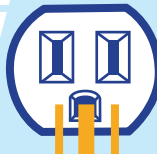


Connections

February 2019



For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric



Volume 23, Issue 2



Former Federated

members: Call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Angie or e-mail ziemer@federatedrea.coop.


21st Century Wireless	Edina
Abrahamson, David G.	Sherburn
Ahrens, Gary W.	Windom
Albrecht, G.C.	Fairmont
Alencar, Carlos & Zilda	Round Lake
Anderson, John O.	Burnsville
Askew, David	Scandia, KS
Aumer, Bill	Milford, IA
Bell, Rae	Welcome
Berg, Shawn	Sherburn
Berhow, Kim L.	Fairmont
Berhow, Kyle	Fairmont
Blanchard, Brian	Minneapolis
Block, Calvin	Canton, MS
Bodovinitz, David	St. James
Bone, Randall	Eufaula, AL
Bossert, Michael J., c/o Brenda Krumm,	Worthington
Brassfield, Jessica	Dundee
Bredberg, Velma	Sherburn
Bremer, Donald J.	Fairmont
Breuer, Jerry	Worthington
Brunsting, Ken	Hull, IA
Buckentin, Matt	Bingham Lake
Campbell, Cindy	Lexington, OH
Carroll, Paul	Fairmont
Celander, Jeanne, c/o Mable Johnson Estate,	Fairmont
Chapa, Manuel, c/o Amber Lee Morales,	Heron Lake
Dirks, Barb	Welcome
Dirks, Daniel	Heron Lake
Ditsworth, Alan	Spirit Lake, IA

— Continued on Page 2

In the board game of LIFE you spin the wheel to move along with your career. You hope to land on more rewarding spots than hard luck times. Along the way, there's often a moving van or two as you follow a new job or new house.

So it is for our cooperative member-owners too. As they have moved off the cooperative's power lines, we no longer have their current address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.


Help us locate these missing members found on Pages 1-3. Their capital credits check was returned this year — address unknown. If you know the current location for any of these members, call or e-mail the appropriate cooperative with their new address and/or phone number. Otherwise, have this missing member contact us directly. We can then mail their capital credits check to them. In addition, BCREA's list also includes older, uncashed accounts payable checks.

If we do not receive new addresses on these missing members, their unclaimed capital credits checks are donated to a tax-exempt organization. Brown County Rural Electrical Association and Federated Rural Electric donate unclaimed capital credits to their Operation Round Up program. Brown County REA's Round Up Trust Board donates to programs that benefit their rural residents and local communities. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships. 

At A Glance



The Operation Round Up applications due by Feb. 22

The deadline draws near for the spring Operation Round Up funding cycle. Fill out the application from Federated's website by February 22. Otherwise, call and ask for Andrea or e-mail info@federatedrea.coop to request it. Funding is available for fire departments, education, community service groups and more. 

This publication focuses on cooperative savings, programs and events. As this is the official member publication, member's story ideas, letters-to-the-editor and comments are welcomed.

Andrea Christoffer, CCC, Editor
 "Owned by those it serves"

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Help locate these Federated former members

— Continued from Page 1

Doeden, Jackie	Windom	Lev, Ethel	Jackson	Rochefort, Shelia	Granada
Donaldson, Mary Ann	Fargo, ND	Lev, Richard	Jackson	Roslansky, Viola	Lakefield
Drahota, Dean	Jackson	Leverenz, Adam	Windom	Sankey, Carrie	Windom
Drayfahl III, Larry	Welcome	Lund, Terry	Olympia, WA	Schmidt, Chris	Marshall
Dulaney, Linda	Jackson	Luther, Chris	Jackson	Schoenecker, Mitchell	Windom
Ebeling, Bryan	Fairmont	M&H Larson Brothers Farm,		Schueler, Brad	Watford City, ND
Eggimann, William	South Hadley, MA	c/o Merv Larson,	Eden Prairie	Schultz, Donovan	Welcome
Eilers, Jason	Worthington	Mann, Carmen	Heron Lake	Schultze, Richard & Julaine,	Kansas City, MO
Erickson, Geraldine	Fairmont	Mann, Dale	Windom	Schwager, Gordon	Charlotte, NC
Faulkner, Arthur	Round Lake	Manzano, Wilfredo Del	Heron Lake	Sharp, Stacey	Sherburn
Ferguson, Mike	Windom	Matias, Ben	Worthington	Sipe, Adam & Edith	Heron Lake
Finley, Troy	Welcome	McCormick, Lisa,		Slettedahl, Beth	Wood Lake
Fowler, Craig	Fairmont	c/o Joan McCormick,	Sioux Falls, SD	Smith, Eugene E.	Lakefield
Frank, Justin	Heron Lake	McDonald, LeAnne	Fairmont	Smith, Sandra	Ceylon
Grabill, Gary	Round Lake	McLaren, Alan & Gaye	Sherburn	Smith, Tony	Fairmont
Grim, Rhonda, c/o Jeff	Svoboda, Lakefield	Meier, Karen	Jackson	Sommerland, Mike & Holly	Spring Hill, TN
Guenther, Mark	Lakefield	Meier, Karen	Princeton	Spangler, Cassandra	Cherokee, IA
Guge, George	Estherville, IA	Metz, G.E.	Owatonna	Spaulding, Scott	Lynd
Guidry, Brandon	Heron Lake	Meyer, Dale	Rapid City, SD	Spidel, Harry	Mission, TX
Gunderson, Mike	Bemidji	Miller, Paul L. V.	Vernon Center	Srnsky, Richard	Zimmerman
Hall, Horace	Lakefield	MN Affordable, c/o Ann	McGregor, Mankato	Stegenga, Ron & Wendy	Lakefield
Hamann, Donald H.	Lake Park, IA	Moe, Cindy	Lake Lillian	Stennes, Kevin	Sherburn
Hanson, Lee & Treider	Fairmont	Myers, Alexis	Fairmont	Stoeser, Tara	Jackson
Harpster, David	Hudson, SD	Nasby Brothers	Jackson	Strehlo, Deloris	Winnebago
Hausladen, Brittany	Northrop	Naveumxay, Lam	Fairmont	Sukalski, Jacob	
Hesseltine, Chris	Sherburn	Nelson, Curt	Heron Lake	c/o Peter Sukalski	Ceylon
Hiller, Betty	Fairmont	Nelson, Paul & Sheri	Moutain Lake	Sullivan, Mike	Chanhassen
Hirschman, William	Spirit Lake, IA	Nicholas, Ruby	Fairmont	Swanson, Lois	Jackson
Hooge, Duane	Windom	Niehaus, Wayne	Winnebago	Swenson, Travis	Eden Prairie
Huber, Glen	Mapleton	Nobles Broadcasting	Fond Du Lac, WI	Tammeus, Dr. James	Allison, IA
Isebrand, Dakota	Sherburn	Nylund, Chad	Welcome	Tanquist, Roger	
Johanning, Roger	Avoca	Olson, Larry J.	Sherburn	c/o Irene Spear Est.	Ocean Park, WA
Johnson, Duwayne	Benson, AZ	Olson, Thomas	Welcome	Thackrey, Bonnie	Ceylon
Johnson, James	Windom	Osmundsen, Ronda	Fairmont	Theobald, Mike	Janesville
Johnson, Leland	Fairmont	Paine, Curt	Spencer, IA	Thompson, Luke	Winnebago
Johnson, Marcia	Hardwick	Paulson, Keith C.	Granada	Thompson, Thomas	Fairmont
Jones, Dylan	Fairmont	Pasch, Jessica	Rochester	Thurmer, Harry	Jackson
Jones, Sara	Lakefield	Pegors, Mrs. Allen	Truman	Tungland, Shaun	Fairmont
Jones, Sharon, c/o Dan	Jones, Windom	Pinz, Gary	Spirit Lake, IA	Urban, Jamie E.	Sherburn
Just, John	Heron Lake	Poppe, Gilbert	Sioux Falls, SD	Vogl, Randy	Jackson
Kassahn, Robert	Heron Lake	Prafke, Don	Kiester	Weber, Russell	Granada
Krier, Mrs. Gene	Sheldon, IA	Quastad, Murray	Enoch, UT	Whitman, Rebecca	Bloomington
Kraayenhof, Kyle	Truman	Randall, Marvis	Winnebago	Wielenga, Janet	Orange City, IA
Lambert, Thad	Round Lake	Reder, Lynden	Woodbury	Wiener, John	Windom
Landin, Warren, c/o Blain	Landin, Granada	Rice, Joyce	Waseca	Willard, Steve	Spirit Lake, IA
Laniel, Christianna	Welcome	Risk, Larae & Tracy	Granada	Wrege, Jim	Owatonna
		Robinson, Thomas	Sherburn	Young, Gary & Gloria	Webster City, IA

Help us find these former BCREA members

Former Brown County members: Call and ask for Dorine at 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail bcrea@bcrea.coop.

Abbas, Phyllis M. Mankato
 Akin, Chad R. Frankfort, SD
 Anderson, Gerald Springfield
 Anderson, Jennifer New Ulm
 Bauer, Lois Darwin
 Baumann, Doran Michael St. Peter
 Becken Family Farms Hanska
 Betsch, Leigh T. Estelline, SD
 Black, Rick Winthrop
 Braam, Jerry L. Fairfax
 Cano, Juan R., c/o Oscar Surita, Crystal City, TX
 Carey, John W. Fairfax
 Cruz, Ruben Laredo, TX
 Dale, Duane Nashwauk
 Delite Outdoor Inc. St. Paul
 Engelby, Roy A. Glenwood
 Flygare, Charles L. New Ulm
 Forstner, Evelyn New Ulm
 Frederick, Thomas Mankato
 Gieseke, Carol Montgomery
 Gonzales, Jesus Hanska
 Gonzalez, Janpalach Elgin, TX
 Hancock, Heather New Ulm
 Hanson, Jerome A. Bellevue, NE
 Harris, Douglas B. New Ulm
 Hatle, Michael P. Mankato
 Hazelton, Robert Ogema
 Jensen, Judy New Ulm
 Jones, David Grant Sleepy Eye
 Kathman, Taylor A. Hanska
 Kautzman, Rebecca Hutchinson
 Kenefick, Thomas L. Lena WI
 Kiecker, Allan B. New Ulm
 Knoll, LeRoy A. New Ulm
 Kruse, Wayne W. Bigfork
 Kuehl, Daniel J. Watertown, WI
 Lade, Terrance Silver Lake
 Lamere, Anthony R. Champlin
 Lebens, Christine Chaska
 Lee, Martin & Candace Webster
 Lenzen, Dennis J. New Ulm
 Lodes, Roy J. Bellevue, NE
 Lothert, Dale E. New Ulm
 Marquardt, Danny & Mary Morgan
 Marstone, Duane C. New Ulm

Matthew, Mark R. Omaha, NE
 Means, Daniel Sleepy Eye
 Meyer, Karyl Mankato
 Miller, Leland L. New Ulm
 Montanye, Harry R. Chaska
 Neid, Lynn Mankato
 Neisen, Elizabeth Cambridge
 Nelson, Gertie A., c/o Keith Nelson, North Mankato
 Nelson, Robert P. Little Falls
 Norby, Judy K. St. James
 Olson, Allen E. New Ulm
 Olson, Diane M. Chanhassen
 Olson, Lucille New Ulm
 Parsons, Lonnie D. International Falls
 Paschka, Joel & Tara Alexandria
 Pilot, Joan M. New Ulm
 Porter, Allen E. Cannon Falls
 Ramirez, Herbert Madelia
 Ramirez, Viviana Sleepy Eye
 Rasmussen, Christine J. New Ulm
 Rathman, Chris St. James
 Reihs, Robert Madelia
 Reim, Dan North Mankato
 Rice, Michael P. Grand Rapids
 Rodriguez, Jose L. Sleepy Eye
 Roesler, Daniel D. Waseca
 Sadler, DeWayne Winthrop
 Sanchez, Orlando Sleepy Eye

Schiller, Harold H. Springfield
 Schroeder, Duane R. New Ulm
 Schroepfer, Rosella Lake Crystal
 Schueler, Dakota Comfrey
 Sirovy, Thomas R. Backus
 Smith, Robert L. Lakeville
 Spectators Bar & Grill, c/o B. Pfeiffer & J. Fruhwirth, New Ulm
 Spicer, Debbie L. New Ulm
 Spoor, Craig New Ulm
 Sprenger, Anton B. New Ulm
 Stark, Jamie & Robyn New Ulm
 Stolt, Gerald Plymouth
 Streich, Quinten L. Statesville, NC
 Svoboda, Larry M. Martin, ND
 Thomas, James L. & Diane P. New Ulm
 Tina Jero, Araceli Y. New Ulm
 Torres, Nancy Sleepy Eye
 Triax Midwest Ass., L.P. Denver, CO
 Trullinger, Justin New Ulm
 Twenty 1st Century Wireless Edina
 U S West Communications Denver, CO
 Warnke, Donald J. Plainwell, MI
 Wenzel, John Lenexa, KS
 Werner, Kenneth A. New Ulm
 Wieseler, Roxanna New Ulm
 Woodward, Laurie Eugene, OR
 Worden, Jerry L. Linwood, NE



Federated Focus

2019 rebate amounts posted



Buy with energy efficiency in mind. Federated offers the following rebates. Find the forms on our website, stop by the office, call or e-mail us to request any rebate form.

Must fill out the rebate form and provide a copy of the receipt or bill.

- \$25 Energy Star dehumidifier
- \$25 wi-fi Smart thermostat rebate
- \$30 LED residential yard light (not a Federated-owned one)
- \$50 for Energy Star refrigerator or freezer with proof of recycling the old one
- \$300 ductless air source heat pump
- \$350/ton ground source heat pump rebate (Remember, this is the last year for the federal 30 percent tax incentive.)
- \$1,000 air source heat pump that's 14-16 SEER
- \$1,500 air source heat pump 17 SEER or higher

In addition, Federated offers business and agricultural rebates on LED new or retrofit lighting, heated hog mats, VFD drives, fractional horsepower electric motors, commercial HVAC, electric commercial food preparation equipment and more.

If you have any questions, call and talk to Jon at 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; otherwise, e-mail info@federatedrea.coop.

2019 Construction plans?

Plan to build a new house, hog barn, shop, grain bins or even expand any of these? If so, call Federated and speak to Operations so your project is added to our construction schedule. ☎

Wear a hard hat on this mini vacation! Co-op's Basin Tour runs June 18-20



Put on a hard hat and headsets for the 2019 Basin Tour June 18-20. Tour the lignite mine, power plant and the coal gasification's model room. See how your electricity is generated near Bismarck, North Dakota.

Join us on a three-day trek across the Dakota Plains to tour the Antelope Valley power plant and the Coteau lignite mine June 18-20. In addition, learn about the coal gasification plant that converts coal into natural gas, fertilizer and more.

Depart from Jackson June 18 on the air-conditioned charter bus. Plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops break up the day.

The big tour day is June 19. Depart Bismarck, North Dakota, for the power plant, mine and coal gasification tours. Take the elevator to the top of the power plant to see the view, peek into the coal-burning furnace and enjoy the bus ride into the lignite open pit mine, weather permitting. In the evening enjoy a relaxing supper and riverboat ride on the Missouri River. In your free time soak in the indoor pool or shop at the nearby mall.

On June 20 the group stops at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum before heading home. Enjoy periodic rest stops and return to Jackson around 8 p.m.

As a cooperative member-owner, learn about one of the sources of your electricity. The cost is only \$138 per Federated member or \$275 per Federated couple. The fee includes the cost for the hotel, bus, all meals and snack breaks.

Federated shares the tour bus with another co-op so just 20 seats are available. Sign up today! Call with your credit card to reserve your seats or send in your contact info with your check payment and the coupon below. Call Federated and ask for Andrea. If you have gone before, please do not sign up again. ☎

June 18-20, 2019 Basin Tour Registration

___ 1 member for \$138 or ___ 2 members for \$275

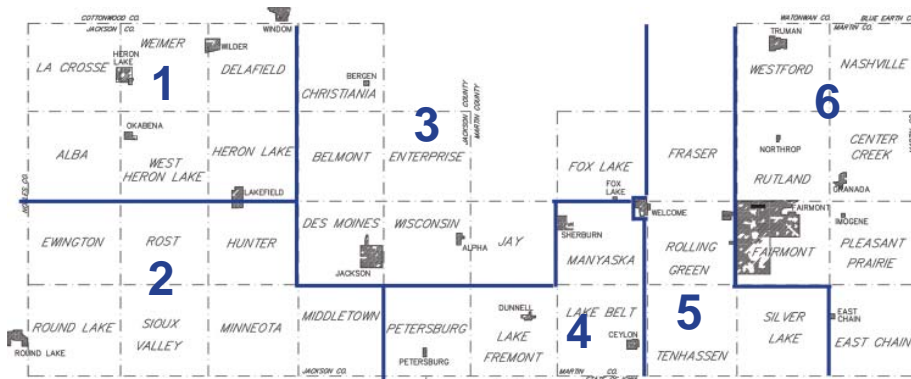
Name(s) _____ Phone # _____
Address _____ City/state/zip _____

Circle one: Smoking or non-smoking room?

Mail to: Federated Rural Electric, ATTN: Andrea, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 with the check or call 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520; ask for Andrea to pay with credit card.



High school class of 2019: apply for nine \$700 Operation Round Up scholarships by April 1



The map shows the districts where the six scholarships are awarded, plus three more chances to win under District At-Large.



High school seniors: the Operation Round Up Scholarship application is now available. The application came with the February electric bills; Otherwise, find the application on Federated's website (www.federatedrea.coop), call or e-mail info@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, stop by your school counselor's office for it. The student must be the son or daughter of a current Federated member.

Federated's Trust Board approved awarding one \$700 scholarship for each of the six Federated districts and then three more from the remaining applications combined for additional chances to win one (a total of nine scholarships). The applications are due back at Federated's office by April 1, 2019. All nine recipients will be notified by May 1 with their photos published in the June *Connections* newsletter.

Students will receive the scholarship check after completion of the first semester of higher education with a 2.0 GPA or higher and submit proof of registration for the next semester. The scholarship check will be jointly issued to the school and student. (C)

20 years of experience recognized at banquet; Congratulations goes to co-op's Matt & Bruce!

Last month Federated recognized a cooperative employee and director for their Federated 2018 cooperative anniversaries.

- Matt "George" Madden, Staking-Metering Foreman, 15 years.
- Bruce Brockmann, District 6 Director, 5 years.



Matt Madden, 15 years



Bruce Brockmann, 5 years

Congratulations and thank you for your years of dedicated service to our Federated members. (C)

Federated adds 4 AEDs to line trucks



A lifesaving AED is now carried in four of the big Federated line trucks.

Federated's employee safety committee made a recommendation that could have a "shocking" result.

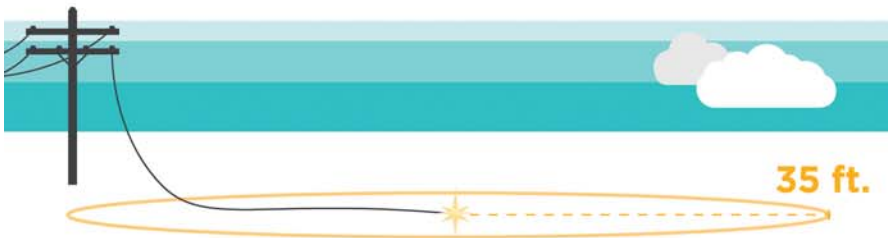
Recently, Federated added four automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) to its fleet of trucks. Federated eventually hopes to add one to each of its line trucks. Federated has possessed AEDs at its Jackson office and Welcome warehouse for many years.

"An AED could mean life or death if accidentally shocked or during a heart attack," said Brandon Clarke, Federated journeyman lineman and volunteer firefighter with the Sherburn fire department. "I asked during a safety meeting if we could add AEDs to our line trucks because we are out and about in the public. If an accident occurs or a life-threatening event arises, Federated crews are trained to use the AEDs. By buying refurbished units, Federated was able to add one each to two line trucks in Jackson and two line trucks in Welcome. We hope we never need to use them on a coworker or general public, but it is the best safety precaution we can take."

Federated is committed to keeping our employees safe, as well as the public," stated Scott Reimer, general manager. "I hope they will never be needed. We are committed to a zero-contact initiative and safety is paramount." (C)

Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



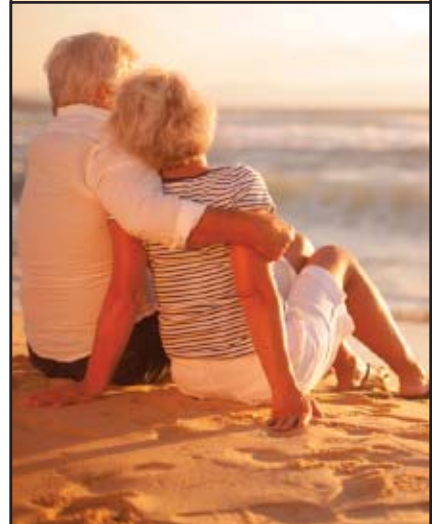
If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Courtesy ESFI.org

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of your local electric co-op*

Shake off the winter chills with a new tasty chili recipe to try

Winter can be so chilly making it a great time to enjoy chili! Share your chili recipes with us, whether it is white chili, super hot, uses exotic meat or the family favorite chili recipe. Send to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by January 28. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! ☺

Blueberry French Toast by Soneva Goering, Jackson

12 slices day-old bread or 8 English Muffins 12 eggs
 2 - 8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese 2 c. milk
 1 c. fresh or frozen blueberries 1/3 c. maple syrup

Cut bread into 1" cubes. Place half of the bread cubes in a greased 9x13" pan. Cut the cream cheese into small cubes and place on top of the bread. Top with blueberries and remaining bread cubes. Mix eggs, milk and syrup together and pour over the bread mixture. Cover and chill at least eight hours or overnight. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Cover and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 25-30 minutes until golden brown and the center is set.

Sauce: 1 c. sugar 1 c. blueberries
 1 c. water 2 T. cornstarch 1 T. butter

Combine sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and stir in 1 c. blueberries and simmer 8-10 minutes until the blueberries burst. Stir in 1 tablespoon butter. Serve warm over squares of the French toast. ☺

Blueberry Almond Streusel Coffee Cake

by Aurelia 'Sis' Kral, New Ulm

Topping: ½ c. slivered almonds, toasted 2 tsp. cinnamon
 ½ c. sugar 5 T. flour ¼ c. butter

In a small bowl combine the sugar, flour and cinnamon. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Stir in toasted almonds and set aside.

Cake: 2½ c. flour ½ tsp. salt 3 eggs 2 c. fresh blueberries
 2 tsp. baking powder ¾ c. butter 1 c. sour cream
 1 tsp. soda 1¼ c. sugar 1 tsp. almond extract

Grease and flour a 9x13" pan. Cream the butter, sugar and add eggs. Sift the dry ingredients. Alternating, add the dry ingredients and sour cream. Add the almond extract. Pour half of the batter into the pan and cover with half of the blueberries. Spoon the rest of the dough on top and spread. Top with the rest of the blueberries. Sprinkle the topping over cake dough. Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes. Drizzle the glaze over the cake.

Glaze: ½ c. powdered sugar ½ tsp. vanilla 1 T. milk ☺

Blueberry Bars by Joan Clobes, Lafayette

2 c. flour 1½ tsp. grated lemon or orange peel, optional
 1 c. sugar ½ c. butter, softened 1 tsp. vanilla
 2 tsp. baking powder 1 c. milk 2 c. blueberries* (or use
 1 tsp. salt 2 eggs, slightly beaten peaches or cherries)

Grease 9x13" pan. Combine flour, sugar, powder, salt and peel. Cut butter in with pastry cutter until consistency of coarse meal. Add milk, eggs and vanilla until well blended. Pour three-fourths of batter in the pan. Add blueberries. Pour remaining batter on top. Bake at 350° for 35-45 minutes. Cool 30 minutes.

Icing: 1 c. powdered sugar 3-5 tsp. milk ¼ tsp. almond extract

Mix and drizzle on bars.

* Note: I use 1 c. blueberries. Can use fresh sliced peaches or 3 c. pitted/halved bing cherries. ☺

**Call Gopher State
 One Call before
 digging!**

1-800-252-1166



Call Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. ☺

**Never take your hot
 water for granted!**



**Call your electric
 co-op for your next
 water heater**



Scott Reimer

Manager's Message

State & federal legislative sessions started

It's the time of year where we pay closer attention to the legislative landscape in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., as the new sessions have started; their decisions affect our cooperative. As I write this, I am in D.C. with Directors David Meschke and Darv Voss, along with 30 electric co-op Minnesotans. We will meet with our senior congressional leaders and the new freshmen legislators.

We discussed several topics and educated them on issues of concern. We start by explaining our cooperative background, which is important to the freshmen legislators. Cooperatives are a special sector of our industry, as they are 100 percent member-controlled by an elected board from the membership and have only one thing in mind — our members.

Other topics addressed are:

- Section 48A tax credits associated with carbon capture and sequestration from coal-fired power plants.
- Tax exempt status as it relates to the 85-15 revenue test. This could affect us in the event we receive any grants, which include broadband deployment grants.
- Industry renewables update, which should include an "all of the above" solution.

Cooperatives are renewable advocates; however, growing renewables without further mandates must be a priority. Our discussions at the state and federal level will bear that out. A common-sense approach to this needs to be a priority. The "New Green Deal" has made some headlines identifying that it may be an expensive endeavor...more than originally thought.

Onto next decade with our wind turbine...

Federated renewed its maintenance contract with Suzlon for maintenance of our 2.1-megawatt wind turbine just east of Welcome. This turbine operates at an astounding 45 percent capacity factor and helps Federated achieve our renewable energy requirements.

Farm Bill affected Cushion of Credit program, but it was resolved

Probably the biggest issue that happened for us and our members in 2018 was the approval and signing of the Farm Bill. Cooperatives, since the inception of the Rural Utilities Service (formerly Rural Electrification Administration), were connected to the Farm Bill, including the RUS electric loan program. Federated, like many cooperatives, secures operating loans to spread out construction costs for longer periods of time to better match the useful life of an asset, such as the substations, poles, wires and transformers used by the co-op to deliver power. Many electric cooperatives plan for future debt payments by setting aside funds in an interest-bearing account that is called the Cushion of Credit (C of C).



Rural Electric

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

Phone: 847-3520, 728-8366 or 1-800-321-3520

Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Scott Reimer, General Manager

David A. Hansen, President — 847-3530

David Meschke, Vice President — 238-1122

Darvin Voss, Secretary/Treasurer — 662-6679

Bruce Brockmann — 447-2463

Glenn Dicks — 840-1075

Jon Saxen — 236-7027

Scott Thiesse — 399-6427

The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 9 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

The 2018 Farm Bill targeted and reduced the interest rate for that account adding significant costs to us going forward. With much work by the electric cooperatives, our Minnesota association and national organization, a compromise was reached. Federated and other electric cooperatives can now pay off higher-interest RUS loans using the C of C funds with no prepayment penalty. I thanked our congressional delegation for their efforts in helping us with this landmark change. We essentially found a way to make lemonade out of the lemons.

Two linemen attend safety conference

I will end on a safety note. Two of our operations personnel returned from a week in Charleston, South Carolina, attending a Quad States Safety conference. Kollin "Mort" VanDeVere and Kyle Koerselman participated in a safety incentive program, which we initiated last year. Through a generous grant from our workers' compensation provider, they attended and will help us achieve a better safety culture. We thank both of these employees and their families for making Federated a safer place to work. ☺



Follow Federated on Facebook for updates & news!