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## News Release

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### **WRIGHT-HENNEPIN CELEBRATES 86 YEARS OF RELIABILITY YOU CAN DEPEND ON**

**Rockford, Minn. (April 21, 2023)** — Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's (WH) 2023 Annual Meeting celebrated the cooperative's 86<sup>th</sup> year of Reliability You Can Depend On. The event was held at its Rockford headquarters on Thursday, April 20. This year marked the first full-scale meeting since 2019.

Members were treated to a complimentary pork chop dinner before the business meeting, which was held from 7-8 p.m. 2,030 meals were served. Informational booths provided details on power quality and reliability, electric vehicles, and WH rebates and Energy-Saving Programs, as well as offered attendees the opportunity to win gift card prizes. Bingo also returned this year, with attendees playing for gift cards.

827 registered members attended the Annual Meeting, and 142 children checked into WH's children's room, hosted by a local Girl Scout troop. Jeffrey Kanwischer of Maple Grove won the grand prize of a 2013 Ford Fusion retired from WH's fleet. Four children's room attendees also won a bike. Gavyn Amundson won an iPad for early voting in the Director elections.

Director elections were held for Districts 2, 5, and 7. 1,727 votes were received. Incumbents Butch Lindenfelser, District 2, and Chris Lantto, District 5 were both re-elected. Audrey Britton was chosen to serve as District 7 director, replacing Ken Hiebel, who did not run for reelection, retiring after 11 years on the WH Board of Directors.

WH President and CEO Tim Sullivan illustrated ways WH provides Reliability You Can Depend On, highlighting WH's competitive rates, strong reliability record, and \$7 million in 2022 capital credit refunds.

Sullivan also said WH would invest an estimated \$250 million into its distribution grid over the next decade to prepare for the electrification of the transportation sector and other needs.

“As generation resources get more intermittent and electric demand spikes further, we need a much more flexible, resilient, and responsive grid.... The only way to make that happen is to invest in and deploy the next generation of state-of-the-art technologies, which facilitate sophisticated, real-time grid management.”

Other speakers included WH Chief Financial Officer Brian Swanson, WH Board Chair Erick Heinz, WH Holding Board Chair Timothy Young and WH Holding Chief Operating Officer Wendy Youngren.

WH also recognized various organizations that received donations from members through Operation Round Up. Almost 90% of WH members are ORU participants, allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded amount is then used for donations supporting local programs. Members contributed nearly \$230,000 in 2022 to more than 50 local charities, non-profits, and community groups.

Attendees who stayed through the business meeting also received a free pound of butter as they left, in support of the local dairy industry.

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 58,500 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

**-end-**



*Members pick up their free pork chop dinner before WH's 86th Annual Meeting.*



*WH members play Bingo leading up to the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on April 20.*



*WH employees hand out butter after the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.*