



## Hundreds gather for Brown County REA 87<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

Nearly 400 members and spouses, employees and guests of Brown County Rural Electrical Association (BCREA) gathered at the Sleepy Eye Event Center April 11<sup>th</sup> for the cooperative's 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. A total of 204 members registered at the meeting.

Following a catered meal, District 6 Director Joel Christensen shared the invocation. During the business meeting, Board President Tom Hayes reviewed the past year. He highlighted the wholesale power supply generation portfolio changes and how electric cooperatives are adapting for future carbon-free mandates. CEO Mike Heidemann reviewed the 2023 audited financial report and discussed the Cooperative Cost of Services Study recently completed for BCREA by an engineering firm. Results from the study, increased equipment and material costs along with rising power costs have led to the need for a rate increase, which will be implemented in September.

Three incumbent directors ran unopposed and were re-elected to three-year terms.

Joel Christensen - District 6

Greg Mages – District 7

Tom Hayes – District 9



Grace Mages, a senior at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, who represented Brown County REA at the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour shared highlights and photos from the trip to Washington, D. C. last summer. Keith Olson who represented Mathiowetz Construction on the 2023 Member Advisory Council reported on his opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at BCREA serving on the council. He also commended BCREA and

Winners of the 2024 Operation Round Up scholarship, given to high school seniors whose parents/guardians are Brown County REA members, were announced. \$250 will be awarded to:

- Katelyn Beranek
- Easton Clark
- Emma Fischer
- Jalivia Richert
- Brandon Schmitz
- Jenica Schroepfer
- Kyla Wuertz

Door prize winners:

EGO Cordless Electric Chain Saw - Cynthia Hansen

EGO Cordless Electric Trimmer - David Hesse

EGO Cordless Electric Blower –Chad Brown

