

## 87th Annual Meeting Review

### Two incumbents, two appointees elected to MVEC Board



**Mike Lins** former appointee  
District I

Mike and wife Laura reside in Savage and have been members for 30 years. Lins served in the Minnesota Army National Guard for 35 years, which included a 15-month tour in Iraq. He is the Prior Lake Schools Robotics Head Coach.



**Tom Wolf** incumbent  
District I

Tom and his wife Kellie live in Credit River and have been members for 26 years. Tom is the Scott County Commissioner and has been involved with Lions Club, Knights of Columbus and Chamber of Commerce, among others.



**Brent Lawrence** former appointee  
District II

Brent and his wife Deborah reside in Prior Lake and have been members for 35 years. Brent is the President of Lawrence Auctioneering and previously served as MVEC board President for nine years.



**Kevin Gibbs** incumbent  
District III

Kevin and his wife Karen have owned a crop and livestock farm for 41 years near Le Center. Kevin has served on various boards in addition to MVEC, including Cannon Valley Co-op, Minnesota Family Farms and the Le Sueur Co. Pork Producers.



MVEC's Sue Busch IT Business Consultant, registers members at the co-op's 87th Annual Meeting.

### MVEC remains grounded amidst industry changes

While the energy sector is facing many changes in the coming years, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative's focus will always remain on putting members first and the unique needs of the co-op's service area in 2024 and beyond.

Addressing these industry challenges head on was the theme of MVEC's 87th Annual Meeting, held April 9 at Jordan High School. Observing his first full year as CEO, Marvin Denzer spoke of the decisions made on the state and federal level that will affect electric cooperatives for years to come.

This includes state legislation to move Minnesota to 100 percent carbon-free energy by the year

2040, with a mid-goal to hit 80 percent by 2030. And at the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a 2023 rule to eliminate carbon dioxide from the power sector by 2035.

"Though we are not opposed to clean energy, and our energy mix already includes renewables, there must be a balance," said Denzer.

Looking into the future, the co-op is positioned well and will maintain a balanced approach by continuing to invest in safety and reliability, while ensuring rates stay competitive. MVEC will also focus on working with its statewide power advocate, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, to educate state and

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Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



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# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# ANNUAL MEETING cont. from page 1

federal legislators on the current state of the energy sector at a local level.

*“ I want to assure you, our member-owners, we are looking out for you. We will work hard to ensure our wholesale power contracts and our portfolio mix, maximize your cooperative's dollars. ” — Denzer*

Denzer's presentation and accompanying all-department video lined up with the cooperative's values of Safety, Innovative, Accountable and Connected.

## Two incumbents re-elected; two appointees elected to MVEC Board

More than 200 people, representing 112 registered member households and businesses attended the meeting, which was hosted by Board President Deb Erickson and included Board of Director races in all three districts.

District I featured four candidates seeking two open positions. Mike Lins of Savage won with 590 votes. Lins will serve a three-year term after completing one year as a board appointee in 2023. Incumbent Tom Wolf of Savage earned 525 votes and will return to the board to serve a two-year term vacated by Brent Lawrence. Andrew Zirbel of Savage and Prior Lake's Kirt Briggs finished with 359 and 328 votes, respectively.

Lawrence (Prior Lake), who moved within MVEC districts in 2023 and was appointed to fill the empty seat of retired director Bill Heinlein, was elected to now represent District II. Lawrence secured 711 votes to edge Chanhassen's Greg Boe with 576 votes.

In District III, incumbent Kevin Gibbs of Le Center held off Montgomery's Julie Bifano by a margin of 1,019 to 756.

Following the business meeting, board directors convened for a reorganization session. Erickson retains her spot as Board President, Wolf will serve as Vice President, and Montgomery's Liz Krocak is the new Secretary-Treasurer.

## Erdman highlights a positive 2023 for co-op financials

Giving his first Annual Meeting Financial Report since joining MVEC in 2023, Vice President of Finance Randy Erdman highlighted the cooperative's Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

Erdman reported member equity grew by 4.9 percent in 2023, which raises the



Brenda Schwartz, an MVEC Dispatcher, welcomes members and signs them in.

membership's total equity to more than \$85 million. In addition, MVEC's yearly expenses decreased by 3 percent, which helps with rate stabilization. Lastly, the co-op paid out \$1.39 million in Capital Credits last year.

Eighteen \$1,500 scholarships were handed out, an increase from the \$1,000 awarded in previous years. Five scholarships were awarded to area high school seniors, whose parents are members of the co-op, in each of MVEC's three districts, drawn before the meeting. Three at-large scholarships were new this year and selected through a drawing among high school seniors in attendance. MVEC's scholarships are funded by the cooperative's unclaimed Capital Credits. This is money that would otherwise be claimed by the state of Minnesota. All scholarship winners will be featured in next month's edition of the *Electric Eye*.

Ava Joos, a junior at Chanhassen High School, was announced as MVEC's representative for the 2024 Youth Tour, a national leadership trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by America's rural electric cooperatives. Caitlyn Bahe of Chanhassen High School was chosen as the runner-up.

New this year was a drawing for five \$100 bill credits. The lucky winners were Charles Strehl (Eden Prairie), James Hunnicut (Victoria), James Laumann (Prior Lake), Steve Berger (New Prague) and Steve Hlavac (New Prague).

Follow-up materials, including a video presentation, election results and scholarship winners, are available at [mvec.net/annualmeeting](http://mvec.net/annualmeeting).



MVEC's Allison Janovsky helps students register for the Scholarship drawing.

# MVEC Lineman to light up Guatemala

An MVEC Lineman is heading to Guatemala as part of a volunteer effort to bring electricity to a remote village. MVEC Journeyman Linemen Wiley Harris will spend two weeks in the La Hortiga region of Guatemala this June volunteering for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Program.

Harris, an experienced journeyman lineman with MVEC for nearly four years, will be an asset to the international project.

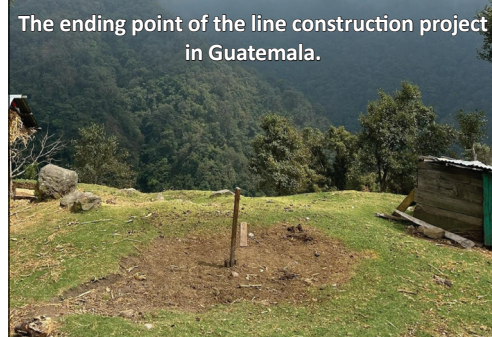
Harris will be joined by 13 other lineworkers from Minnesota and Iowa cooperatives. These volunteers will construct primary and secondary line systems and conduct training for local linemen who will maintain the system after volunteers leave.

Once the work is complete, the project will provide power to approximately 240 people and drastically change their quality of life.

For over 60 years, NRECA International has provided women, men and children in developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. For these 160 million people in 45 countries who have benefited from their work, life has changed and improved through better education,



*“It sounded like an opportunity you can’t pass up,” said Harris. “I’ve never been out of the U.S. So just going to Guatemala will be cool but bringing power to people there is another really cool aspect of the trip.”*



## Electric Safety poster contest winner!



Safety is not just a word; it's a way of life here at MVEC. In our ongoing commitment to fostering safety awareness, we asked some of our youngest members to come up with new artwork for the co-op by creating safety posters for us to share.

This month we're featuring 15-year-old Lily's timely safety message for those with pets around the house.

health, provision of clean water and economic opportunity.

We're proud to send Harris to continue the tradition of electrifying rural communities, no matter where it is on the map.

We wish Wiley safe travels and can't wait to hear all about his experience!

## Co-generation Notice

In compliance with Minnesota Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, MVEC is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility.

MVEC has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required and subject to approval by the cooperative for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution

by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, visit our website at [mvec.net/](http://mvec.net/) or contact Kyle Neal at [kylen@mvec.net](mailto:kylen@mvec.net).



# Twins youth baseball clinic returns to Jordan!

Grab your mitt and get ready to learn America's pastime this summer at Minnesota Valley Electric's free youth baseball clinic. Following the incredible turnout from last year, we're partnering once again with Great River Energy, and Jordan Community Ed & Rec to bring you this exciting event Saturday, July 13, in Jordan.

The clinic, which is a part of the Twins Community Fund and Play Ball! Minnesota, features former players and coaches, teaching the basics of the game. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of skill-building exercises, including hitting, throwing, fielding and base running. This is the 64th year the Twins have offered the clinic, which has had more than 800,000 youth participants since 1961.

Open to all kids ages 6-12, clinicians will provide all necessary equipment for the two-hour clinic.

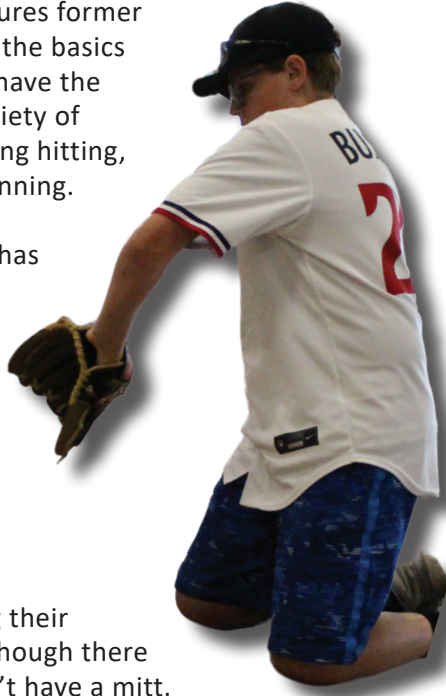
Participants are asked to bring their own gloves if they have one, though there will be extras in case they don't have a mitt. The baseball clinic will provide participants with invaluable insights into the game, helping them improve their skills and deepen their understanding of fundamentals.

## Registration Required

Although the clinic is free of charge, all participants **must register online in advance**. This ensures each child has a completed waiver and helps us get an accurate count for the number of participants. Those interested can register at [www.playballmn.com](http://www.playballmn.com) or scan the QR code located by the map. Registrants **do not** need to be an MVEC member in order to participate.

Parents and family are encouraged to stay and play with their children alongside the Twins clinicians. The clinic starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 13 at the Jordan High School Field. Similar to last year, MVEC will provide a bag of goodies to all participants.

While MVEC is hosting this clinic, there are several others in the co-op's service area throughout the summer. If you can't make it to MVEC's, Tri-City United and New Prague Youth Baseball are hosting clinics July 11 and August 11, respectively.



CEO Marvin

**Free to attend!**  
**Open to all kids between the ages 6-12!**

Parking and field map

Use QR code  
for easy  
registration.



Twins  
COMMUNITY FUND

## YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC!



**DATE:**

Saturday, July 13

**TIME:**

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**FIELD:**

200 Hope Ave  
Jordan, MN 55352

The Electric Eye is the official publication of  
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