

# Connections

March 2023



For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric

Volume 27, Issue 3

## Play our missing members capital credits game so they can be paid!



Play our version of Scrabble with the theme of missing members' names. Your word search can land them some co-op dollars!

These former co-operative members moved and we no longer have their current address. Yet, they are still owed capital credits or their share of a profitable year.

### Former Federated

**members:** Call Angie direct 507-849-7847 or 1-800-321-3520 (extension 2233) or e-mail [ziemer@federatedrea.coop](mailto:ziemer@federatedrea.coop).

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Abel, Alice M.          | Odin            |
| Anders, Margie          | Granada         |
| Anderson, John V.       | Dunnell         |
| Anderstrom, Alan        | Mendota Heights |
| Arnold & Madsen Inc.    | Woodbury        |
| Asmus, Donald           | Blue Earth      |
| Ault, Brian             | Welcome         |
| Beavers, William & Tina | Dunnell         |
| Bennet Farms            | Windom          |
| Bennett, Orlo           | Lakefield       |
| Benson, Monica          | Jackson         |
| Benz, Martha            | Ceylon          |
| Biggar, Dale & Deb      | Brewster        |
| Bockman, Ellen          | Cordova, TN     |
| Boesl, Judy             | Muscataine, IA  |
| Bohlsen, Jerry          | Fairmont        |
| Boje, Lavonne           | Sherburn        |
| Bolsinger, Terri        | Amboy           |
| Borer, Donald           | Windom          |
| Broek, Rog & Linda      | Ireton, IA      |
| Brua, Todd              | Worthington     |
| Bulock, Guy             | Fairmont        |
| Burmeister, Terry K.    | Windom          |
| Campe, Brad             | Granada         |
| Campe, Rhonda           | Granada         |
| Carlson, Mark           | Trimont         |
| Carson, Adeline M.      | Granada         |
| Carter, Pat             | Jackson         |
| Charles, Rick & Valerie | Virginia        |
| Cihak, Tony             | Lakefield       |

— Continued on Page 2

Review Pages 1-3. Help Federated Rural Electric and Brown County REA (BCREA) locate these missing members and provide us new addresses. Their capital credits check was returned last year — address unknown. If you know the current location for any of these former members, please have them call or e-mail the appropriate cooperative with their new address and/or phone number. We'll then mail their capital credits check. In addition, BCREA's list also includes older, uncashed accounts payable checks. More names are listed this year as



two wholesale power suppliers retired capital credits. Great River Energy paid out capital credits, plus Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative retired funds.

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 programs. Brown County REA's Round Up Trust donates to charitable organizations, individuals and families in crisis and scholarships in the co-op service area. Federated's Round Up Trust Board awards nine high school scholarships and awards the rest to other Operation Round Up recipients. ☺

### At A Glance



**Energy-efficient 2023 rebates on co-op's website**

Add energy-efficiency to your shopping list! Check out Federated's rebates for Energy Star freezer, refrigerator, dehumidifier, heat pumps, smart thermostats or retrofit lighting upgrades at farms/businesses. Go to [www.federatedrea.coop](http://www.federatedrea.coop) or call the office to learn 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"*

*Connections* (USPS 010-456) is published monthly by Federated Rural Electric, 77100 US Hwy 71, Jackson, MN 56143-0069. Subscriptions: Members \$5 a year. Nonmembers \$10 a year. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MN and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Connections*, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069.

Printed by Livewire Printing, Jackson, on recycled paper with soy ink.



# Scribble down names you know & have them reach out to us with their new address

— **Continued from Page 1**

Cook, Gloria	Rochester	Hart, William	Charles City, VA	Monsen, Harold	Sioux Falls
Cook, Willis, c/o Standard Oil Co.	Rochester	Hartman, G.F.	Fairmont	Morrison, Jim	Worthington
Crow, Monekee	Sandstone	Hartung, Leroy	Fairmont	Mulcahey, James	Janesville
Daleske, Duane	Welcome	Haskins, Don	Fairmont	Murphy, Wayne	Cokato
Daly, Joe	Mapleton	Hatfield, Ralph	New Almelo, KS	Nelson, Clara I.	Windom
Damon, Patricia	Rushmore	Haugland, Jeff & Cindy	Mount Ayr, IA	Nelson, Leo T.	Windom
Danbred Production	Columbus, NE	Hellen, Gary	Winnebago	Niebruegge, Brent	Worthington
Dankenbring, Dave	Higginsville, MO	Hintze, Lloyd	Round Lake	Nowicki Prop Ltd,	
Deberg, Darvin	Heron Lake	Hodenfield, Stephen	Phoenix, AZ	c/o Joan Adams	Winnebago
Detert, Alma	Ceylon	Howard, Curtis	Fairmont	Oddson, Tim	Mountain Lake
Dingman, Joel	Wheatland, WY	Hurlbert, Rob	Spencer, IA	Oelke, Velma	Heron Lake
Dunford, Francis	Jackson	Geitzenauer, James	Clear Lake, IA	Olson, Darwin	Winnebago
Dunker, Norman	Jackson	JDB Holdings LLC	Mesa, AZ	Ott Duck Club	
Dykstra, Jim & Marcia	Butterfield	Jensen, Tim	Northrop	c/o Roger Griffis	Minneapolis
Edamame Co MN, c/o Sunrich LLC	Hope	Jensen, Wallace H.	Lakefield	Park, Gary	Fairmont
Eigenberg Bros	Heron Lake	Johnston, Craig	Winnebago	Paulson, David	Jackson
Eisenbarger, Lucille	Mineral Point, WI	Jungjohan, William	Lake Park, IA	Paulson, Jeff D.	Bemidji
Eitretim, Jon	Brandon, SD	Junker, Donald	Worthington	Penny, Paul	Winnebago
Elmore, Mark	Winnebago	Kable, David	Sherburn	Peter, Stacey & Jim	Heron Lake
Erickson, Sophie		Kelly, Garman	Fairmont	Peterson, John C.	Heron Lake
c/o Joann Erickson	Jackson	King, Stan	Lakefield	Polzine, Richard	Worthington
Fairmont Area BMX Inc.	Fairmont	Kockelman, Kenneth	Lake Park, IA	Poulson, Leroy	Fairmont
Farrow, Dale David	Manilla, IA	Kohout, Tom	Orange City, IA	Prokes, Miss Adeline	Mankato
Fillmore, Selina	Worthington	Korfe, John	Windom	Prom, Nick	Fairmont
Forstrom, HR	Fairmont	Kosbab, Lorna L.	Zimmerman	Real, Soleta-Byam, c/o	Pete Byam
Fraizer, Trina	Welcome	Kosbab, Paul	Fairmont		Hill City, SD
Friend, Weltha Lhill, c/o Roberts	Mrs. Ken Jackson	Krueger, James	Bethany, MO	Regan, Patrick	St. Cloud
Gannon, Bill	Aberdeen, SD	Larsen, Bob	Windom	Reimers, Sue	Worthington
Gardner, Kim	Fairmont	Larson, Maurice	Estherville	Riegel, Rodney	Fairmont
Gettler Bros	Ceylon	Legler, Lyle		Rosendahl, Lucille	Brewster
Gilbertson, Gerry	Fairmont	c/o Verilyn Legler	Slayton	Roslansky, Marilyn	Worthington
Gjertson Farm Supply	Worthington	Leimer, William	Hermosa, SD	Schenk, Dan	Granada
Gorackowski, Tom	Soudan	Leopold, Mark	Heron Lake	Schmidt, Connie	Jackson
Gordon, Virginia	Jackson	Liston, Darrell	Akron, IA	Schmidt, Paul	Kilua Kona, HI
Greeley Gas Co.	Denver, CO	Loring, Jack	Fairmont	Schultz, Robert	Granada
Greene, Tom	Winnebago	Lubben, Rev. Lowell L.	Sioux City, IA	Schwieger, Reinhard	Fairmont
Griffin, Jeff	Marion, IA	Lysne, Robin (Temple)	Truman	Schwieger, Reinhard	Fairmont
Grunst, Ruth	Alpha	Maday, Ethel	Olivia	Scott, Bonnie J.	Granada
Gunder, Norman	Windom	Magnussen, Kent	Kansas City, KS	Scott, Clarence	Alexandria
Gustafson, Mabel E.	Fairmont	Malherek, Joseph	Austin	Shank, Cindy (Werner)	Fairmont
Hacker, Leo	Jackson	Mammenga, Debra	Sherburn	Shirley, Edman Sharon	Black Forrest, CO
Hage, Wilbur H.	Lakefield	Marco, Jerry	Dassel	Sieburg, Dora B.	Jackson
Hall, Lawrence	Ocheyedan, IA	Masters, Delbert		Sieve, Jim	New Ulm
Halm, Loina	Jackson	c/o Helen Masters	Winnebago	Smith, Clarence	Algona, IA
Hand, August	Loveland, CO	McCarthy, Kevin	Jackson	Smith, Larry E.	Apache Junction, AZ
Hanson Brothers	Granada	Miller, Rodney	Delft	Smith, Robert & Ruth	Granite Falls, WA
Harnden, Lillian	Fairmont	Mohns, Gladys	Round Lake	Solyntjes, Scott	Lakefield
		Molitor, Nick	Madison, SD	Spee, Donald N.	Fairmont
		Monier, Jerome	Sibley, IA	Stall Lutheran Church	Jackson

— **Continued on Page 3**

# Play our name game & share their addresses

— Continued from Page 2

Steffen, Gary Lee      Worthington  
 Stolarski, Ray      Cincinnati, OH  
 Strauser, Debra      Fairmont  
 Strom, Mildred      Windom  
 Struck, Amy      Winnebago  
 Struthers, Michael W.      Arnolds Park  
 Survis, Bruce      Bowling Green, KY  
 Suter, Gail      Sherburn  
 Szuberski, Doug      Granada  
 Terhorst, Matilda      Orange City, IA  
 Thelen, Alicia      Sherburn  
 Theobald, Francis M.      Sherburn  
 Thompson, Marilyn      Windom  
 Tietema, Thomas      Fairmont  
 Tischer, Robert      Worthington  
 Unke, Todd      Echo  
 Uttech, Rick      Granada  
 Vancura, Bonnie      Lakefield  
 Vanlith, George      Mankato  
 Vannatter, Randall L.      Northrop  
 Viesselman, Wayne      Trimont  
 Villeneuve, Cary      Windom  
 Voss, Larry J. & Nancy      Fairmont  
 Voth, Randy      New Ulm  
 Walders, Gary      Dolliver, IA  
 Walsler, Ross, Jr.      Ceylon  
 Weinzettel, Karen, White      Birch Resort  
    Blackduck  
 Wenzel, Judy      Windom  
 Wenzel, Kermith      Windom  
 Werling, Mariann      Park Rapids  
 Whitman, Mike      Fairmont  
 Williams, Robert      Graceville  
 Williams, William  
     c/o Beverly Williams      Lakefield  
 Woizeschke, Bernie,  
     P.R. Frederickson Est      Windom  
 Wood, William A.  
     c/o Geneva Wood      Granada  
 Ziemer, Dennis      Fargo, ND  
 Ziemer, Walter E.      Winnebago

Black, Arden  
 Bouton, Leah  
 Bowley, Beverley A.  
 Boyum, Larry  
 Braam, Jerry L.  
 Braulick, Elaine  
 Brown, Steven R.  
 Bunce, Shanna M.  
 Byro, Douglas  
 Cochran, Lloyd C.  
 Daniels, David  
 Domeier, Tania K.  
 Eckstein, Patsy A.  
 Eifert, Mark R.  
 Elbert, Jesse  
 Fischer, Scott W.  
 Flygare, Ray  
 Frederickson, Steven H.  
 Gieseke, Dorothy  
 Gonzales, Jesus  
 Hacker, Anna  
 Haggemiller, Daniel  
 Halverson, Ken M.  
 Halvorson, Marcia  
 Hansen, Jason J.  
 Hanson, Jerome A.  
 Hasse, Penny  
 Hazelton, Robert  
 Hertling, Eric  
 Herzog, Mark  
 Heyer, David  
 Higdem, Vickie  
 Hillesheim, Charles J.  
 Hoffmann, Susan  
 Hornick, Lois L.  
 Hovland, Marilyn  
 Hughes, Dwight W.  
 Hunstad, Jonathan  
 Irlbeck, Daniel C.  
 Jakes, Shawn, E.  
 Jasper, Curt  
 Johnson, Gary L.  
 Kilmer, Charles M.  
 Kral, Tammy  
 Kraudy, Roxanne  
 Krenz, Jeffrey P.  
 Kuehl, Daniel J.  
 Landkammer, Wilfred  
 Lenzen, Dennis J.  
 Lewandowski, Ryan J.  
 Linn, David W.  
 Lornes, Gladys I.  
 Lothert, Dale E.  
 Manderfeld, Robert G.  
 Marquardt, Danny  
 Matter, June M.  
 Means, Daniel L.  
 Meyer, Karyl A.  
 Miller, Dean

Fairfax  
 Mosinee, WI  
 Kingston, ON  
 Franklin  
 Fairfax  
 New Ulm  
 Alexandria  
 Eugene, OR  
 Madelia  
 De Forest, WI  
 Marshall  
 Sartell  
 Sleepy Eye  
 Fergus Falls  
 Eagle Bend  
 Sleepy Eye  
 Worthington  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 Hanska  
 Lafayette  
 Henderson  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 Bellevue, NE  
 Franklin  
 Ogema  
 Sleepy Eye  
 Park Rapids  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 Mankato  
 Sleepy Eye  
 Minnetonka  
 Battle Lake  
 New Ulm  
 Spicer  
 Wabasso  
 New Ulm  
 Cedar  
 Gillette, WY  
 Lake Crystal  
 New Ulm  
 Claremont  
 Valrico, FL  
 Watertown, WI  
 Chanhassen  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 New Ulm  
 Hanska  
 New Ulm  
 Shakopee  
 Sleepy Eye  
 Springfield  
 Baxter, IA  
 Mankato  
 Redwood Falls

Montaivo, Francisco  
 Morales, Joseph  
 Mueller, Brian  
 Neubauer, Bernard W.  
 Olson, Diane M.  
 Pelzel, Thomas W.  
 Peters, Shawn  
 Pfeiffer, Dorothy  
 Platz, Ervin J.  
 Polzin, Jeffrey S.  
 Porter Allen E.  
 Quinn, Sara K.  
 Rader, Alice  
 Reim, Dan  
 Rewitzer, John C.  
 Roe, Lillian  
 Sahli, Robert W.  
 Schilling, Paul S.  
 Schmidt, Darrel D.  
 Schoener, Steven J.  
 Schwab, Richard J.  
 Seitz, Helen M.  
 Sherman, Todd S.  
 Sirovy, Thomas R.  
 Smith, Marlyn D.  
 Smith, Michael W.  
 Sperl, Russell  
 Spicer, Debbie L.  
 Stadick, Conrad  
 Streich, Quinten L.  
 Tauer, Michael N.  
 Tharp, Douglas E.  
 Thedens, Don  
 Thorson, Douglas Y.  
 VanWyngarden, Ray H.  
 Vanderveur, Frank A.  
 Wall, William H.  
 Wilke, Steven D.  
 Williams, Cathy  
 Wilner, Richard O.  
 LP Triax Midwest Ass  
 Farmers Home Admin.  
 Curless Flying Service  
 SO Central Coop  
 Lake View Sporting Outlet  
 Klossner Klippers  
 Parker Residence  
 BOC Gases Inc.  
 Moe's Sandy Lane  
 Lunda Construction Company  
 Black River Falls, WI  
 New Ulm  
 Morgan  
 Lafayette  
 Mt. Laurel, NJ  
 Spring Lake Park (MN)

D-D Money Inc.  
 Doug Kerkhoff Enterprise LLC  
 Scherer Properties Corp  
 Cendant Mortgage  
 First Preston/MN

**Former Brown County members:** Call 794-3331 or 1-800-658-2368. Otherwise, e-mail [bcrea@bcrea.coop](mailto:bcrea@bcrea.coop).

Abraham, Glenn H.      Paynesville  
 Achman, Susan K.      New Ulm  
 Akin, Chad R.      Brandon, SD  
 Anderson, Hobart H.      New Ulm  
 Anderson, Leilah      Winthrop  
 Aschenbrenner, Nicole      New Ulm  
 Austin, Orville W.      Fairmont  
 Baier, Elvera      Springfield  
 Barrett, Raymond      St. Paul



# Federated Focus

## Is an EV for me? Learn more

Learn more about electric vehicles (EVs) from Federated. Attend one of these sessions.

1. March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Federated's Welcome Warehouse, 102 N Guide St.

2. April 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Federated Jackson office/warehouse.

The first half hour will cover the basics of electric vehicles. Bring your questions. Learn about Federated's time-of-use rate with the Level 2 charger rebate of \$500. Check out Federated's Rivian pickup too.

## Director Scott Thiesse elected



Congratulations goes to Scott Thiesse, Welcome. He was elected as the District 5 director for the Minnesota


Rural Electric Association (MREA) February 22. He represents southwestern Minnesota on the statewide association.



## Spring cleaning or spring a leak?

Is your water heater ready for spring cleaning or is it more likely to spring a leak?

Replace the ancient water heater before it

makes a mess! Call Federated to schedule your water heater install; price is \$589, plus tax, installation included. This half-priced water heater with a radio control helps your electric co-op control rates; it is turned off during the hot summer evenings and coldest winter nights for a few hours, which helps manage your electric rates. 



Scott Reimer

# Manager's Message

## Spring construction season nears for Ceylon fiber

Spring is just around the corner; our construction season will once again be in full swing. As we ended the 2022 construction season, our fiber-to-the-home project was halted in Ceylon; they plan to resume as soon as they can. April would be great, if the weather cooperates. They plan to be completed before summer hits. They have about half of the town installed with fiber and will mobilize to finish it. They will take a short break in the part of town for Ceylon Days. So far we have 135 residents signed up for taking the gigabit-speed fiber to the home; we will be separately working with businesses, as this is not part of the grant. The fiber line goes north out of town to Highway 22 and to the west of that a bit. About a dozen or so farms will have access to fiber as it goes by — we will be reaching out to them regarding their interest. Again, the service we will provide is a symmetrical service up to 1 gig down and 1 gig up. We anticipate the majority of you will take the 100-mbps download and the 100-mbps upload. The system is scalable up to a 10 gigabit symmetrical service, which will cover many hi-tech business needs. We hope to have this entire project lit up and completed by the end of June. If you are in any of these areas and haven't talked to us, please call. We will be reaching out to you before too long.

## Fiber grant updates for rural Martin and Jackson Counties

We have also been working hard on a couple grant opportunities for the rest of the Federated REA footprint, including that area in Martin County that is served by South Central REA. We will, however, be staying clear of areas that are already served by a local ISP that can provide you with at least 100-mbps download and 20-mbps upload. These areas are off limits for grants and are considered served. We are most concerned with the unserved and underserved areas.


ReConnect 4 is a grant from USDA and our preferred funded service area covers all of the unserved and underserved areas of Martin County. We are anxiously awaiting word on it, which, if successful, will bring fiber to the home or business to about 2,500 locations. We should be hearing sometime in the second quarter of 2023.

Border to Border is another one that we are applying for. That application was due March 2 and was broken into two application. One for the city of Northrup serving about 116 locations and the other is in Jackson County serving about 480 locations. Again, we needed to avoid areas where service is already available, as well as those areas that were awarded to AMG/Next link for a fixed wireless build-out in selected areas.

Speaking of fixed wireless, our own Federated wireless system is growing. We are adding towers all the time and identifying members that we can see from the towers. Our goal is to get all of our members on our fixed wireless system as an interim step to fiber to the home when it comes.

## Federated welcomes 100 City of Dunnell electric accounts February 22

I will close with a project that's been in the planning stage since 2021 — bringing the city of Dunnell customers into the Federated family as members. The Minnesota Public Service Commission recently approved the action; as of February 22, the residents are now served directly by our system. We welcome the 104 accounts and look forward to providing them the same great service Federated has provided since its inception in 1935.

We want you to know that all of us at Federated, whether for electricity or broadband, are committed to providing you with products that exceed your expectations, while keeping service safe, reliable, affordable and providing great member service. This is the beauty of the cooperative business model — every member has a voice either individually or through your elected representatives. 

# Directors approve 3 percent rate increase starting with April 1 use due to increasing operating costs

One of the benefits of being a cooperative member-owner is that Federated provides cost-conscience rates, along with safe and reliable power. You vote to elect local directors to represent your interests.

The last few years with Covid shut-downs, supply chain shortages and inflation all indicated that Federated needed to increase its electric rates this spring due to a budgeted shortfall. The Federated Board of Directors approved the three percent rate increase at their February 28 meeting. This rate adjustment will go into effect April 1, which would appear on the May bills. The increase occurs with the monthly service charge for each rate class and also changed the demand charges. See the chart for details.

The service charge is the fixed monthly charge, which represents a portion of the cost to operate, even if no energy is sold. This covers a portion of the expenses related to lines, meters, substations, buildings, employees and trucks. The last Cost of Service Study indicated the residential (Rate Class A) service charge should be at \$38 a month to recover the costs. Federated, even with this rate change to \$25 a month, features a lower monthly service charge that is very competitive, industry wide.

The demand is the highest 15 minutes of usage during the billing period. The co-op must build its electrical infrastructure to ensure that it is large enough to accommodate the highest demand, which is measured in kilowatt-hours (kW).

“Our directive from your Board of Directors requires us to mitigate annual increases,” said Scott Reimer, Federated’s general manager. “However, if they do become necessary, we will make small adjustments to avoid rate shock. Rates are analyzed annually and the financial forecast is used to determine the need.”

The rapid changes in our industry have affected the cooperative from

Rate change effective April 1	Present charge	Proposed charge	Increase
<b>General single-phase (Rate A)</b>	Monthly \$20 Energy \$0.0860	<b>Monthly \$25</b> Energy \$0.0860	2.3%
<b>Small Commercial (Rate B)</b>	Monthly \$45 Energy \$0.0836 Demand \$3.00	<b>Monthly \$50</b> Energy \$0.0836 <b>Demand \$4.00</b>	3.7%
<b>General Demand (Rate C)</b>	Monthly \$65 Energy \$0.0810 Demand \$6.00	<b>Monthly \$75</b> Energy \$0.0810 <b>Demand \$7.00</b>	2.2%
<b>Large Power (Rate D)</b>	Monthly \$75 Energy \$0.0800 Demand \$7.00	<b>Monthly \$85</b> Energy \$0.0800 <b>Demand \$7.75</b>	3.3%
<b>Interruptible (Rate I)</b>	Monthly \$100 Energy \$0.0650 Demand \$5.00	<b>Monthly \$110</b> Energy \$0.0650 <b>Demand \$6.00</b>	1.6%

**Look at your electric bill to see which rate class you are. This rate adjustment will occur April 1 so the first bill with the change will be the one received in May.**

everything from fuel, poles, meters, transformers and wholesale power costs. While the rate increase is three percent, the cost of underground cable has increased 50 percent; transformers increased about 70 percent, while other miscellaneous components increased 50 percent. Bucket and digger trucks have to be ordered two years in advance and have a price acceleration clause, as do all metals.

Federated’s power cost adjustment (PCA) will continue to pass along to members the fluctuating costs of wholesale power from the cooperative’s four suppliers.


The U.S. annual inflation rate has been 6.4 percent since 2022 so Federated’s goal was to keep the rate increase as low as possible, but still be financially responsible, Reimer added.

Federated is aware of the pressure on materials and equipment costs and is taking action to curtail spending. For example, the \$13.4 million work plan outlining construction and maintenance may be stretched from four years to six years to make it more affordable yearly. A recent trencher purchase was leased, instead of purchasing it outright.

Federated is also applying this year for \$4 million of federal grants through its national organization to upgrade the cooperative’s distribution lines and substations, which include installing fiber optic communications to make Federated’s grid smarter.

Keep in mind that the addition of Federated Broadband is NOT the reason for the rate increase. The electric and broadband income/expenses are separate so no subsidy exists.

Members can also become more energy-efficient to manage their energy costs. Replace an old inefficient furnace with an air source heat pump, taking advantage of the co-op’s rebates and federal tax incentives, if eligible. Install a smart thermostat with WI-FI connectivity to adjust the home’s temperature levels. Federated offers a \$25 Smart Thermostat rebate. Participate in the cooperative’s energy-saving water heater program too where the water heater is turned off during peak times when electricity costs more. The larger tank and insulation helps members not even realize it’s being controlled.

Residential accounts can also sign up for budget billing. See our website. 

# Grassroots efforts helped modify energy bill



**Darrick Moe**  
President & CEO  
Minnesota Rural  
Electric Association

At Minnesota's electric cooperatives, our priority is to provide sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity. With that goal in mind, I want to provide an update on a piece of significant legislation that the governor recently signed.

That legislation calls for Minnesota's electric sector to be 100-percent carbon free by 2040. While Minnesota's rural electric

cooperatives had significant reservations with the original bill, we are pleased to report that the final package is better than what was first proposed, despite our continued concerns about affordability and reliability.

Our grassroots' efforts were successful in getting legislators from both sides of the aisle to work with us to add amendments that addressed some of our major concerns. Thank you to everyone who reached out to your legislators and made your voice heard. It made a difference.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives have long been working and planning toward a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy future. We want you, our member-owners, to know that the heat will be on in the dead of winter and the AC available in the dog days of summer. Furthermore, we want the electricity we provide to always be affordable for your family, while being good stewards of our planet.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association successfully secured changes to the legislation that will provide more flexibility in implementing its mandates. As one example, we sought and obtained language providing greater flexibility in the use of renewable energy credits (RECs) as an option to comply with the carbon reduction mandates. We also received a reduction in the steep timeline, allowing co-ops to reach 60 percent carbon-free generation by 2030, rather than 80 percent at that time. All utilities still need to be 100-percent carbon free by 2040. However, the legislation contains "off-ramps" that allow utilities to ask the Public Utilities Commission to modify the legislation's requirements if needed to protect reliability or affordability.


Minnesota's rural electric co-ops advocated for other adjustments to improve reliability and affordability that did not make it into the final bill; yet, we remain hopeful that additional concerns can be addressed in the future.



**Federated directors met with Minnesota Representatives Bjorn Olson and Marj Fogelman February 21. Directors in the back row are Darvin Voss, David Meschke, David A. Hansen, Bruce Brockmann and Scott Thiesse. Topics of discussion included the 100-percent carbon free mandate, opposing mandates on electric cooperatives and defending the rural electrification tax exemption.**



**Brown County REA directors also met with their legislators February 21. Director Brad Sprenger, Comfrey, discussed proposed legislation with Representative Paul Torkelson. Topics covered included the radio control receivers avoiding unnecessary state requirements and matching state funds to unlock federal infrastructure funding.**

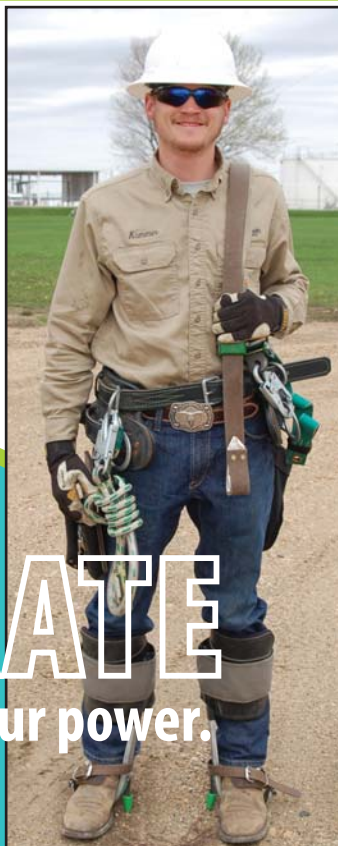
We want you to know that your electric cooperatives are working to provide an environmentally-friendly energy future, while keeping the reliability and affordability you expect. We ask that you stay engaged as more legislation moves through the process and sign up for alerts at <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/minnesota/>. 

— Darrick Moe, Minnesota Rural Electric Association

## Craving raisins recipes? Share your favorite raisin recipes with us

Raise your recipe box and dig out your favorite raisin recipes. Share your raisin recipes for pudding, cookings, bars, pies, rolls and snacks. Mail your favorite raisin recipes to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to [christoffer@federatedrea.coop](mailto:christoffer@federatedrea.coop) by March 27. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 📧

Thank you  
line crews!



**CELEBRATE**  
the power behind your power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day  
April 10, 2023

### Need help with your winter utility bills?

The Energy Assistance Program helps pay energy & water bills.

Benefits up to \$1,400, plus more help for energy or water emergencies. Use this new online application. For more info go to: [mn.gov/home](http://mn.gov/home)



### Swedish Meatballs

by Jan Knips, Lakefield

- 2 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped fine
- ¾ c. milk
- ¾ c. uncooked quick oatmeal
- 1 egg

- salt & pepper to taste
- 2 cans golden mushroom soup
- 1 soup can of milk

Mix the beef, onion, milk, oatmeal, egg and seasonings. Form into walnut-sized balls. Place into a greased 9x13" pan. Combine the soup and milk in a bowl. Pour over meatballs.

Bake uncovered at 350° for one hour or until the meat is no longer pink. 📧

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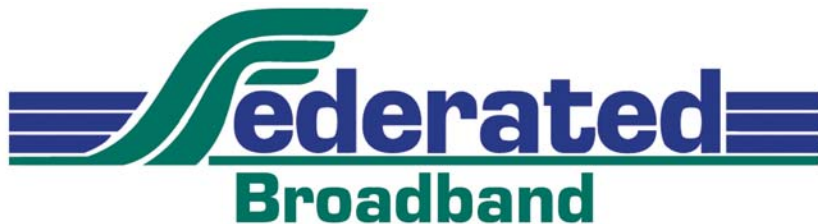
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## Rural Electric

Official monthly newsletter published

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The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 8 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.

## Use wireless bridge from house to shed & hog barn



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