



Members enjoying summer at the Wright County Fair

WH's commitment to community in 2022

Events were in full swing in 2022! Wright-Hennepin (WH) was a proud participant and sponsor in parades, fairs, and special events around the service area. In addition, WH hosted several events at our headquarters.

WH employees donated over \$2,500 to Wright County Community Action and WeCan as part of a WH Make a Difference committee fundraiser in December. WH donated \$25,600 in scholarships in 2022, and members participating in Operation Round Up donated over \$231,000 to local charities and organizations. Thank you for another great year!



Kids had fun climbing onto the big digger truck at the Wright County Fair



WH joined patriotic crowds at the Fourth of July parades



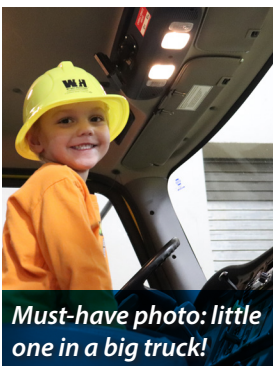
Having fun at the Maple Grove Days parade



Members attend WH's second annual EV Ride and Drive Event in September



WH enjoyed sharing a free lunch with members to celebrate National Co-op Month



Must-have photo: little one in a big truck!



Kids were busy with a variety of activities at WH's Fall Festival



Mrs. Claus was happy to visit with young members



Kids were quick with their list for the big guy



CEO's Memo

TIM SULLIVAN
WH PRESIDENT AND CEO

Reliable energy for you relies on thoughtful public policy at the Capitol

Reliability

To achieve 100% clean power by 2035, the US needs 400,000 new miles of transmission lines, built 17 times faster than historic annual build-out levels.

Source: Princeton University study, 2022

In the 2022 Hulu series “Only Murders in the Building,” a character played by Steve Martin sums up the value of electricity this way: “There’s a thin line between civilization and chaos,” he says. “And that line is electricity.”

Well, keeping modern life firmly planted in civilization is our daily purpose at Wright-Hennepin (WH). For us, it means delivering safe, reliable, affordable energy to you and your family 24/7/365. Accomplishing this is a real challenge — and it’s getting more challenging.

Consider that, last spring, two prominent industry watchdog organizations issued warnings about the potential for summer blackouts in our region. Happily, blackouts didn’t occur but we saw increased risk. Then again, in December, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), again issued a warning that rolling blackouts were possible this winter in the Upper Midwest. Unfortunately, these increased reliability risks are not going away and, unless handled carefully, may well escalate.

Why? As explained in this space before, key contributors include:

1. Limited transmission lines
2. Limited “firm” energy generation
3. The impact of public policy decisions
4. Expanding electric use

So, let’s unpack each in turn.

Limited Transmission: As outlined in my October column, we currently have too few paths to move energy — particularly renewable energy like wind and solar — from where it is generated (the Dakotas) to where it is used (the Twin Cities). There’s a major effort underway now to build out the transmission grid, but it takes a long time — often 10 years or more. In fact, it has been estimated that \$70 billion in new or upgraded transmission lines is needed in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) region alone, which covers 15 U.S. states, including Minnesota. And even if these projects are funded, they still must first be sited and built.

Limited “Firm” Generation: Power supply has undergone a revolution in the past 20 years. Energy production from renewables has increased 90% since 2000 and the grid in the Upper Midwest is already 30% renewables and growing. Happily, not only has electricity rapidly become cleaner but it has also remained reliable and affordable.

But maintaining reliability and affordability at ever increasing renewable levels gets more challenging. At core, this is because the wind doesn’t always blow and the sun doesn’t always shine. So, to make the system work, utilities also need “firm” generation like gas peaking plants or nuclear facilities which can generate electricity at any time, particularly on peaks. And with increasing numbers of firm generation units being retired or certain replacements prohibited by public policy, reliability inevitably comes under pressure.

Public Policy Impacts: This brings us to public policy. Right now, federal and state policymakers are pursuing mandates to require 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040. Again, WH and our members strongly embrace renewables and we support the goal of a cleaner, greener grid. The challenge is more practical. Policymakers must give us the flexibility, time, transmission and technology (energy storage, new fuel sources) to achieve this without sacrificing reliability or affordability.

Expanding Electricity Use: Bear in mind that all these reliability headwinds are also coming at a time when demand for electricity is rapidly scaling up. The biggest driver is electrification of the transportation sector. Specifically, several states have already set dates after which the production and sale of internal combustion engines is prohibited. In addition, most major auto manufacturers have announced plans to stop producing internal combustion engines between 2035 – 2040. In turn, this means utilities like WH must rapidly scale up our own distribution grids to serve massively increased energy use for electric vehicles. So, while policymakers are pumping the brakes on ways to generate electric supply, they are simultaneously pushing the accelerator on electric demand.

These are not small challenges. Along with our membership, WH is absolutely committed to doing our part to speed the realization of a cleaner energy future. But we must also do this on a timeline we can meet, with technology that works, and with an eye to ensuring the affordability and reliability of power.

As always, thank you for your business.

READ MORE ABOUT MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD WITH PUBLIC POLICY MAKERS ON PAGE FOUR.

Take advantage of 2023 rebates

Learn more below about available electric vehicle (EV) charging programs and general rebates, by visiting <https://bit.ly/WH-rebates> or calling (763) 477-3000.

Save with rebates through WH

WH is pleased to provide members with great rebates to help reduce electric costs. Listed at right are all the rebates available to WH members, including Energy-Saving Programs (ESPs) and Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) refunds. In some cases, you will need to fill out two forms to receive the maximum rebate amount. All rebates are for new installations only. Certain rebates require participation in one or more ESP. Visit whe.org or call (763) 477-3000 to get rebate forms and learn more.

WH has rebates available for:

Ground Source Heat Pump – up to \$1,950	Dual Fuel \$5/kW – up to \$250
Quick Cash Air Conditioning – up to \$225 - 15 or 16 SEER	Electric Thermal Storage \$5/kW – up to \$250
Quick Cash Air Source Heat Pump – up to \$1,530	Ductless Air Source Heat Pump – \$200
Metered Water Storage – up to \$500	HVAC Electronically Commutated Motor (replacement only) – up to \$100
Quick Cash Water Heating – up to \$1,250	Variable Speed Pool Pumps – up to \$200
Electric Vehicle Charger – up to \$1,000	Pool Air Source Heat Pumps – up to \$400

Current program participation is required to qualify for rebate programs.



Save with WH's EV charging programs

WH members can receive up to \$1,000 in rebates when purchasing an EV charging station and joining a WH charging program. EV charging programs keep rates down for all members by reducing electric use at peak times. WH's EV charging programs also offer enrolled members a lower rate on electric used for charging the vehicle.

ZEF charging stations, available through the Energy Wise MN store, are compatible with all plug-in vehicles and do not require an extra meter outside your home.



RECEIVE UP TO \$1,000 IN REBATES when you purchase a charging station and join the EV Storage Charge Program.

Level 2 electric vehicle charging station options are available at energywisemnstore.com.

Prices reflect rebates of charging station purchase and program agreement.



Co-op Connections deal of the month

ELK RIVER PIZZA MAN

Save 20% when ordering online with code WHCOOP20

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, or use the Co-op Connections app on your mobile device to find all your local deals and more!



Winter line interns gain hands-on experience

WH hosted two winter interns this year: Dylan Grangroth and Josh Hadzima. They are enrolled at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena and during their roughly three weeks at WH, were able to work on a variety of projects including splicing wires, and various other projects around the shop.

Dylan said his mom used to work in Electric Dispatch and would bring him back to the shop when he was little. “The big trucks were pretty dang cool,” he said. “And as I got older I got into it more and have wanted to (work with them) since.”



Grassroots public policy for electric cooperatives

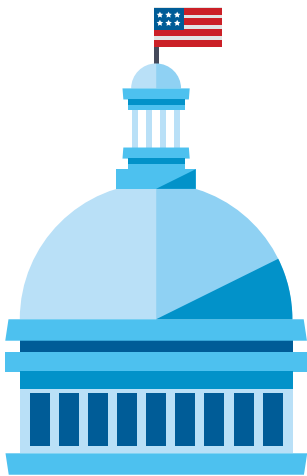
In 2023, WH plans to be active in advocating for safe, reliable, affordable power at the state level.

WH is one of 44 Minnesota distribution cooperatives serving a total of 1.7 million members. Our collective goal is ensure state energy policy serves the best interests of our members. Making your voice heard is one of the best ways to ensure WH can continue providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

WH may contact you to inform you of important developments at the state capitol and to urge you to make your voice heard. Please consider signing up for WH’s public policy updates by filling out the form below or at <https://bit.ly/WH-public-policy>.



Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), the statewide organization that represents Minnesota’s electric cooperatives, also is working closely with Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP). If you are interested in learning more about their cooperative public policy issues, please register for their updates. Find more information at voicesforcooperativepower.com/Minnesota.



☐ YES, I WANT TO STAY INFORMED!

I am interested in receiving information about critical energy issues from Wright-Hennepin.

Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cut out and return to: Wright-Hennepin at PO Box 330, Rockford, MN 55373

Scholarship and Youth Tour application deadlines approaching

The deadline to apply for WH scholarships is quickly approaching. WH has awarded almost \$665,000 to high school seniors since the scholarship program began in 1988.

LOCAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Check with your school

Deadlines vary by school

Each year, WH awards scholarships to students whose parent or guardian is a cooperative member at schools in WH's service territory. These applications are submitted directly to the high school and the schools will select the winners. Each school has varying deadlines. See your school's guidance counselor for your specific school's deadline.

AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP

April 3, 2023

WH also offers one "at-large" scholarship for students who attends a private schools or schools that neighbor WH's electric service territory. The at-large scholarship application is due to WH by April 3, 2023.

EDWARD R. SLEBISKA MEMORIAL LINE WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

April 15, 2023

Each year, WH awards two \$3,000 scholarships to students pursuing a career as a lineworker to honor Ed Slebiska, the cooperative's first CEO. This scholarship is open to those who are high school seniors or older living within a 30-mile radius of Rockford. Enrollment in a power line technical college is required. The application deadline is April 15, 2023.

For more details and application forms, please visit bit.ly/WH-scholarships.

Work continues on new Corcoran Substation

week 1



week 5



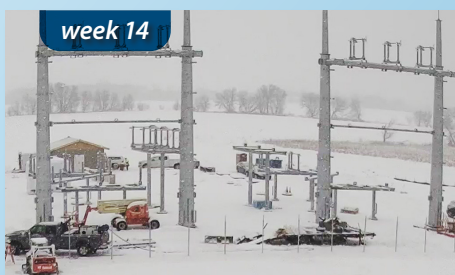
week 8



week 10



week 14



week 16



WH continues expanding our distribution grid to serve members safely and efficiently. This is why a new substation broke ground in September 2022 in Corcoran. The new substation is expected to be fully online by this summer with final landscaping in the fall of 2023, allowing WH to better serve members in the quickly growing area.

This expansion of WH's system is required to keep the grid modernized and to meet today's electricity demands. In fact, WH plans to spend close to \$17 million on capital projects this upcoming year.

CHECK IT OUT!

Find timelapse videos of the new substation going up on WH's YouTube channel:



<http://www.youtube.com/user/WrightHennepin>



Find unclaimed capital credit refunds

Do you know anyone who was a WH member years ago but has since moved out of the area? They may have unclaimed capital credits. Visit bit.ly/WH-unclaimed-CC to review the unclaimed capital credits list to see if you know anyone on it. If so, they may submit the unclaimed capital credit/ property request form. An updated list will be available in April.

Quick fix.
Fast service.
Fair price.



Packages Start At

\$18⁷⁵
month

The WH Appliance Repair plan helps you with unexpected repair bills. The plan includes **your choice** of 5 appliances.*

Popular options include:

- ✓ Refrigerator
- ✓ Clothes Dryer
- ✓ Furnace
- ✓ Range
- ✓ Water Heater

*Additional appliance coverage is also available. Certain restrictions apply.

(763) 477-3000

whe.org/services-products.html

WH Appliance
Repair

STAYING SAFE THIS WINTER

Winter in Minnesota brings cold temperatures and winter storms which can lead to many types of dangers. Being prepared can help prevent injury and damage to yourself, your home, and pets. Here are some tips and reminders to help you stay safe this winter.



HOME SAFETY

- Make sure your heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
- Be sure you have working carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and smoke detectors. Test the batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Never use a gas range or oven to heat your home.
- Never use a generator inside your home.
- Learn the symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

DRIVING SAFETY

- Winterize your vehicle.
- Check road conditions before you leave at 511mn.org.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Increase following distance.
- If you crash, steer your vehicle off the roadway and stay inside your vehicle.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia.
 - » Wear a wind resistant jacket, light warm layers, mittens, a hat, scarf, and waterproof boots.
- Prevent slips and falls.
 - » Sprinkle cat litter, sand, and/or pet safe ice melt.
 - » Work slowly when doing outdoor chores.
 - » Wear shoes and boots with good traction.
 - » Walk carefully with short steps.

PET SAFETY

- Keep sidewalk salt away from paws and wash off any your pet encounters.
- If it is too cold for you, it is probably too cold for your pet so keep them indoors when possible.
- Offer extra food and water. Pets that spend time outdoors use extra energy to stay warm.
- Don't leave pets in cars. They can hold in cold air and put your pet at risk.

WHSECURITY
Trusted. Local.

Protect your Ash trees!

The emerald ash borer bug is in Minnesota.

The signs and symptoms of the emerald ash borer bug include canopy dieback, bark splitting and increased activity from woodpeckers.

Call (763) 477-3000 to learn more.

WH Headquarters | 6800 Electric Drive | Rockford, MN 55373



Solar Winners

tenKsolar Winner



LEE LUEBKE of Corcoran wins a credit for 64 kWh, November's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

KEVIN ERICKSON of Plymouth wins a credit for 48 kWh, December's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

Learn more at <http://bit.ly/2re3mGN>

Solar Winner



DOUG STEINBORN of Clearwater wins a credit for 140 kWh, November's output from WH's solar panels.

DEAN GUNDERSON of Maple Grove wins a credit for 110 kWh, December's output from WH's solar panels.

Board Report: Meeting highlights

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted December 15, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved Rural Utilities Service loan application and necessary resolutions.
- Approved updated policies and schedule of charges.
- Approved hosting a scholarship banquet on Thursday, May 25, 2023.
- Heard report on process improvements and efficiency accomplishments in 2022.
- Heard results of consumer surveys for electric vehicles, WH Security and WH International Response Center.
- Participated in the annual harassment prevention training.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.
- Guests:
 - » Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Government Affairs Director Mike Bull and Manager of Legislative Affairs Jenny Glumack presented key public policy issues for the 2023 Minnesota legislative session.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted January 17, 2023. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved a 2022 year-end margin recommendation.
- Approved portion of Minnesota Rural Electric Association's 2023 membership dues.
- Approved the increased Franchise Fee from the City of Plymouth, to be collected from Plymouth members.
- Heard report on WH's annual Emergency Response Plan table top exercise.
- Heard results of the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) member survey.
- Heard report on C&I developments in the Maple Grove, Plymouth and Medina areas.
- Heard report comparing utility electric vehicle programs.
- Heard results of the 2022 American Customer Satisfaction Index Survey. WH received an 88 for the year.
- Heard a report on WH's current grid capacity, growth impacts and building plans.
- Heard report on WH's cybersecurity plan for field devices.
- Heard WH and WH Holding's 2023 Public Policy Plan.
- Selected voting delegates and alternates for all known 2023 industry meetings.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.



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

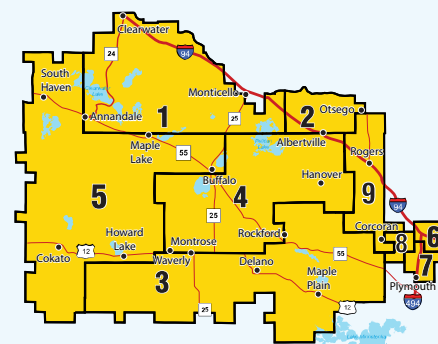
WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7

Call: (763) 477-4275 or (800) 858-7811

Website: whe.org

Email: info@whe.org



Board of Directors:

District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale
District 2: "Butch" Lindenfelser, Monticello
District 3: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly
District 4: John Reynolds, Buffalo
District 5: Chris Lantto, South Haven
District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove
District 7: Kenneth Hiebel, Plymouth
District 8: Mark Skinner, 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.

Power outage?

Get alerted when the power goes out and when it comes back on.

Visit mymeter.whe.org to get started!



6800 Electric Drive
Rockford, MN 55373

Hotline Update

FEBRUARY NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

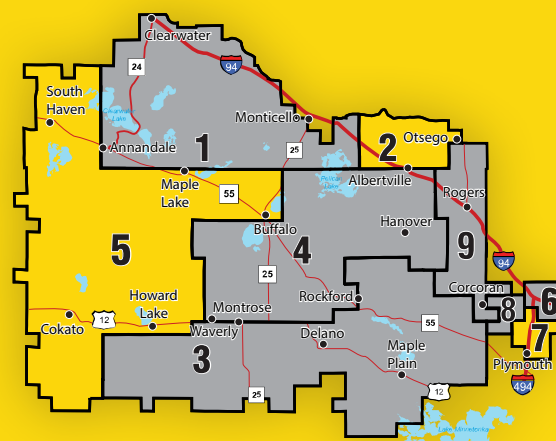
Last chance to file for board seats

WH members can still submit nominations to vie for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors in Districts 2, 5, and 7. The board seat for District 7 will be open. Elections will take place at WH's 2023 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Your board district (BD) number is shown on the second line of the mailing address, just above your name. Members in these districts who would like to run in the election need to file a director nominee application form.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/WH-Director-Election>.

To apply, print, complete, sign and submit the form found at <https://bit.ly/WH-Director-Election> by **March 1, 2023**.

Mail in the form along with a resume to:
Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association
Attn: Board Secretary Michael Tieva
PO Box 330
Rockford, MN 55373



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

2023 Annual Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

6800 Electric Drive – Rockford

Member attendance gifts:

- Free pound of butter*
- Free pork chop dinner

Prize drawings:

- 2013 Ford Fusion* (registered members only)
- Prize drawings at individual information booths.

** Must be present until the end of the business meeting to receive butter and a chance to win the vehicle.*



Preregistration not required to attend.

Schedule

Registration opens: 4 p.m.

Free Pork Chop Dinner: 4:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Bingo: 4:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Children's Activities: 4:30 - 8 p.m.

Business Meeting: 7 - 8 p.m.



Watch the meeting

Watch the livestreamed meeting. Keep informed about your electric cooperative and have a chance to win big!

How to Watch

» <https://vimeo.com/event/2807379>

» Check whe.org or social media for the link

» Hover over the QR code with your phone or tablet camera



Enter for a chance to win one of two \$50 bill credits when you watch online. Entry instructions to be provided during the broadcast.

To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/WH-23annualmeeting>.

**Reliability You
Can Depend On**

