring in the cooperative's service territory from out in the field.

"WH is honored that GeoDigital has chosen to recognize this project with its Innovation Award," said WH IT Support Specialist Jason Delaria, who played a key role in the project. "This software will help our line workers and dispatchers track outages much easier, and make the outage restoration process much more efficient during times of large-scale outages."

GeoDigital Solutions is a division of GeoDigital International, a worldwide leader in corridor and wide-area digital mapping. With the largest fleet of digital imaging sensors in North America, GeoDigital has the resources to deliver the highest quality results under the most demanding conditions. From multiple data acquisition platforms to online geo-data delivery, GeoDigital is focused on innovative, customer-driven solutions. 



Pictured with GeoDigital Solutions' employees who also worked on the project, Jason Delaria and Wayne Bauernschmitt (back row center) accepted the award on WH's behalf.

The spirit and leadership of Don Paumen

CEO Memo cont. from Pg. 2

Don's chairmanship paralleled some of the most difficult rate increase years in the history of WH. This was due to the cost of a major new base load power plant beginning to show itself on members' electric bills. I heard him speak movingly about how this was affecting families, farmers and businesses, along with the importance of WH developing legitimate options to help offset those increases.

"We've faced some heart wrenching decisions," Don reflected near the end of his career. "Raising the rates back in the early '80s was one of the more difficult of them. But since then, we've made some major decisions on how to promote our Off-Peak programs, and the result is that everyone has benefited."

He was speaking of the board's strategic decision in the 1980s to make a significant investment in the promotion of these programs through marketing and rebates. This was a level of funding that was much more aggressive than what was seen at the time by any other electric cooperative in the state. Don's leadership in that effort has created huge benefits for WH's members ever since. I believe he'd take satisfaction in knowing that one of every two members now participates in these programs.

And that's because the Off-Peak rate is still almost half off the regular rate for home heating, water heating and air conditioning. In fact, WH homeowners who participate in these programs today pay a lower average cost per month for electricity than homeowners served by any other utility in the area.

While addressing and attending to the urgent challenges of the day, Don always kept an eye on the future, too.

"As... director(s), we all strive to make WH a leader. Our service on the board means making decisions that will look to the future needs of our member-owners. We must constantly be aware of their

changing attitudes to provide them with services they need and want."

Though written over a quarter century ago, these words endure at WH – and so does the spirit and leadership of Don Paumen.

Mark Vogt

Read more from CEO Mark Vogt on his new blog

View recent posts on WH's website at <http://bit.ly/qWXFrp>.

May 7: *Wall Street Journal* comments on our challenges

April 27: *Light at the end of the tunnel?*

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Industry NEWS

Rural Electric customers pay the price for renewable energy mandate

Taxpayers already pay a high price to subsidize wind energy through billions in federal grants, loan guarantees and tax credits that prop up the "windustry." Now the bill for state renewable energy mandates is coming due with hundreds of thousands of Minnesota electric co-op and utility customers picking up the tab.

According to the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), going green cost rural electric ratepayers in Minnesota more than \$70 million last year. "It's an enormous subsidy. You have to add wind power, whether you need it or not," said Mark Glaess, MREA executive director. "Right now we're paying for wind we don't need, we can't use and can't sell."

In greater Minnesota, co-ops and utilities say it's already hard enough for some customers to pay their utility bills in this skittish economy without the mandate. With MREA co-ops and utilities just halfway toward implementing the 25 percent renewable mandate, a few dollars a month on electric bills now could add up to much more.

"What's awful is the percentage of customers who are late in paying their electric bills," said Mark Glaess. "The average percentage that poor people are spending on energy has increased by a great deal, and then they're throwing more of this on us? It's regressive energy economics."

Source: Freedom Foundation of Minnesota

House votes to block enforcement of energy efficient light bulb standards

The House approved two amendments to a 2013 spending bill that would prohibit the government from enforcing federal light bulb standards that Republicans say are too intrusive. In a voice vote, the House approved an amendment to the energy and water spending bill for 2013 that would prevent the Department of Energy from spending money to enforce a 2007 law that sets bulb efficiency standards. The law bans the sale of 100 watt incandescent bulbs and will ban the sale of 75 watt traditional bulbs in July 2013.

The amendment was sponsored by Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Texas), who said the federal government should not be in the business of requiring certain light bulbs to be used. "We shouldn't be making these decisions for the American people," Burgess said on the House floor. Burgess added that his amendment was approved last year and signed into law by President Obama, after which the House quickly passed his amendment again.

The language was subject to a brief debate in which Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.) said he opposed the language because it could hurt U.S. companies making bulbs that comply with the standards.

Source: The Hill

Ten simple ways to save energy this summer

The hottest days seem to be some of the days with the highest energy use, due to air conditioners turning on, fans running on high and many other factors. This summer, you can balance out those energy users by incorporating as many energy-saving practices into your routine as possible. It could make this summer brighter for everyone! Some tips include:

1. Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer, if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. Additionally, clean the lint filter after each load, and

make sure the vent hose is connected tightly and is free of kinks. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

2. Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional comfort and better air circulation so you can raise your thermostat's temperature and cut down on air conditioning costs. ENERGY STAR® certified ceiling fans work even more efficiently than typical models, giving you additional savings on your cooling costs.

3. Try to cook outdoors whenever possible. This reduces the load on your air conditioner, as an oven or stove can quickly heat up a kitchen. Toaster ovens, convection ovens and slow cookers get the job done with less energy than conventional stovetops or ovens, especially when preparing smaller meals.

4. Use a microwave to cook when possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and won't heat your home in the summer.

5. Use shade trees when landscaping in order to block summer sun from entering your home and reduce cooling costs. As an added energy-efficient benefit, deciduous trees shed leaves in the winter to let heat into your home.

6. A big slice of your energy bill pays for heating water. Take five minute showers instead of baths. Make sure that your water heater is set no higher than 120° F.


7. When using your laptop computer at home, put the battery charger (an AC adapter) on a power strip that can be turned off. The transformer in the charger draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged

in. Keep in mind that chargers that have a light on when they're plugged in draw power whether or not they're charging anything.

8. Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40° F for the main refrigerator compartment and 5° F for the freezer. If you have a stand-alone freezer, it should be kept at 0° F. Appliance settings may vary, so an easy way to check the temperature is to use a meat thermometer.

9. Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Raise your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

10. Join WH's Off-Peak air conditioning program called "Cool Cash" to save 15 percent on your summer electric bills. See the ad on the bottom of page 8 for more details.

Do you have energy-saving tips to share? Post them on WH's facebook page at Facebook.com/WrightHennepin. 

Source: NRECA



Save money this summer by letting your clothes air dry on a clothesline.

Be prepared for severe summer weather

Hot summer temperatures increase the likelihood of severe weather, and when storms hit, it's possible that power lines could be damaged, causing outages and possible safety hazards. Below are some tips that will help you stay safe in the event of severe weather and power outages.

Post-storm safety tips

- If you come across a downed power line, stay away and contact WH immediately. Do not touch or try to move downed lines. Downed lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injuries or even death.
- Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. During a storm, unplug appliances not in use, and avoid using phones and electrical appliances.
- Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas, and remember that

submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water.

- Do not use electrical appliances that have been in contact with water. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Electrical parts can pose a shock hazard and can overheat, causing a fire.

How to report an outage

If your home loses power, make sure that you did not simply blow a fuse or trip a breaker in your home. Then check with your neighbors to see if they have power. **If you determine that you have lost power, contact our electric dispatch center at (763) 477-3100 (metro or cell phone) or toll-free at (888) 399-1845.**

WH uses an automated phone system to make the process of reporting an

outage fast and easy. When you call, the phone system identifies your number and will verify your address with you.

Stay connected

WH outage information is available for all members to see on WH's website at www.whe.org. By clicking the "Power Outage" tab on the homepage, you are able to view a map of WH's service territory and a list of all current outages, including the number of members affected.

You can also follow us on our outage page on Twitter at http://twitter.com/#!/Wright_Hennepin or check our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin> for hourly updates. 

Source: ESFI and NRECA



If you lose power, WH has several ways to keep you informed, including through a real-time outage map on [whe.org](http://www.whe.org).

Outage preparation kit items:

It's helpful to keep the following items in your home during storm season in case an outage should occur:

- Flashlight • Candles • Battery or crank operated radio
- Batteries • Bottled water • Corded telephone
- Non-perishable foods

Also, be mindful that although portable stoves, grills and other camping equipment may be useful during an outage, they're meant to be stored and used outside.

Coming soon: outage notifications

By signing up, you'll be notified by text or email when:

- we have an estimated restoration time for your outage
- your power is restored



We'll announce the launch of this service on our Facebook page: facebook.com/WrightHennepin.

Like us, and be the first to know!

WH donates tree seedlings to local organizations


As part of an effort to help the environment, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association has donated nearly 200,000 tree seedlings to the local area through the cooperative's Plant-A-Tree program.

In 1997, WH's electric service territory was struck by a severe storm that damaged and destroyed many mature trees. WH has since worked to offset that loss by donating trees to youth, schools and civic organizations throughout its service territory in Wright and western Hennepin counties.

Local educators often use the program as an opportunity to teach students about the important environmental benefits of trees, including preventing soil erosion, providing habitats for wildlife, replenishing oxygen supplies and filtering groundwater. Students who receive seedlings enjoy learning how to plant and care for the trees, and are excited to watch the trees grow throughout their lifetimes.

Trees were also donated to Lake Maria State Park as a part of a clean-up effort. WH rounded up more than 50 volunteers to assist with planting the new trees and doing other park maintenance in May.

While not every tree donated by WH will reach maturity, each tree that does has the ability to absorb 729 pounds* of carbon dioxide annually while releasing oxygen into the air. That means if even one-quarter of the trees that WH has donated reach maturity, WH and its members will have potentially given nature the ability to take away approximately 36.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide each year. This is just one way that WH is working to improve the environment.

A variety of trees are distributed, including white spire birch, red maple, bur oak, red pine, black hills spruce and northern pin oak. This is the 15th year WH has donated trees through the program. 



Delano Elementary's kindergarten class holds up the new trees that they received as a part of the Plant-A-Tree program.

Use caution when working near overhead power lines

When you think about your home or neighborhood, chances are you don't picture power lines. They're easy to overlook as they're usually out of your line of sight, strung high

above your roof, along property lines and roadways, or hidden by trees. However, the old adage "out of sight, out of mind," may be dangerous; power lines pose serious electrical hazards if forgotten.

The general public should always stay clear of dangerous overhead power lines, and take caution when using tools, ladders and vehicles around them.

Here are some basic safety tips to follow around overhead lines:

- Make sure to always look for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, please contact WH at (763) 477-3000. WH can also assist in trimming trees that are near or touching power lines.
- Treat all power lines as energized. Never climb or attempt to handle a tree that has a limb caught in a power line. You may not see any visible evidence that the tree is "electrified" or dangerous, even when it is.
- Be especially careful when working with ladders and scaffolding, and be sure not to have these tools come into contact with power lines.

- Keep television antennae and satellite dishes away from overhead lines.
- If you live on a farm with an irrigation system, look up before raising the irrigation pipe.

Along with taking necessary steps to respond to an electrical emergency, you can help stop potential power line problems before they start by practicing these safety measures:

- If you notice anything such as trees or branches that might come into contact with power lines or may pose an immediate threat, notify WH at (763) 477-3000.
- If you are planning to plant trees on your property, don't plant them directly under, or within at least 25 feet, of power lines for short trees and at least 40 feet away for medium-sized trees.



Be careful when working with ladders and scaffolding, making sure that these tools do not come into contact with power lines.

Power lines cont. on Pg. 6

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- » Compare your energy use to the average for your neighborhood
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Protect your home when on vacation

Most burglaries occur during summer months. However, there are many things you can do to help prevent your home from being targeted.

The majority of burglaries occur while homes are unoccupied. If you plan on going on vacation this summer, one way to protect your home is to make it look like you're still there. Leave second story shades open and have a neighbor pick up your newspapers while you're away so they don't stack up.

Getting to know your neighbors is a great defense against burglaries. They can help you keep an eye on your home while you're away and contact you if something doesn't seem right. If you don't know your neighbors

well, you might want to attend your neighborhood's National Night Out event this summer on August 7.


How you landscape your home can actually help protect it as well. Trim back shrubs near doors and windows so that burglars won't be able to hide behind them. Installing motion detecting lights can also be helpful.

The most important thing to remember to keep your home safe this summer is to lock your doors and windows. It may sound obvious, but 30 percent of burglaries occur as a result of unlocked doors and windows.

While all of these tips are helpful, the ultimate way to protect your home is by installing a WH Security system. WH Security has a variety of door,

window and motion sensors that will detect if someone enters your home while you're away. You'll be contacted immediately if one of these sensors is tripped. If you can't be reached, WH Security will contact the police and have them check your home to make sure it's secure.

Additionally, WH Security's new Control My Home services can help you stay connected to your home while you're away. Through this service, you can remotely lock and unlock doors, control your lights, control your security system and receive notifications when alarm activity occurs.

For more information on any of WH Security's services, call (763) 477-3664. 



Make sure shrubs are trimmed back near your doors and windows so that burglars won't be able to hide behind them.

Use caution near overhead lines


power lines cont. from Pg. 5

- Shrubs, hedges and other plants should be kept clear of electric towers and poles.

Following these safety practices helps to prevent outages and – most importantly – avoid injuries. Be aware of your surroundings this summer. Look up, and stay safe!

Equipment operators can contact WH's Electric Dispatch Center at (763) 477-3100 when working around overhead power lines. There are a number of ways WH crews can help enhance the electrical safety of the work site, including applying a protective cover-up to the line and in some cases, de-energizing the line.

Additionally, equipment operators and other trades that come into close proximity of power lines should refer to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, which provide information and guidelines regarding safe approach distances to overhead power lines.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of equipment operators to ensure they do not exceed the minimum approach distances as outlined by OSHA standards. 



Never climb or attempt to handle a tree that has a limb caught in a power line.

Member community solar project meeting

Are you interested in solar energy, but don't have the room or resources to install panels? Wright-Hennepin (WH) may have the perfect solution for you.

WH will be conducting a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10 at WH's Rockford headquarters (6800 Electric Drive) for members who are

interested in participating in a community solar project.

At the meeting, WH and its partners will provide an overview of the project and answer any questions you may have.

If you're interested in attending, please call (763) 477-3000.

WH statement of non-discrimination

"Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association" is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all

programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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(763) 477-3000
www.whe.org

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Thursdays and Fridays
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Customer Call Center Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday
Call: (763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667

To report an outage:

Electric dispatchers are available 24/7
Call: (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7
Call: (763) 477-4275 or (800) 858-7811



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Wright-Hennepin awards \$27,700 in scholarships to local students

Scholarships cont. from Pg. 1

president and CEO. “We’re pleased to help get these young men and women off to a solid start toward their educational goals.”

Tom Mach, WH Holding Company board chair, echoed those sentiments.

“You will be impressed by what you hear from these students tonight,” Mach said. “You will know that the world will be in good hands.”

WH Local Schools Scholarship

WH awards one scholarship per school district in its service area to outstanding students pursuing higher education.

The following recipients were chosen to receive a Local School Scholarship:

Megan Stein, Annandale HS
Michelle Lang, Buffalo HS
Catherine Funk, Dassel-Cokato HS
Stephanie Dixon, Delano HS
William Schanus, Howard Lake-Waverly HS
Rachel Bartelt, Maple Grove HS
Brooke Decker, Maple Lake HS

Bryan Haider, Monticello HS
J Hunter Reed, Orono HS
Matthew Kellogg, Osseo Sr. HS
Phoebe O’Brien, Rockford HS
Trevor Springer, Rogers HS
Carli Wojcik, St. Michael-Albertville Sr. HS
Zachary Sandquist, Watertown-Mayer HS
Christina Ruiz, Wayzata HS
Andrea Anderson at-large

Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Line workers make up a large percentage of WH’s work force and possess a critical skill set that is in short supply in the electric utility industry. That is why WH offers two scholarships for this trade. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Ed Slebiska who cofounded WH in 1937 and became its first CEO, holding that position until his retirement in 1977. During that time, Slebiska helped lead the cooperative in bringing reliable and accessible electricity to rural Wright and western Hennepin counties.

This year’s recipients of the Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Lineworker Scholarship are: **Daniel Morris**,

Cokato, Minn., and **Jacob Wurm**, Maple Lake, Minn.

Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Long-time WH members Doris and Ron Horswell of Annandale, Minn., created this scholarship in 2005 to honor the memory of Doris’ parents, Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker, who played crucial roles in bringing electricity to rural homes and farms in Wright and Hennepin counties. Elwyn served on WH’s board of directors, representing District 1 – near Annandale, Clearwater and Maple Lake – for 53 years. At that time, he was the longest serving electric cooperative director in the nation. Hazel was a tireless champion of rural electrification, offering a clear voice of support during early efforts to organize the cooperative.


Michael Hoberg, Monticello, Minn. received the Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship.

“We are grateful to the entire Knickerbocker family for making this scholarship available to WH’s program,” WH Board Chair Chris Lantto said.

WH has gone on to hire a number of the Slebiska and Knickerbocker scholarship winners after the recipients complete line-worker training. A number of other WH employees received various WH scholarships over the years as well.

“It’s turned into a great feeder system of local talent,” Vogt said.

Basin Electric Scholarships

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) – one of WH’s wholesale power suppliers – headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., annually awards a scholarship to its distribution cooperative members and to an employee’s descendent. **Katie Hirsch**, Howard Lake, Minn., received a \$1,000 scholarship from WH, courtesy of Basin. 



WH’s directors congratulated the students after they accepted their scholarships.

Win this month’s wind or solar generation!

Each month, two lucky members will have their names drawn. One will win the current month’s output of Wright-Hennepin’s wind generator and the other will win the output of the solar panel.

To enter the monthly contest, or find more information and data, go to: <http://www.whe.org/for-my-home/resources/wind-solar.html>

Be Truong of Buffalo

wins a credit for 270 kWh, May’s output from WH’s solar panels.

Tammy and Steve Baloun of Monticello

win a credit for 763 kWh, May’s output from WH’s wind generator.

Average monthly energy output year-to-date:

WH’s wind generator = 701 kWh

WH’s solar panels = 204 kWh

Average monthly energy use per household = 1,100 kWh

Save money on your lighting expenses

Although many homeowners have become accustomed to using incandescent light bulbs around the house for every lighting application, this form of technology is both obsolete and more expensive to operate than alternatives. Switching out those old lights with more efficient options could save you up to 80 percent on the energy you use to light your home.

Incandescent lighting was invented more than a century ago, and other types of bulbs that have since been invented are far more energy efficient and last much longer than incandescent bulbs. The incandescent may be the cheapest lighting option to purchase initially, but spending a little extra money up front for a more efficient bulb may save you money in the long run.

Compact fluorescent light (CFLs)

One of the most common new forms of lighting is the CFL. These bulbs can be around 60-80 percent more efficient than incandescents.

CFLs are filled with mercury, which causes the bulb to create more light and less heat than incandescent bulbs. This material also helps CFLs last longer. However, if a CFL breaks or goes out, special precautions need to be taken because of this substance. If you happen to break a CFL, you should use a damp paper towel to pick up the remnants. When your CFLs go out, don't throw them away – they need to

be recycled. Recycling CFLs is fairly simple, as there are many places that will do this for a small fee, including Wright-Hennepin (WH).

Some drawbacks to this innovation include that the light takes a short time to warm up and the bulb does cost more than an incandescent to initially purchase. However, keep in mind that the bulb will last much longer than an incandescent and use much less energy.

Light emitting diodes (LEDs)

Light emitting diodes – commonly known as LEDs – are an even more efficient form of lighting than CFLs. LEDs will use significantly less energy and last much longer than other types of bulbs. Additionally, these bulbs don't create nearly the amount of heat that other bulbs do.

The actual light emitting diode (from which the bulb gets its name) inside the light bulb looks like a small microchip. Several of these small LEDs are grouped together creating a cluster, each shining in a different direction.

Because they are extremely efficient, last a very long time and are made up of safe materials, the only major drawback to LEDs is that they are the most expensive form of lighting.

Which is the best option for you?

The most important thing to consider when purchasing these bulbs is to consider what application you'll be


using them for. If you need to replace a bulb in a stairwell that is difficult to access, you might be better off spending the extra money for an LED bulb, as the bulb will last for nearly 30 years. If you're replacing a bulb in a floor lamp that you hardly ever use, then you might want to use an incandescent.

When choosing a bulb, don't just consider what wattage you need. Many light bulbs are designed with the consumers' needs in mind and can vary in size, shape, color, durability or have dimmable options.

Please keep in mind that light bulbs are like anything else you may have had a bad experience with – don't let one brand ruin your outlook on a type of bulb. The price shouldn't sway your opinion; some bulbs are extremely low in price because they are not the quality they should be. Also, as the years go by, every type of light bulb is improving in regards to how long they last and their quality of light. Keep an eye on



Pictured left to right are an incandescent light bulb, an LED light bulb and a CFL. LEDs and CFLs are much more efficient lighting choices than traditional incandescents.

prices, too, as they have been coming down in the past few years and will likely continue with that trend. 

Board meeting highlights:

April & May highlights cont. from Pg. 2

- Directors shared highlights of meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial and operations reports.
- Special guests included:
 - Local real estate brokers/agents (Tom Gay, Oak Realty in Annandale; Wayne Elam, Commercial Realty Solutions; John Darkenwald, Darkenwald Inc.; Joe Jablonski, Lennar Homes and John Holthaus, Keller Williams) visited with the board about the state of the housing and construction markets in Wright and western Hennepin counties.
 - Heartland Security Services (HSS) Manager Guy Adams presented an industry intelligence summary and the annual HSS operations update.

May board meeting highlights:

- The monthly meeting of the board of directors was conducted May 15, 2012. A quorum of directors was present. At the meeting, the board:
- Approved refinancing five notes to take advantage of low fixed interest rates and shorter terms.
 - Approved rescheduling the June board meeting to Wednesday, June 13, 2012.
 - Approved appointing Tami Odenthal to serve as the new District 8 Operation Round Up director.
 - Ratified recommendations on the annual line worker scholarship winners.
 - Directors shared highlights of meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
 - Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial and operations reports.

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