

## Breaking records at WH's 82nd Annual Meeting!

Wright-Hennepin (WH) broke records at its 82nd Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 2. Built around the theme "Keeping costs down together," more than 2,500 people convened at WH's headquarters in Rockford to enjoy various activities.



WH welcomed a record number of 1,108 members to their annual meeting!



A total of 2,530 meals were served to WH members and guests, including 2,295 pork chops and 235 hot dog meals!



Director elections resulted in the election of incumbent Dale Jans, District 4 (right); incumbent Mike Tieva, District 6 (middle); and incumbent Casey Whelan, District 8 (left). Business meeting speakers included WH CFO Brian Swanson, WH Board Chair Erick Heinz, WH Holding Chair Tim Young, WH Holding COO Wendy Youngren and WH President and CEO Tim Sullivan.



Nicole Alden of Corcoran, won the 2008 Chevy 4x4 - the grand prize of the night! Congratulations to all who won other prizes.



More than 100 bingo prizes were won. In addition, 16 informational booth prizes were given away to WH members.



More than 180 children enjoyed a variety of activities in the children's room including crafts, snacks, toys, movies and more! In addition, four winners were drawn for children's bicycles and helmets.



# CEO's Memo

Tim Sullivan, WH President and CEO

## Reliable power depends on maintaining our rights-of-way

In Minnesota, we love our summers. After our long winters, we find the sun and heat especially welcome and, despite being too short, Minnesota summers are among the best on the planet.

Despite their brief length, our summers can also produce extensive tree, shrub and vegetation growth. Consequently, like any other utility, Wright-Hennepin (WH) must maintain a robust vegetation management program. After all, in just a few short years, this year's growth can significantly impact the delivery of safe, reliable power to your home or business.

As in other summers, you may see our crews cutting back trees or clearing branches that intrude into utility rights-of-way. You'll also see us clearing ditches of brush, shrubs and smaller trees before they become a nuisance and a threat to reliable power.

At WH, we recognize how much Minnesotans value their trees. They provide shade, beauty and value. But left unchecked, they can also create not just reliability problems but safety dangers, especially in the event of an outage.

For example, during a summer thunderstorm, the longest delays for restoration are often caused by downed lines in heavily wooded areas. In those cases, our crews must do two jobs. First, they must clear roads of downed trees and debris even to get to our lines. Then, once on site, they need to clear branches and boughs that fall over the top of our lines.

Going forward, we will ensure 30 feet of clearance around overhead power lines. We do this for three reasons. First, we want branches to remain far enough away not to threaten our lines.

Second, our crews need sufficient room in which to repair lines safely when they do come down. Third, keeping boughs away from powerlines helps protect our members – particularly children who climb trees!

If you have underground power lines, you may wonder why WH doesn't extend underground throughout its system. After all, isn't this easier and better? The answer is cost. Underground power lines cost about twice as much as overhead lines. In dense areas, it makes sense to

to last not just until next summer but until the summer five years from now. And while a small tree might not appear troublesome today, it may need cutting back to ensure a lack of problems five years hence.

If crews are scheduled to be in your area, you will receive a letter, postcard and email (if you have one on file). We appreciate you filling out the postcard. It will save our crews time and the co-op expense. We will also knock on your door prior to beginning work.

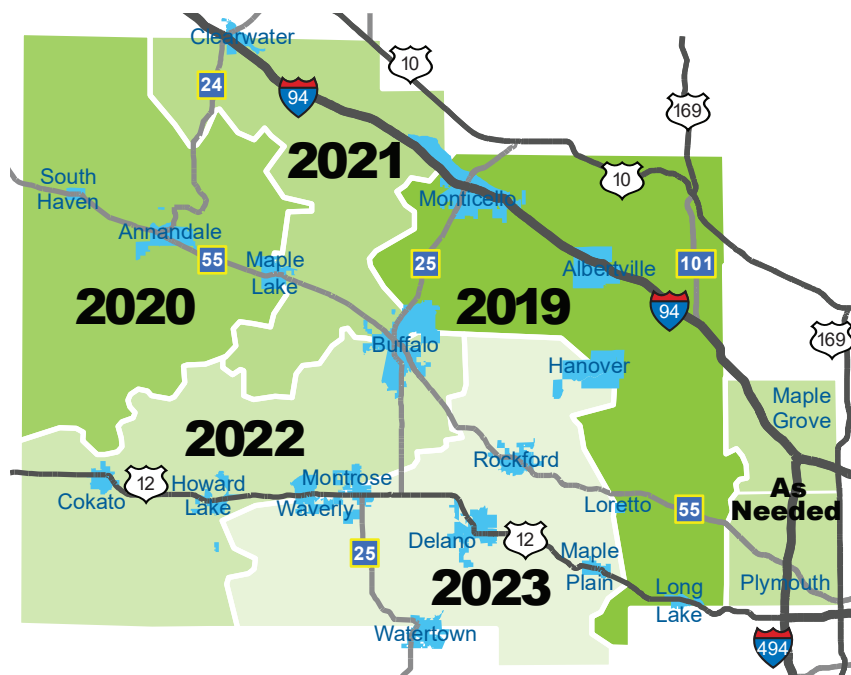
This year we are trimming in map numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 31, which is the north central part of our service territory. (See the bright green map area)

While we're there, we would be happy to provide additional tree maintenance help through WH Tree Services. Our services include pruning and shaping, tree and stump removal, lot clearing, emerald ash borer treatments and more! Please visit [whe.org](http://whe.org) to learn more.

So, enjoy your summer and your yard's beautiful trees. But also remember, your co-op maintains

its rights-of-way in order to ensure the continued delivery of safe, reliable power even on the hottest day in July. After all, that's when your air conditioner really needs to work, when you really want ice cubes to cool your drink and when you're really hungry for those brats and burgers cooked on your electric grill!

As always, thank you for your business!



WH's right-of-way map shows where trimming will take place over the next five years.

install underground because we serve more members per mile. In contrast, overhead lines are more cost effective in rural areas where we serve fewer members per mile.

Please know we take great care to work with homeowners to address tree trimming concerns. That said, please also know we take very seriously our commitment to achieve reliability in the top 10 percent of co-ops in the country.

We will continue to trim trees over our entire service area on a five-year rotation. Remember, tree trimming is designed

# Teaching important electrical safety practices



WH is dedicated to doing our part to ensure safety in our communities. This is why we perform electric safety demonstrations at local schools and community events on the importance of safe electrical practices.

These “hotline demonstrations” show children ways to avoid various real-life situations that could lead to dangerous electrical contacts.

If you’re looking for a great way to teach children about electric safety, call us at (763) 477-3000 to schedule one of these engaging presentations.

## Be prepared for summer storms

Summer in Minnesota means thunder storms that can quickly grow dangerous. When these storms hit, make sure you’re ready for any situation.

### Be prepared

Phone numbers help WH quickly respond to your location when you report your outage. Call (763) 477-3000 to update the phone number(s) on your account.



### Stay safe

Stay away from downed power lines, trees and branches caught in power lines and water in contact with electrical outlets, sockets or lines. If you see a downed power line, keep your distance and call WH at (763) 477-3100.



### Be patient

Please be aware that time of restoration can vary based on weather and outage cause. Please know too WH crews are working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. We appreciate your patience!



### Stay informed

Receive outage notifications via text or email by signing up at [whe.org](http://whe.org). Stay informed of outage details on our outage map or on our social media platforms.

Report outages by calling (763) 477-3100 or go online at [whe.org](http://whe.org).



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!



Know what's below,  
call 811 before you dig!

## Co-op Connections featured deal of the month

### West Air Heating & Cooling, Hanover

\$10 off any repair or service call, or receive a Honeywell thermostat with installation of a new furnace or AC unit.

For more information, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop). Lost your card? No problem. For a free replacement or to sign up your business, call (763) 477-3000. For more deals, visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop), or use the Co-op Connections app on your mobile device to find all your local deals and more!



## Summer energy savings with WH programs

### Air Source Heat Pump

If you're in the market for an energy efficient home cooling technology, consider an Air Source Heat Pump. They:

- » Both heat and cool a home
- » Move heat rather than converting it from a fuel
- » Work as a standard central air-conditioning unit, cooling the home by moving heat outside
- » Provide annual savings around \$459, or 3,000 kWh, according to the U.S. Department of Energy
- » Enjoy a WH rebate of up to \$900 for qualifying systems plus a CIP rebate of up to \$630



To learn more, call (763) 477-3000 or visit [whe.org](http://whe.org).

### Other Energy-Saving Programs (ESPs) and rebates

#### Quick Cash Water Heating

- » Up to \$1,250 rebate
- » \$10 monthly bill credit

#### Electric vehicle – Storage program

- » Vehicles may charge between 11 p.m. – 7 a.m.
- » Energy-saving rate of \$0.06/kWh
- » Rebates available up to \$700

Visit [whe.org](http://whe.org) for information on all of WH's ESPs and rebates requirements.

## Reinvesting in our system helps keep costs down

In the 21st century, a world-class electric distribution system requires ongoing investments in next-generation technology. These WH investments help ensure we continue to bring affordable and reliable energy to you!



### AMI Installations

WH has installed 12,000 new meters in our Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system across our service area with another 4,000 to be deployed this year. The new meters allow us to read hourly energy use, which helps us to fine-tune management of our electric grid.



### Energy Savings & Rebates

Energy costs more during peak demand times. To help offset this, WH offers members a variety of Energy-Saving Programs. In addition, WH is conducting a Demand Management Study with the goal to understand the opportunities and costs of controlling energy with demand management devices (those smaller control boxes next to your meter).



### Electric Vehicle Study

In late 2018, WH began a study on how members use electric vehicles (EVs). In exchange for a free electric charger, 12 members agreed to share information about when they plug in, for how long and how much energy they use to recharge. This will help WH speed adoption of EVs and help us advise our members how best to save energy and money when using them.

# WH donates trees and night lights to local schools

WH donated more than 3,300 LED night lights to kindergartners and 3,800 tree seedlings to third graders throughout its service territory during the week of April 22. In celebration of Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 26), the energy-efficient lights and Colorado Blue Spruce tree seedlings were delivered to nearly 40 different schools for distribution to students.

Since 1997, WH has donated more than 270,000 tree seedlings to local schools through the Plant-A-Tree program to help replenish the wooded areas of Wright and Hennepin counties. In 2017, WH started donating LED night lights and has donated almost 10,000.



Kindergartners (left) and third graders (right) from Cedar Island Elementary School in Maple Grove proudly display their LED night lights and tree seedlings donated by WH.

## Check out WH's new PHEV!

Recently, WH purchased a Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). This PHEV is a down payment on the electrification of our entire fleet of non-commercial grade vehicles.



### Quick facts

- First released in 2018
- Cost of 2019 models start at \$35,795
- Uses both electric and gas power
- Seats up to 5 people
- Off-road 4x4 ability
- Tows up to 1,500 pounds with tow package
- Electric driving range of 22 miles. When more power is needed, the PHEV will switch into one of its hybrid modes and can go up to 310 miles
- Plug it in and use regenerative power to charge the battery, and fill it up at any gas station

In addition, WH is currently conducting an electric vehicle study (see page 4) with the participation of 12 members. We will share the results with you in fourth quarter of 2019.

## Congratulations Wright County Dairy Princesses!



WH appreciates the opportunity to serve the many farms and other agricultural operations in our service territory. Consequently, WH enjoyed honoring newly selected Wright County dairy royalty with a necklace at the ceremony in Maple Lake on Saturday, April 6.

Good luck with your duties Princesses!



## WH Security celebrates 30 Years!

From humble origins back in 1989, WH Security has grown to serve nearly 13,000 customers in the greater Twin Cities area. In fact, we are the largest independently owned security company in Minnesota.

From a simple phone line connected system to home automation linked to your smart device, we have evolved with the times. Using the latest technology in custom security, we keep our local communities safe.

WH Security is celebrating 30 years of business by offering service specials and social media contests. Make sure to check our website ([wh-security.com](http://wh-security.com)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/wh-security](https://facebook.com/wh-security)) for further details throughout the month of June. Our customers made this possible.

Thanks for your continued support!



**Quick fix.  
Fast service.  
Fair price.**

Let us help you avoid unexpected repair bills with the WH Appliance Repair plan that handles service request calls 24 hours a day.

Covered appliances include:

- ✓ Refrigerator
- ✓ Clothes Dryer
- ✓ Heating System
- ✓ Range
- ✓ Water Heater

Packages Start At

**\$1875** month

Additional appliance coverage also available. No deductible or trip charge. Certain restrictions apply.

(763) 477-3000 • [whe.org/services-products.html](http://whe.org/services-products.html)



## Protect your trees with emerald ash borer treatments

**90-DAY**  
no-interest  
financing available!

Protect your trees with emerald ash borer treatments from WH Tree Services. Schedule your service today!

### Additional services include:

- Pruning and shaping
- Tree and stump removal
- Lot clearing for construction
- Aerial bucket truck work
- Tree fertilization
- Storm damage clearing



(763) 477-3000  
[www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org)

# Solar Winners

## tenKsolar Winner



**THOMAS GINDELE** of St. Michael wins a credit for 224 kWh, March's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

**TOM SICHENEDER** of Hamel wins a credit for 192 kWh, April's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

## Solar Winner



**RICK HELMKE** of Annandale wins a credit for 268 kWh, March's output from WH's solar panels.

**DEAN GUNDERSON** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 213 kWh, April's output from WH's solar panels.

## Board Report: Meeting highlights

### April Board Meeting

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted April 9, 2019. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved renewing WH's line of credit to Wright-Hennepin Holding Company.
- Approved authorization to negotiate an investment contract with an electric vehicle charging company.
- Approved required Rural Utilities Services (RUS) resolutions appointing a new Chief Financial Officer.
- Approved resolutions authorizing and approving safe deposit box access.
- Approved cancelling the April 11th Annual Meeting and rescheduling for Thursday, May 2, 2019.
- Approved May 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Annual Meeting.
- Heard report on annual review of WH Security and WH International Response Center's industry association involvements.
- Heard report on township, city, county, state and federal Right-of-Way requirements.
- Heard report on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Guest
  - GRE Representative Stacey Fujii shared an update on Minnesota legislative proposals that impact electric consumers.
  - Anthony Larson, Slope Electric Director and CFC Candidate gave a short presentation on his candidacy.

### May Board Meeting

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted May 14, 2019. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved collecting a 3 percent city franchise fee increase from members in Plymouth as outlined in the City's schedule of charges.
- Approved an updated WH schedule of charges.
- Approved an updated capital credit discount method.
- Authorized management to negotiate the purchase of local security dealer accounts.
- Approved winners of the annual Slebiska Lineworker Scholarship.
- Approved January – June 2020 board meeting dates.
- Approved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's membership dues.
- Critiqued the 2019 annual meeting and approved the date of Thursday, April 23, 2020 for next year's annual meeting with a back-up date of April 30, 2020.
- Discussed RUS Operation and Maintenance survey results - scoring 149 out of 150.
- Heard first quarter results on 2019 Balanced Scorecard goals.
- Reviewed the agenda for the upcoming WH and WH Holding Scholarship Banquet.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- The Board toured the Hennepin County Public Works Facility in Medina.
- Guest:
  - Jenny Scharmer, MiEnergy director and CFC Candidate gave a short presentation on her candidacy.

## Keep in touch with your cooperative!

### Member call center:

(763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667  
Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### To report an outage:

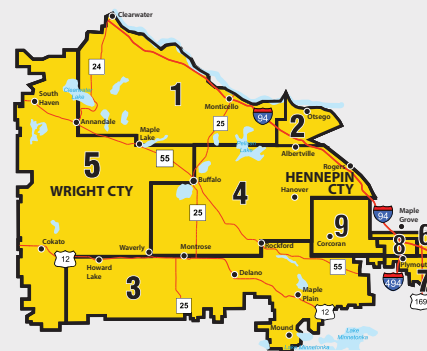
Dispatchers are available 24/7  
**Call:** (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

### WH Security monitoring:

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

**Website:** [whe.org](http://whe.org)

**Email:** [info@whe.org](mailto:info@whe.org)



### Board of Directors:

District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale  
District 2: "Butch" Lindenfelser, Monticello  
District 3: Burton Horsch, Howard Lake  
District 4: Dale Jans, Buffalo  
District 5: Chris Lantto, Annandale  
District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove  
District 7: Kenneth Hiebel, Plymouth  
District 8: Casey Whelan, Maple Grove  
District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

**WH President and CEO:** Tim Sullivan

**WH CFO:** Brian Swanson

**WH Holding COO:** Wendy Youngren

*This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**CHECK us out on SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Facebook: @WrightHennepin  
Twitter: @WrightHennepin  
Instagram: [wrighthennepin](https://www.instagram.com/wrighthennepin)  
YouTube: [WrightHennepin](https://www.youtube.com/WrightHennepin)

**Our office will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.**

6800 Electric Drive  
 Rockford, MN 55373

# Hotline Update

June News for Wright-Hennepin members



WH awarded scholarships to local students. Back row (from left): Thaddius Kowalke, Watertown-Mayer HS • Alexander Stevens, Orono HS • Shawn Sellner, Monticello HS • Samuel Hedtke, Monticello HS • Chad Pillatzki, Wadena Technical School • Matthew Neumann, Wright Technical Center • Wyatt Jacobs, Maple Lake HS. Middle row (from left): Sara Hartley, Delano HS • Morgan Millar, Heritage Christian Academy • Annie McGuire, Osseo HS • Perrin Thompson, Buffalo HS • Emma Landers, Maple Grove HS • Allison Zipp, UND Grand Forks • Brook Lorenson, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS • Courtney Bissen, St. Michael-Albertville HS. Not pictured: Kallie Sylvester, Annandale HS • Katelyn Lee, Dassel-Cokato HS • Jade Ellis, Rockford HS • Anna Bergman, Rogers HS • Michael North, Wayzata HS • Spencer Volkert, Holy Spirit Academy (at-large scholarship). Front row (from left): Timothy Young, District 1 • Casey Whelan, District 8 • Kenneth Hiebel, District 7 • Mike Tieva, District 6 • Burton Horsch, District 3 • Dale Jans, District 4 • Chris Lantto, District 5 • Duane "Butch" Lindenfelser, District 2 • Erick Heinz, District 9.

## Local students awarded \$28,600 in scholarships

WH awarded \$28,600 in scholarships to 21 local students to help them continue their education. The scholarship ceremony was held May 23 at WH's headquarters in Rockford.

WH's scholarship program began in 1988 and has awarded almost \$738,000 to local students. WH and Wright-Hennepin Holding Company (WH Holding) are proud to provide scholarships to assist students in furthering their education. Scholarships are made possible with funding from unclaimed capital credits (annual margins returned to WH members), as well as contributions

from its diversified businesses under WH Holding.

### WH local school scholarship

WH awards one scholarship to each high school in its electric service area to outstanding students pursuing higher education. WH also offers one "at-large" scholarship for students who attend private or neighboring schools.

### Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Lineworker Scholarship

Each year, the Edward R. Slebiska Scholarship is awarded in the name of

the cooperative's first CEO to individuals planning to become electric lineworkers.

Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Lineworker Scholarship winners are Samuel Hedtke, Monticello HS and Chad Pillatzki, Wadena Technical School.

### Basin Electric scholarships

Basin Electric Power Cooperative awards a scholarship to its distribution cooperative members. Basin is one of WH's wholesale power suppliers. The member recipient of this year's Basin Electric Scholarship is Allison Zipp of St. Michael.

## Look for WH this summer!

**July 4**

**Annandale Parade**  
10 a.m. start

**Delano Parade**  
10:30 a.m. start

**July 10-14**

**Maple Grove Days**  
• Big Truck Show  
• Parade  
• Business Expo

**July 24-28**

**Wright County Fair**  
• Booth  
• Major evening events sponsor

**August 6**

**Maple Grove National Night Out**  
11 a.m. start

**August 11**

**Rockford River Days Parade**  
12 p.m. start