



**Wright-Hennepin**  
Cooperative Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's

# Hotline Update

June 2014

## Member saves money by participating in Cool Cash


Jeff Esson of Buffalo, Minn. joined Wright-Hennepin's (WH) Cool Cash program in May 2011 and is happy to be participating.

"Cool Cash is a great program and participation is very simple. I'm glad that I can help manage power costs, while earning a credit on my electric bill each month. I love the savings. My credit is usually around \$15 to \$20 and since I joined the program I have saved close to a few hundred dollars," said Esson.

With Cool Cash, members save 15 percent on their total electric use in June, July and August in return for allowing WH to cycle their air conditioners "on" and "off" for 15-minute intervals during times of high energy demand, generally the hottest times of the summer.

"When my air conditioner is cycled, my fan continues to run so my home remains comfortable and cool. I encourage all members to join WH's Cool Cash program to help conserve energy and save

on their electric bills. It is a great way that we can all work together to manage the cost of wholesale power," said Esson.

For more information about WH's Cool Cash air conditioning program, contact a representative at (763) 477-3000 or sign up at <http://goo.gl/NJrQHT>. 

**Jeff Esson of Buffalo, Minn. is happy to be participating in WH's Cool Cash program.**



### Inside

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## Community students win \$27,700 in Wright-Hennepin scholarships

For the 27th year, Wright-Hennepin (WH) awarded scholarships to local students. This year, 20 scholarships totaling \$27,700 were given, raising the amount the cooperative has awarded to area youth to \$611,100 since the scholarship program began in 1988.

WH awarded the scholarships during a banquet ceremony at its headquarters in Rockford, Minn. on May 22. The scholarships are funded through donations from WH's diversified non-electric businesses – WH Security, WH Services, WH Generation, HeatMyFloors.com 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.



This year's scholarship recipients posed for a photo with WH's board of directors. Board directors who attended the scholarship banquet included (back row, left to right) Chris Lantto, Burton Horsch, Dale Jans, Butch Lindenfelser, Thomas Mach, Timothy Young, Erick Heinz, Ken Hiebel and Donald Lucas. Scholarship recipients included (back row, left to right) Luke Sandquist, Jordan Irvin, Matthew Zipp, Eric Gilbertson, Jacob Hundinsky, Daniel Dmohoski, (middle row, left to right) Drew Seibert, Cameron Hunt, Kaylee Hoaby, Prasanna Vankina, Angelee Miller, Abigail Nesbit, (front row, left to right) Haley Snow, Anne Raisanen, Tanner Wetzell, William Otten, Taylor Kollo, Olivia Trudeau and Gabrielle Gruenhagen. (front row, far right) Linemen Knickerbocker scholarship contributor, Doris Horswell.

"Today more than ever it is important that young men and woman get the education they need in our competitive world. We are pleased to help the next generation of leaders invest in their futures," said WH president and CEO Mark Vogt.

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# CEO's Memo

**MARK VOGT** WH President & CEO

## READ MORE!

from CEO Mark Vogt on his blog : <http://goo.gl/awkmm>

## WH expands mission by starting solar energy company

Your energy options expanded on June 6th when Wright-Hennepin's (WH) Board of Directors authorized the start of WH Solar LLC as the cooperative's newest diversified business.

WH Solar joins WH Security, WH International Response Center, WH Generation, WH Services and HeatMyFloors.com as part of our diversified business portfolio. The strategic focus of these diversified businesses is to help the cooperative keep your retail electric rates competitive. Contributions from these businesses reduced electric rates for WH members by almost \$2 million last year alone. With the addition of WH Solar to our diversified portfolio, we expect to see additional future contributions back to the electric cooperative to keep retail rates competitive for all members.

With this decision, WH will continue its strong standing as one of the most competitive and reliable suppliers of traditional grid power for those of you who still prefer that method of receiving electricity. But going forward, we are positioning your cooperative to be the best choice in the marketplace for anyone who wants to participate in the excitement of producing their own power with solar panels. We believe that WH is the first electric utility in the state to begin offering solar panels and installations through its own subsidiary business.

WH Solar LLC will launch products over the next year in three distinct phases:

### Phase I - Community Solar projects:

Energy from a large community solar array will go on sale on a "first come, first serve" basis by mid-July. This 150 kilowatt solar array will be WH Solar's first official product. It will be almost four times the size of our first two community solar projects (the first was done for WH members by Clean Energy Collective, Colorado). These first two solar communities served as small demonstration projects to test the WH members' interest in solar power. We have been amazed by how quickly you subscribed to all the panels available on these first two projects. Your response now gives us the confidence to build the much larger array through WH Solar.

New to WH Solar's offering will be the introduction of a zero-down financing option and with a menu of four easy ways for members to participate in the solar array. As close as we can tell, WH Solar is the only renewable energy company in Minnesota that is offering zero-down financing to homeowners.

Also new will be a guaranteed long-term rate for your renewable energy. Depending upon which of the four options you choose (as mentioned earlier), you will know for certain your price of power now and in the future! The desirability of this feature became very evident as members told us what they wanted in a solar offering. This long-term rate guarantee will be the perfect way for members to insulate themselves against rate increases projected for traditionally-generated power, resulting from the proliferation of government regulations and other cost drivers.

*"New to WH Solar's offering will be the introduction of a zero-down financing option. As close as we can tell, WH Solar is the only renewable energy company in Minnesota that is offering zero-down financing for homeowners."*

In addition to these new offerings by WH Solar, the community solar product features other key benefits:

- It allows members to participate in solar even if their roof isn't oriented correctly to the sun. Only about 20 percent of roofs in the nation are properly oriented for optimal solar production.
- If you are a renter, have shading or zoning issues, or you just don't desire to have panels on your roof, the community solar product overcomes all these obstacles. That's because the panels used to create power in a community solar array are not physically connected to (or located at) the member's property. Instead, the array is built somewhere in WH's service territory. You will own a piece of the production from the array without having the panels located at your home, farm or business. (To get a better idea how this works, I encourage you to visit our campus in Rockford to see the first two community solar projects and to talk with one of our representatives.)
- WH Solar will offer a "one stop shopping experience" for members so they are not faced with the hassle of bidding, maintenance, installation, and the capturing of tax incentives like consumers have to manage with other solar offerings.

Members will be able to purchase energy from a single panel to give solar a try, or from as many panels as is necessary to meet the power demands of their entire homes, farms or businesses.

Perhaps most important, participating in WH Solar's Community Solar Project will help members make a personal contribution toward the preservation of our local environment.

There are many more details to share with you. Please watch our website and this newsletter for more information about WH Solar's Community Solar project. It is our intent to have the first 150 kilowatt array built and producing power for WH's members who want to participate in solar by next spring.

### Phase II and III - Future ways to participate in solar through WH Solar LLC:

By the end of first quarter 2015, or sooner, Phase II of our plans will offer rooftop or pedestal solar installations for commercial, institutional and farm consumers right on their property.

By the end of second quarter 2015 or sooner, Phase III of our plans will offer residential rooftop solar for residential consumers who prefer this method of participation in renewable energy.

The Phase II and Phase III offerings will come with zero-down financing options and a long-term rate guarantee as well.

For further information on any of these products, please call Vice President of Renewable & Alternative Energy, Steve Nisbet at (763) 477-3114 or email at [snisbet@whe.org](mailto:snisbet@whe.org).

By authorizing the start of WH Solar LLC, your Board of Directors refreshes and updates WH's mission for the 21st Century. It is an era when the nation will transition from exclusive reliance on fossil fuels to a broader mix that necessarily includes renewable energy. Your Board wants WH's members to be among the first in the state to take advantage of these expanded energy options.

We look forward to helping you experience the excitement and satisfaction of producing your own power with solar panels.

*Mark Vogt*

## Board Report

### April Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted April 10, 2014. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved renewing WH's line of credit with its local bank.
- Approved filing an extension to continue utilizing the Rural Development Utilities Programs, also known as RUS, Energy Resource Conservation program for members.

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### WH's Board of Directors

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

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 2014. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the president and CEO to confirm meeting date and time.

### WH & WH Holding Management Team

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# Construction of the second WH Solar Community is underway

After a successful solar community was put into service September 2013, Wright-Hennepin (WH) is now in the process of constructing a second array. The next project, which is fully sold to members, is located at WH's headquarters in Rockford, Minn. and is adjacent to the first solar community.

Just as with the first WH solar community, the second array is an easy and affordable way for members to own solar energy for their homes and small businesses. Through the second solar community, members will use the solar panels without installing equipment on their property and without worrying about maintaining the system. Members who have purchased panels will receive a kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit on their energy bill each month. The credit is based on the number of panels the member has purchased, as well as the amount of energy the solar array produces each month.

In addition, the second array will contain 72 solar panels, enough energy to power about four homes. This solar community is tentatively planned to begin

generating power near the end of June and members will begin receiving credits on their electric bills starting in August. Plans are underway for a third solar community, which will most likely be located off-site. If you are interested in learning more about this program or would like to participate in the third community, please visit <http://goo.gl/hMua9> or call a representative at (763) 477-3000. 



WH is in the process of constructing a second solar array located next to the first solar community project.


## Wright-Hennepin members donate more than \$22,000 to help local organizations

Wright-Hennepin (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) donated grants totaling \$22,050 in April 2014.

ORU participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. The rounded amount is then used for donations to fund local programs. More than 80 percent of WH's members participate in the ORU program. ORU's trust board of directors manages the generated money, which is held in a trust fund. Through a selection process and review of guidelines, the board evaluates funding requests on a bimonthly basis.

The ORU trust board approved the following donations on behalf of WH members for April 2014:

- **\$6,000, American Cancer Society**, funds to support six Relay for Life events in Wright and Hennepin Counties
- **\$200, Annandale All Night Grad Party**, funds to provide a safe all night graduation party
- **\$500, Boy Scout Troop #571**, funds to build gardens at Grandview Middle School as a part of an Eagle Scout project
- **\$1,000, Community Aid Elk River (CAER)**, funds to provide Kidz Kitz for summer food program
- **\$1,000, Community Health Foundation**, funds to support Hospice walk
- **\$1,300, Fishing Clinics for Kids**, funds to support prizes used at the Buffalo City Days and to help build a new trailer for the organization
- **\$2,000, Homeward Bound**, funds for a summer camp scholarship
- **\$200, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted After Prom Party**, funds to provide a safe prom party
- **\$2,000, Love INC—Big Woods**, funds to support the school supply program
- **\$200, Maple Lake Prom Party**, funds to provide a safe all night prom party
- **\$600, Monticello Community String Orchestra**, funds to help lower costs to individuals
- **\$3,000, Rivers of Hope**, funds to support the 24-hour crisis phone line
- **\$1,350, RiverWorks Community Development**, funds for supplies and dinner for the 1,000 Hearts Crow River Serve Day
- **\$200, Rockford All Night Grad Party**, funds to provide a safe all night graduation party
- **\$2,500, SOAR Regional Arts**, funds to purchase materials and supplies for the upcoming production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

For those interested in applying for funds, the next application deadline is August 1, 2014. To receive an application, visit WH's website at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org), send an email to [oru@whe.org](mailto:oru@whe.org), or call Lisa Zipp and leave a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126. 

## Industry News

### Electric Co-ops' Renewable Energy Capacity Doubled Since 2009

Electric cooperatives have doubled their owned and purchased renewable energy capacity since 2009, according to information released today by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Co-ops' aggregated total capacity has jumped from 2.9 GW in 2009 to 5.9 GW in 2014. This capacity includes power generated from wind, solar, small hydro, biomass, landfill gas and geothermal installations. In addition, cooperatives purchased nearly 10 GW of renewable hydropower from federal facilities.

"The numbers say it all: Cooperatives are committed to a diverse energy portfolio that includes an array of renewable energy resources," said NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson. "Some credit for this increase goes to the National Renewable Cooperative Organization (NRCO), which enables cooperatives across the country to access cost-effective renewable resources. This is great example of 'cooperation among cooperatives.'

Source: NRECA

### ACSI scores show electric cooperatives tops in consumer satisfaction

According to the 2014 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey released May 7th, consumer-members belonging to not-for-profit electric cooperatives are more satisfied with their utility than consumers served by either investor-owned (IOU) or municipal utilities. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives received an overall customer satisfaction score of 81 - the highest score for any electric-only utility. Cooperatives not affiliated with Touchstone Energy scored 80. IOUs and municipals received scores of 75 and 76 respectively.

Consumer-members gave their electric cooperatives high marks when asked to rate the overall quality of service. According to the ACSI report, "perceived quality rates [are] highest among customers of cooperative utilities with a score of 85, followed by investor-owned utilities at 82 and municipal utilities at 81. Quality is the most important driver in determining overall satisfaction with the customer experience."

"These scores validate the cooperative difference," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jo Ann Emerson. "Member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives put members first and these numbers show why this business model has succeeded and why cooperatives continue to thrive even in uncertain economic times," Emerson said.


Source: NRECA



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to the American Cancer Society in the amount of \$6,000 to support six Relay for Life events. ORU Chair John Meister (right) presented the grant to Relay Specialist Breanne Foster (left).

# Energy-saving tips to practice this summer

Summer and the high temperatures can increase you and your family's energy use. Keep cool this summer and save energy costs by following these simple tips:

- Keep your thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Take advantage of the cool evenings. Open your windows and cool your house during the nighttime hours, then close your house during the daytime hours.
- Avoid repeatedly and unnecessarily opening refrigerators and freezers.
- Close shades, drapes and blinds on days to help keep hot air out.
- Lower your water heater's temperature to a setting of 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Use ceiling fans to help circulate cool air.
- Use fluorescent light bulbs. They use less electricity and create a lot less heat.
- Use daylight instead of artificial light when possible.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Consider air drying both dishes and clothing. 




Save energy this summer by spending more time outdoors. This will decrease use of lights and electronics.

# How to plant trees and shrubs to conserve energy

The temperature and comfort of your home is directly affected by the climate. However, smart landscaping can go a long way toward increasing your comfort. By strategically planting trees and shrubs around your home, you can also conserve energy and save on your heating and cooling bills throughout the year. Here are a few simple considerations:

**Creating shade in the summer:** To keep your house cool naturally, you should plant trees on the west and east sides of your house to create shade from the hot summer sun. When planting near the windows on the east side of the house, you should select deciduous shade trees (trees that lose their leaves in the fall) because you will reap the summer shade but also get some solar heat gain in the winter. You can also plant a tree or shrub near your air conditioning unit to block the sun, increasing its efficiency.

**Blocking wind in the winter:** To help reduce your heating bill next winter you will want to plant trees to shelter your home from cold winter winds. However, you will also want to be sure not to plant on a side of the house that will block winter sunlight, which can help heat your home. To achieve both of these outcomes, you should plant trees or tall shrubs within 20 to 50 feet from your west-facing windows.

**General tips before you begin planting:** There are a few tips to keep in mind when planting for energy conservation. First, plant a tree whose mature height will not interfere with an overhead power line or the structure of your home. You should also choose trees and shrubs that will fit well in your unique space, light and soil conditions, making sure it is a species resistant to damage from diseases and insects. If you have questions about tree care, ask a professional arborist or nursery worker. In addition, always call 811 before you start digging. 



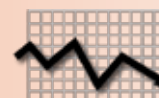
Strategically planting trees or shrubs around your home can help you conserve energy and save on your heating and cooling bills.

# View your daily energy use with MyMeter



## With MyMeter you can:

- » View daily and monthly home energy use
- » Compare your energy use to the average for your neighborhood
- » Take an "energy challenge" and set an energy-saving goal
- » Access energy saving tips



Sign up today at [mymeter.whe.org](http://mymeter.whe.org)  
or by calling (763) 477-3000

This is a free service to help you understand how you are using electricity.

# How to prepare and respond to summer storms

Summer can bring inclement weather, such as severe storms that can result in power outages. To help you and your family prepare and respond to summer storms, Wright-Hennepin (WH) suggestions taking the following steps:

## Storm preparation:

- Be sure you know how to manually open and shut your electric garage door.
- Check medications that require refrigeration and have a small cooler handy in order to store them.
- Keep your cell phone and other electronic devices charged.
- Be sure that your sump pump is working properly and that you have a battery backup sump pump or generator in place in the event that your electricity goes out.
- Know where your circuit breakers are located and how to check to see if a breaker is tripped.
- Teach children how to react if they experience a storm while home alone, including listening for warnings and locating safe places to take shelter.
- Keep a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food items that require no refrigeration or cooking.

## Post-storm safety tips:

- Treat all downed power lines as if they are "live" or energized by staying away from them.
- If you are experiencing a power outage in hot weather, close the drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your house, drink plenty of fluids and go to an air-conditioned public location.
- Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas, and remember that submerged outlets and electrical cords can energize 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 WH's electric dispatch center at (763) 477-3100 or, report your outage via a smartphone at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org).

## Stay connected during outages:

WH offers free outage notifications to members, via text and/or email. To sign up for outage notifications, visit: <http://goo.gl/csdRH>. Once signed up, you will receive a message with the estimated time of restoration when there is an outage at your property. Additionally, outage information is available for all members to see on WH's website at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org). By clicking the "Power Outage" tab on the homepage, you are able to view a map of WH's service territory showing all current outages, including the number of members affected and details on the outage. You can also follow us on our outage page on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/Wright\\_Hennepin](http://twitter.com/Wright_Hennepin) or check out our Facebook page for hourly updates at: [www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin](http://www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin). 



**Preparing for summer storms is important for keeping you, your family and your belongings safe.**

## WH thanks members for helping lower costs with Beat the Peak

Wright-Hennepin (WH) would like to take the opportunity to extend a special thank you to our members who have voluntarily joined WH's Beat the Peak program. The participation has been outstanding; we currently have 3,062 members participating in the program. WH is pleased that our members are working cooperatively to help lower power costs.




WH is pleased that our members are working cooperatively to help lower power costs.

Beat the Peak is free to join, completely voluntary and is a way we can work

together to lower wholesale power costs. Members on the program will receive Beat the Peak notifications via text, a phone call and/or email alerts and are asked to delay using electric appliances between the hours of 5 and 10 p.m. on select days of the year, usually 10-15 days per summer.

We estimate that if every member were to shift two kilowatt hours (kWh) of electric use from peak times to other times on peak days, WH members would save up to \$400,000 in wholesale power costs per year!

To join Beat the Peak, visit <http://goo.gl/F3Pe7U>. WH appreciates everyone's efforts to keep energy costs as low as possible! 





**Special Offer:** Purchase a WH Security system and get \$100 off a cell dialer with a new 3-year monitoring agreement. Certain restrictions apply. Offer expires 7/11/14

**Control the comfort and security of your home from anywhere you have an Internet connection.**

**WH Security**  
The Power to Protect  
A wholly owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

(763) 477-3664  
[www.wh-security.com](http://www.wh-security.com)

# WH offers electric safety education

In an effort to keep kids informed about electric safety, Wright-Hennepin (WH) gives hotline demonstrations to thousands of children each year. These demonstrations promote electrical safety in and around the home.

Hotline demonstrations are given at a number of venues, including schools, community events and science club meetings. Through the use of a demonstration panel, children are shown a variety of true-to-life circumstances that could lead to electrocution. Students are taught safety messages such as: keeping kites, toys and balls away from power lines, staying away from trees that contact power lines when climbing or building forts and keeping clear of green transformer boxes found in many rural yards.

The presentations keep the kids' attention by using "zapping" noises and bright lights to emphasize dangerous situations. Students who

see the presentations receive take-home information that lists steps for a home-safety walk-through, including checking to make sure electrical cords are in good condition and that all outlets have wall plates over them. A list of topics to help their families save energy is also provided, including using power strips, not leaving the refrigerator door open for long periods of time and shutting down the computer when it's not in use.

A partnership with Dairy Queen has helped to make the safety presentations even more enjoyable by distributing free Blizzard or Orange Julius coupons to participants as a part of its community education program, which was established to encourage students to continually strive for excellence.



A group of fourth graders at St. Michael Catholic School enjoy learning about **electrical safety education**.

If you're interested in having a hotline demonstration at an event, please contact a representative at (763) 477-3000. Fourth and fifth-graders are the best audiences for the presentation, as they usually have studied electricity as a part of their science curriculum.

## Using Control My Home while on vacation

Summer has finally arrived and for most of us that means it's time to pack up and take a well-deserved vacation. However, leaving your home behind can take some of the relaxation out of your vacation and you may find yourself with a nagging feeling that you forgot something: Did you really lock all the doors? Did you forget to set a lighting schedule to make it look like someone is always home? Luckily, you can have your home at your fingertips with WH Security's Control My Home interactive service.

Control My Home is an interactive add-on to your security system. Through the use of this service, powered by Alarm.com, users can take advantage of controlling their home's security system, lights, locks and thermostat from anywhere they have an Internet connection. For example, if you are on vacation and notice you left your door unlocked, you can easily lock it.

Control My Home also sends alerts to a user's cell phone or email when security systems are triggered. Similarly, a user can create custom alerts or access video equipment based on their needs. With Control My Home, you can take charge and have your home at your fingertips while lying on the beach.

To learn more about Control My Home services offered through WH Security, call a representative at (763) 477-3664.



With WH's Control My Home interactive service, you can keep an eye on your home while enjoying your vacation.

## Safety tips when working near electricity this summer



Never fly kites, model airplanes, balloons or any other outdoor toys near power lines.

Whether heading outside for fun or to complete yard work, it is important to keep electrical safety in mind as you enjoy the warm weather. Review and follow these simple tips to ensure you and your family have a safe summer season:

- Watch out for overhead lines when using metal ladders or tools with long handles.
- Never fly kites, model airplanes, balloons or any other outdoor toys near power lines.
- If a plugged appliance falls into water, do not reach in to pull it out. Turn off the power at the circuit panel and unplug it.
- Avoid planting tall-growing trees such as large oaks, pines and maples under power lines.
- Do not trim trees in dangerous weather conditions.
- Make sure extension cords are marked for outdoor use before using them.
- Read and follow manufacturers' instructions when using any product that is powered by electricity.

In addition, if you are planning a project that involves digging this summer call 811 before you dig. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help prevent injury. For more electrical safety information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

### Hotline Update Staff

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### Office Hours:

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday

### 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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# Improve your landscape with WH Services

As summer arrives and outdoor chores ramp up, it is easy to notice pruning and landscaping needs left undone from the previous season. For example, you may notice low-hanging branches as you mow your lawn or dead branches hanging against structures around your property.

Fortunately, WH Services, a subsidiary business of Wright-Hennepin (WH) offers tree trimming care and a variety of tree care services to improve your landscape not only this summer, but all year long. These services include:

- Tree/shrub trimming, shaping and pruning
- Tree and stump removal
- Emerald ash borer treatments
- Lot clearing

In addition, WH Services also offers 90 day, no-interest financing options on all tree services. You can request a free, no obligation quote by calling a representative at (763) 477-3000 or filling out a form at <http://goo.gl/SrpPJE>. 



WH Services offers a variety of tree care services to improve your landscape all year long.

## Scholarship Winners

Continued from cover

### WH Local Schools Scholarship

WH awards one scholarship per school district in its service area to outstanding students pursuing higher education. The following recipients received local school scholarships:

- Eric Gilbertson**, Annandale HS
- William Otten**, Buffalo HS
- Anne Raisanen**, Dassel-Cokato HS
- Angelee Miller**, Delano HS
- Gabrielle Gruenhagen**, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS
- Olivia Trudeau**, Maple Grove HS
- Drew Seibert**, Maple Lake HS
- Kaylee Hoaby**, Monticello HS
- Margeaux Dittrich**, Orono HS
- Tanner Wetzel**, Osseo HS
- Jacob Hudinsky**, Rockford HS
- Taylor Kollos**, Rogers HS
- Abigail Nesbit**, St. Michael-Albertville HS
- Haley Snow**, Watertown-Mayer HS
- Srilakshmi Vankina**, Wayzata HS
- Cameron Hunt**, Kimball HS (at-large)

### Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship


Line workers make up a large percentage of WH's workforce and require a critical skill that is in short supply in the electric utility industry. Studies indicate that 20 percent of current line workers

in the electric cooperative industry will retire in the next five years. That is why WH offers two scholarships for this trade. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Ed R. Slebiska who co-founded 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 affordable electricity to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. This year's recipients of the Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line worker Scholarship are: **Jordan Irvin**, Cokato, Minn., and **Matthew Zipp**, St. Michael, 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 efforts to organize and expand the cooperative. **Daniel Dmohoski**, Crystal, Minn. received the Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship for 2014. WH has gone on to hire a number of the Slebiska and Knickerbocker scholarship winners after the recipients have completed line worker training.

### 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. **Luke Sandquist**, Delano, Minn., received a 2014 scholarship from WH, courtesy of Basin. 

## Energy-Saving Tip:

Instead of using your oven or stove, which can generate heat and cause your cooling system to work harder, fire up the outdoor grill for cooking.



## Board Report

Continued from Page 2

- Approved holding their annual long range strategic planning session September 23-24, 2014.
- Approved new auditor engagement with the firm of Brady Martz.
- Critiqued the 2014 annual meeting and approved the date of Thursday, March 26, 2015 for next year's annual meeting.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Management shared organizational changes to meet the new challenges of the changing industry and local business environment.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.
- Froze director fees for 2014.

### Guests included:

- Special Counsel Bob Halagan provided an update on bargaining unit activity.
- Legal Counsel Scott Kelly provided an update on the Supreme Court ruling on the stray voltage lawsuit.

### May Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted May 13, 2014. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved refinancing two notes to take advantage of low fixed interest rates and shorter terms.
- Approved annual line worker scholarship winners.
- Approved annual dues for National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
- Approved appointing Paul Jacobsen, Maple Grove to serve as the new District 6 Operation Round Up director.
- Re-appointed the WH Board to also serve as the WH Holding board of directors.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.

### Guests included:

- Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA's) new CEO Darrick Moe introduced himself to the board and gave his first insights on issues affecting Minnesota electric cooperatives.
- Taylor Gunn, an economist from CoBank, Denver, shared insights on his recently released white about the disruptive changes coming to the electric utility industry.
- Board heard reports from their local and industry bankers:
  - CoBank, Denver, CO - VP Cliff Bolstad
  - RUS, Washington, DC - Representative Robyn Jensen
  - National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Dulles, VA - Representative Greg Blum
  - StarBank, Maple Lake, MN - Officers Harry Wahlquist, Andy Wahlquist and VP Katie Incantalupo
  - BankWest, Rockford, MN - President & CEO Steve Huston

# Protect yourself against repair costs

For just \$17.99 per month, WH Appliance Repair provides parts and labor coverage on these five appliances, so you don't have to worry about unexpected repair costs:

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## tenKsolar Winner



**JOSEPH SCHROEDER** of Buffalo wins a credit for 119 kWh, April's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

**JOAN LARCH** of Monticello wins a credit for 241 kWh, May's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

## Solar Winner



**MARK SANDHOEFNER** of Buffalo wins a credit for 257 kWh, April's output from WH's solar panels.

**GOPAL SHENOY** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 248 kWh, May's output from WH's solar panels.

## Wind Winner



**MARK MCNITT** of Buffalo wins a credit for 1,534 kWh, April's output from WH's wind generator.

**LARRY WONG** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 714 kWh, May's output from WH's wind generator.

### Average monthly energy output over 12 months:

**Wind generator: 717 kWh**  
**Solar panels: 224 kWh**  
**tenKsolar system: 158 kWh**

To enter the monthly contest to win the output from WH's wind generator or solar panels, go to: <http://goo.gl/QjyTM>.

# How would you spend an extra \$53?

If you are not already participating, join WH's Cool Cash Off-Peak Air Conditioning program and **save 15% off your June, July and August electric bills.** Past participating members saved an average of \$53.10 in 2013. Sign up today!



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