



## WH awards \$43,000 in scholarships

Wright-Hennepin (WH) awarded \$43,000 in scholarships to 25 local students, and hosted a celebratory banquet for the scholarship recipients June 10.

### WH Local School Scholarship

WH provides one scholarship to 19 high schools in its electric service area to award to an outstanding student pursuing higher education. The scholarship winners are selected by the school themselves. WH also offers one “at-large” scholarship for students who live within WH’s service area but do not attend one of the local schools. WH’s scholarship program has awarded more than \$738,000 to local students since 1988.

### Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Named after the cooperative’s first CEO, the Edward R. Slebiska scholarship is awarded to individuals planning to become electric line workers. WH has awarded \$129,000 since 2003.

### WH Security Scholarship

New this year, WH Security awarded one scholarship to an individual pursuing education and training in fields relevant to technology systems work.

### Basin Electric Scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative awards a scholarship to its distribution cooperative members. Basin is one of WH’s wholesale power suppliers.



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COMING UP ALREADY!



# CEO's Memo

TIM SULLIVAN  
WH PRESIDENT AND CEO

## Why WH manages risks along with costs

*(And what that means for you)*

When consumers are asked what they most want from their electric utility, most respond with something like: "keep my electric rates down." At Wright-Hennepin (WH), we hear you: keeping your electric bills competitive and affordable is among our most important goals.

But probe a little deeper, and it quickly becomes clear that electric consumers also want something more from their utility than effective cost control. They also want service that is reliable, bills that remain relatively stable and technology that keeps their private, confidential information safe. So, as a consumer-owned organization, WH must also be in the business of managing and mitigating these risks.

It's therefore reasonable to ask: what are some of the ways WH manages and mitigates risk and how does this provide value to the membership? Well, let's take a look. WH manages:



### POWER SUPPLY RISKS

Power supply costs make up almost 70% of the typical monthly residential electric bill, so limiting these costs is a top priority. That's why, starting almost 20 years ago, WH began to diversify its power supply mix. We now purchase power from three sources rather than one. This strategy has paid off too: WH beat Xcel on the typical monthly residential bill in 2024 by almost 11%. But another benefit is that diversification reduces risk. It means WH effectively spreads its purchases over multiple providers and dozens of different generation resources. In turn, this pays off in the form of lower price volatility and higher rate stability.

### GRID RISKS

Our membership also needs, wants and deserves reliable power. That's why WH spends \$2.66 million on right-of-way maintenance each year to clear tree limbs and other impediments from our lines. It's also why we invest more than \$20 million a year in new infrastructure to build out and enhance our grid. Perhaps most important, it's why we invest in smart technologies, which allow us to manage our grid safely and efficiently in real-time. All these investments reduce outage risk and help ensure a faster response when an outage does occur.

### FINANCIAL RISK

WH uses multiple strategies to reduce financial risk for our membership. For starters, we diversify our borrowing over three lenders. We manage and monitor our financial outcomes to help ensure the lowest interest rates and the best loan terms. We also amass and deploy reserve funds to cushion against unexpected rate shocks or big swings in power bills. And we plan our key expenses as much as five years out, so we can smooth out and feather in costs over time. All of this helps reduce the big spending spikes that put pressure on member bills.

### CYBERSECURITY RISKS

As a member-owned organization, WH is also deeply committed to keeping your confidential account and personal data out of the hands of bad actors. We do this by conducting regular cybersecurity training for employees, performing annual security audits, upgrading our detection tools and regularly patching and improving our systems. We are mindful that any breach of member data means not only a loss of privacy but a loss of trust. Consequently, we do everything we reasonably can to keep threat actors locked out.

Now, there's no way WH can eliminate all risks. Energy markets, like all markets, can sometimes be volatile – and prices can spike as well as sink. Mother Nature has an important say too: we are always one natural disaster away from a widespread outage. And while we can layer on cybersecurity protections, there's no 100% foolproof way to guard against a technology breach.

But what we can assure our members is that we are doing everything we reasonably can — and then some — to reduce these risks. Moreover, we have mitigation plans in place to help reduce the severity and duration of a negative event should one occur, and to help ensure we get back on track faster, with high resilience.

So, the next time you drive by a WH truck, or see a WH crew working to install a service, remember: WH is working to reduce all kinds of risks to ensure safe, reliable, affordable electric service. It's just one more way your cooperative delivers value to you and your family.

As always, thank you for your business.



## WH's 2025 Youth Tour delegate reflects on her experience

*By Madie Barnes*

This past June, I had the honor of representing Wright-Hennepin at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour 2025 in Washington, D.C. From exploring historic monuments and museums, to meeting delegates from across the country, and even speaking with members of the U.S. Senate — Youth Tour was truly the experience of a lifetime.

One of the most memorable parts of the trip was our day on Capitol Hill. Being in the place where so many influential moments in our nation's history have occurred was surreal. We experienced things that would never have been possible without this opportunity. One highlight was stepping into the U.S. Senate chamber — a room I had only seen in history textbooks and on the news. Witnessing the interns at work within the Capitol and the Senate office buildings was incredibly inspiring. Being in a place of such power and importance, while surrounded by like-minded students and young leaders, made participating in our country's democratic process feel real and accessible.



Another key moment was meeting Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar to discuss the changes we felt were needed in rural Minnesota. Having our voices heard by national leaders made a lasting impression and showed me how much young people can truly impact the future.

One of the most unique and surprisingly memorable parts of the trip was pin trading. Delegates from each state brought pins to swap, and it turned into a fun and effective way to meet new people and make connections. Whether we were comparing accents or sharing what we knew about each other's home states, this activity became one of my favorite parts of the trip. The networking and communication skills I developed will stay with me and open doors in the future.

The students, chaperones, and every representative we met along the way truly made this experience what it was. Before going on the trip, I knew I'd have incredible opportunities to learn and grow, but this tour exceeded every expectation I had. The friendships formed, the connections made, and the knowledge gained have shaped me into a stronger leader and advocate for rural America. I now know that my voice matters — and that it can be heard.

To any future juniors considering this opportunity: take the chance and apply to be next year's Youth Tour representative. You definitely won't regret it.



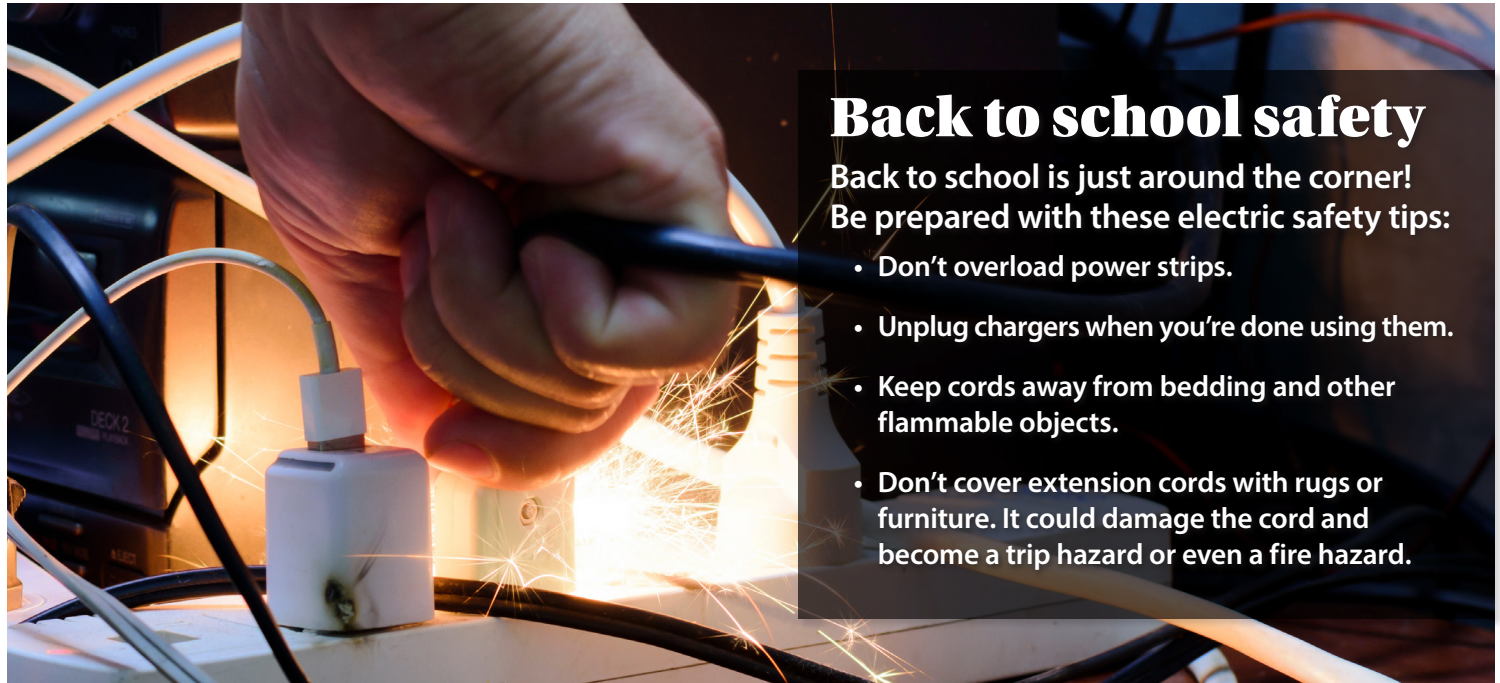
# Co-op Connections deal of the month

## NATIONS LENDING

\$1,000 discount on first mortgage | Elk River, MN

**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!



## Back to school safety

Back to school is just around the corner! Be prepared with these electric safety tips:

- Don't overload power strips.
- Unplug chargers when you're done using them.
- Keep cords away from bedding and other flammable objects.
- Don't cover extension cords with rugs or furniture. It could damage the cord and become a trip hazard or even a fire hazard.

## Fall farm safety

### TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST

**Look up and around.** Start your day with a safety meeting. Know the location and height of all power lines, guy wires, transformers, and other electrical infrastructure near where people will be working. Keep all equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

**Lower extensions,** like augers or truck beds, when moving. Designate a spotter to verify equipment is the proper distance away from lines. Never try to lift or move a power line out of the way!

**Call 911 if your equipment contacts a power line,** and stay inside it. Warn others to stay away. If there is a fire and you need to exit the equipment, put your feet together and jump as far away as you can. Do not let any part of your body touch the ground and the equipment at the same time.

**Weatherproof** all outdoor electrical outlets and equipment to prevent water damage and potential electric shocks.

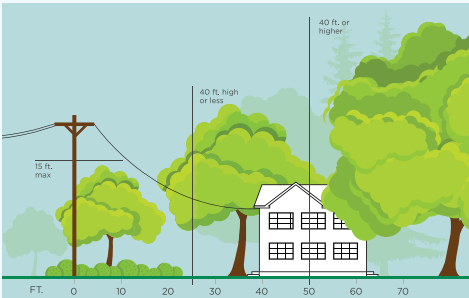


# 3 Ways to help limit tree trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other vegetation that grows too close to overhead power lines, known as right-of-way (ROW) trimming? We know you love your trees, so **here's how you can help:**

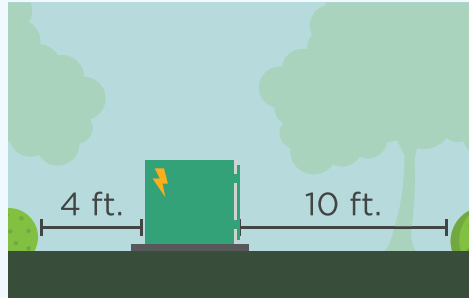
## 1. Plant trees in the right place.

Trees that will be less than 40 feet tall should be planted at least 25 feet away from power lines. Trees taller than 40 feet should be at least 50 feet away.



## 2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.

Plant bushes and shrubs at least 10 feet away from the transformer door and four feet from the other three sides.



## 3. Report dangerous branches.

If you spot a tree or branch dangerously close to power lines, report it at [bit.ly/WH-tree-near-lines](https://bit.ly/WH-tree-near-lines).



## Why Right-of-Way trimming makes a difference

Trees or branches touching power lines can damage equipment or cause power outages, so WH has a rigorous ROW trimming program. This is an important component of WH's commitment to providing our members with safe, reliable power. Our ROW trimming program keeps trees 10 feet away from power lines, to help keep lines clear of tree limbs, reduce unexpected repair costs, and keep our communities and crews safe!



## 2025 was another busy summer of events!

Our yellow trucks made several appearances across our service territory, from Maple Grove Days to the Wright County Fair! Find our member appreciation events for National Co-op Month on the back page!



# BACK TO SCHOOL DEAL

Save \$150  
on a video doorbell

Plus, WH members always save  
\$3 per month on monitoring!

Minimum one-year contract required.

Offer valid through August 31, 2025



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- ✓ Range
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\* Additional appliance coverage also available. Certain restrictions apply.

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the pros use!**



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

# Solar Winners

## JUNE SOLAR WINNERS

**GARY KLOUDA** of Loretto wins a credit for 254 kWh, May's output from one of WH's solar panel arrays.

**JUSTIN ROHLOFF** of Maple Grove wins a credit for 106 kWh, May's output from WH's second solar panel array.

## JULY SOLAR WINNERS

**FRANCINE WOODFORD** of Hamel wins a credit for 199 kWh, June's output from one of WH's solar panel arrays.

**CARL ROTH** of Annandale wins a credit for 92 kWh, June's output from WH's second solar panel array.

# Board Report: Meeting highlights

## JUNE BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were held June 19, 2025. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved alternative funding with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation and CoBank.
- Approved line of credit with Huntington Bank.
- Per the CORP-20 Capital Credit Policy, "there shall be no special retirement of capital credits in excess of \$25,000 per member unless Board approved." The Board approved the special retirement of capital credits at a discount for a member leaving WH's lines.
- Approved appointing Rose Thelen to represent District 1 on Operation Round Up's Board of Directors.
- Approved annual renewal of insurance with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange (Federated) that was presented by Federated's Account Executive, Keith Johnson.
- Approved holding the annual Policy, Planning and Professional Services (Bylaws) Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2025.
- Approved adjusting competitiveness target.
- Selected a Director to attend the Wright County 4-H Auction and bid up to \$1,500.
- Board was informed that WH received an 87 on its recent American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey.
- Board recognized former Director Reynolds for his dedication and service on the Board.
- Legal Counsel provided his monthly update.
- Heard reports on:
  - » WH's top 25 commercial accounts.

- » WH's approach to ensuring safe and reliable substation communications.
- » WH Appliance Repair, WH Security and WH International Response Center (WHIRC) competitiveness analysis.
- » WH Holding businesses activities with The Monitoring Association and Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Associations.

- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, COO and financial reports.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

## JULY BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were held July 18, 2025. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved hosting next year's Scholarship Banquet on June 2, 2026.
- Legal Counsel gave his monthly update.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Heard reports on:
  - » Financial controls and procedures.
  - » Proactive monitoring of tariff impacts on WH Security's products.
  - » Plans to add demand management receivers on all ZEFNET chargers.
  - » WH compliance with Rural Electric Service's (one of WH's lenders) Limited English Proficiency requirements.
  - » Quarterly AI and cybersecurity tabletop updates.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, COO and financial reports.
- Guest:
  - » Huntington Bank provided an overview of the bank and its services.

# Keep in touch with your cooperative!

## Member call center:

(763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667

Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

## To report an outage:

Dispatchers are available 24/7

**Call:** (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

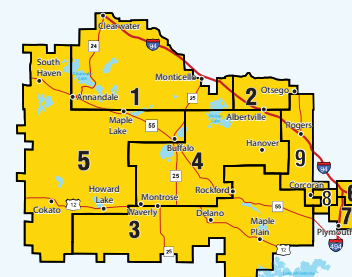
## WH Security monitoring:

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: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly

District 4: Richard Dehmer, Buffalo

District 5: Chris Lantto, South Haven

District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove

District 7: Audrey Britton, Plymouth

District 8: Mark Skinner, Maple Grove

District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

**WH President and CEO:** Tim Sullivan

**WH CFO:** Susan Sorensen

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

# Follow us on social media for energy tips, events and more!

**Facebook:** [WrightHennepin](https://www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin)

**X:** [WrightHennepin](https://twitter.com/WrightHennepin)

**Instagram:** [WrightHennepin](https://www.instagram.com/WrightHennepin)

**YouTube:** [WrightHennepin](https://www.youtube.com/WrightHennepin)

## Sign up for e-billing or EZ Pay!

Log into your account at [billing.whe.org/mcp](http://billing.whe.org/mcp), or call Member Services at (763) 477-3000.

**Learn how to read your bill at**  
[bit.ly/read-WH-electric-bill](http://bit.ly/read-WH-electric-bill)

6800 Electric Drive  
 Rockford, MN 55373

# Hotline Update

AUGUST NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

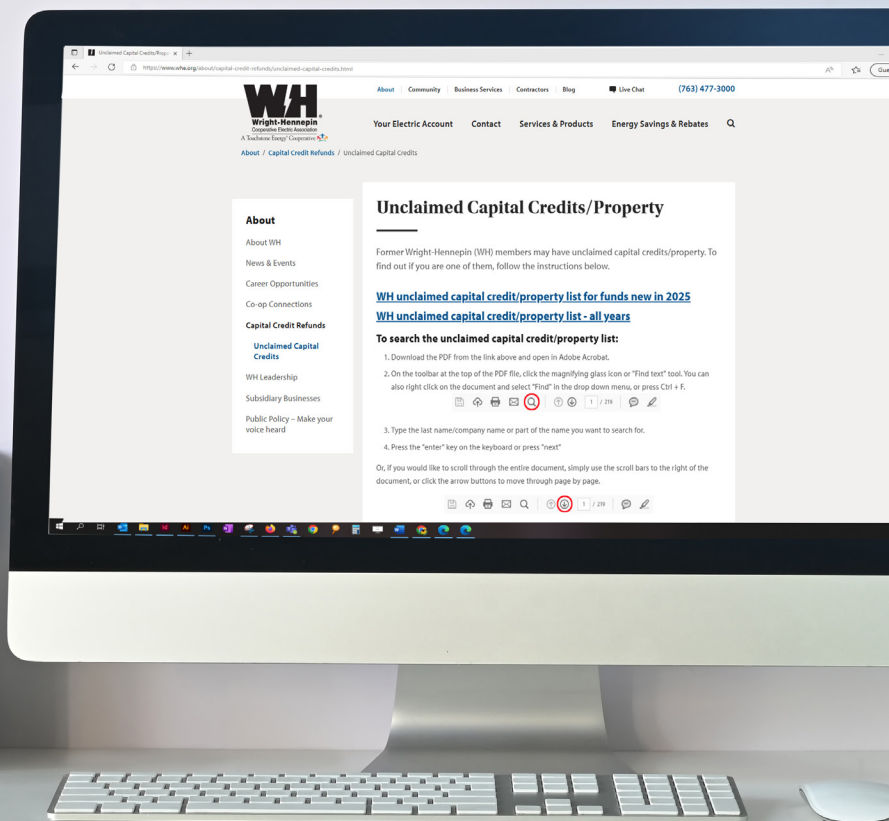
## Unclaimed capital credits

Do you know anyone who was a WH member and has since moved out of our service area? They may have unclaimed capital credits.

Because WH is a cooperative, people who receive electricity from WH are also part-owners in the business. After bills and other expenses are paid, the money that remains is known as capital credits. WH has returned these capital credits annually to members for 44 consecutive years.

Unclaimed capital credits will be held by WH for up to seven years. After that, WH must either turn the money over to the state of the intended recipient's last known address or donate it to a charitable organization. All Minnesota unclaimed capital credits are donated to WH's scholarship program. Learn more about WH's scholarship program on page 1 of this newsletter!

**Find the list of unclaimed capital credits at [bit.ly/WH-unclaimed-CC](https://bit.ly/WH-unclaimed-CC).**



## Join WH at Co-op Month events!

October is National Co-op Month! Celebrated annually since 1964, WH joins cooperatives around the country to recognize the best way to do business. You're invited to WH's two member appreciation events at our headquarters in Rockford!



**October 21**

**Member Luncheon**  
 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



**October 23**

**Fall Festival**  
 5 – 7 p.m.