

Connections

August 2026

For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric & Broadband



Volume 30, Issue 8

Celebrate Federated's 91st Annual Meeting with lots of prizes, Bingo & food truck supper September 10

Federated is celebrating being 91; come have some fun!

Join us for the 91st Annual Meeting Thursday, September 10, at the Jackson National Guard Armory.

Register to receive your attendance gift of a portable power bank/charger (see photo on Page 11) and receive your food tickets from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Four menu options will be available from two local food trucks; first come, first choice for meals served with bottled water and a cookie.

Federated is bringing back Bingo from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. or until all prizes are claimed. Plus, visit one of the many booths to have questions answered; learn about Federated Broadband, the 765 kV transmission line, CTV antenna and the co-op's money-saving programs from water heaters to rebates.

Federated will again mail ballots due to the popularity of the previous five years — where more members voted. "This is the sixth year Federated will mail ballots to all current members," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "Members who cast their vote will be entered into a drawing to win three \$100 electric bill credits drawn before the meeting starts."

Watch for your ballots to arrive in the mail near August 1. You'll have ballots for two director districts and two Nominating Committee positions. (See Pages 5-6 for the candidates.) Vote and put the ballot inside the blank anonymous envelope, which goes inside the bar-coded envelope; be sure to put a stamp on the outside envelope and sign this envelope too. The bar-coded envelope is how you are entered into the \$100 bill credits drawing. Drop it in the mail so Federated receives your ballot by Wednesday, September 9, at 4:30 p.m. Otherwise, drop the ballot off at the office's outside payment drop box before September 9 by 4:30 p.m. If you miss the mailing deadline,



Squealers Smoke Shack will serve chopped brisket sandwich or pork sandwich with a side of mac'n cheese, plus a cookie. If you prefer the meat on top of the mac n cheese (no bun), that's an option too.



Gerhardt's Catering trailer will serve hamburgers/cheeseburgers or pork loin sandwiches with French fries and a cookie.

all registration lines allow for in-person voting between 4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

After the meeting you may win one of the 27 prizes; must be present to win. See prizes listed on Page 2.

At A Glance



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Power outage?
Check outage
map before
calling co-op

Ugh! What's more frustrating than a power outage...when Federated phones are busy and nobody picks up. After hours it may be one person trying to keep up. Look at the outage map on our website to see if it's a major outage and that's why phones are busy. Call/e-mail us now to sign up for cell phone outage text notices.

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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27 prizes awarded at end of Annual Meeting; Members must be present to win



Door prizes galore are in store for you at the Annual Meeting! See the prizes valued at more than \$2,000. Register at the Annual Meeting. Prizes will be drawn at the end of the meeting. You must be present to win.

In addition, kids ages 10 and under can win prizes too; they must be present to win. The children's winners will be drawn at the beginning of the meeting. See Page 11 for the details on the children's prizes for the three age groups.



1. Trip for two on 2027 Basin Tour (no substitutions)
2. 50" Hisense UHD 4K Roku TV
3. Pedestal tabletop electric grill
4. Black & Decker 50-foot long extension cord with reel
5. Steelite LED rechargeable tripod light w/stand
6. \$100 Round Lake winery/restaurant gift card
7. \$100 Hi-Lo Club restaurant, Lakefield, gift card
8. \$100 Bergen Bar & Grill gift certificate
9. \$100 Bergen Meats gift certificate
10. \$100 Welcome Meats gift certificate
11. \$100 Horse Barn & Hunt Club, Lakefield, gift certificate
12. \$100 Sherburn Nursery & Floral gift card
13. \$100 Sherburn Liquor Store/Red Carpet Lounge gift card
14. \$100 Tami's on the Avenue, Fairmont, gift card
15. \$100 Smokin Java, Jackson, gift certificate
16. \$100 Sherburn Legion gift certificate
17. \$100 The Still Bar & Grill, Dunnell, gift certificate
18. Loc N Go electric tabletop grill
19. \$50 Casey's gift card
20. 22-watt LED bulb (for garage/machine shed)
21. 22-watt LED bulb (for garage/machine shed)
22. Federated bag w/solar/crank flashlight/radio
23. Federated bag w/solar/crank flashlight/radio
24. Federated Broadband TV snack pack bowl gift set
25. Federated Broadband cleaning supplies & pail gift set
26. Live houseplant (stage decoration)
27. Live houseplant (stage decoration) 🌱

We're building for success — from electric to broadband, the building renovation & more!

When we chose “Building for Success” as the theme for our 91st Annual Meeting, it seemed like the perfect way to describe where Federated Rural Electric is today. Success doesn't just happen. It's built one project at a time, one decision at a time and one investment at a time. Most importantly, it's built by people who care about the future of their cooperative. Over the past year, we've been busy doing just that.



David Meschke
President



Scott Reimer
General Manager

be helping bridge that digital divide, while investing in the future of the communities we serve.

A final Annual Meeting...

As many of you know, this Annual Meeting also marks Scott's final one as Federated's General Manager. Over the past 11 years at Federated — and throughout a utility career spanning more than 50 years — he helped guide the cooperative through a period of tremendous growth and change. Together,

we've had the privilege of working with exceptional people and building a strong foundation for Federated's future.

We're fortunate to serve alongside an outstanding Board of Directors that has never lost sight of doing what's best for our membership. Their leadership and willingness to invest in the future have positioned Federated for continued success.

We've also had the privilege of working alongside one of the finest groups of employees either of us has experienced in our careers. Whether they're restoring power in the middle of the night, answering member questions, installing fiber, balancing the books or planning our next system improvement, they bring professionalism, dedication and pride to everything they do. They are the reason Federated continues to earn the trust of the members we serve.

Most importantly, we'd like to thank you — our member-owners. Everything we accomplish is possible because of your trust, your support and your belief in the cooperative model. It has been — and continues to be — a privilege for us to serve you.

Building today for tomorrow

As we look ahead, new challenges and new opportunities will arise. If there's one thing we've learned together, it's that Federated doesn't shy away from either. We continue to invest wisely, plan for tomorrow and stay focused on our mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable electric service and world-class broadband to the communities we call home, while delivering the excellent member service you've come to rely on.

Annual Meeting “Continuous Co-op Conversations”

We hope you can attend the 2026 Annual Meeting September 10 at the Jackson National Guard Armory. Instead of speeches, we will do a forum with a panel and moderator. We will have different Federated team members answer common questions, plus we will also take questions from the co-op members in attendance and answer them. Jot your question down on a recipe card at the beginning of the meeting. It's your Annual Meeting so we want to answer your questions!

Thank you for being part of Federated's story. Together, we're not just building infrastructure — we're Building for Success. 📞

Building renovation slated for completion by October

If you've driven by our headquarters lately, you've probably noticed the remodeling project underway. It's more than giving the building a fresh look. We're creating a workspace that better serves our employees and provides a more welcoming and efficient experience for our members. Like many of the investments we make, it's about preparing Federated for the future, while continuing to provide the level of service you've come to expect.

Always building a reliable electric system

Our electric system continues to see improvements through our ongoing construction work plan. Every year we replace aging infrastructure, upgrade equipment, and strengthen our distribution system to improve reliability. Most of this work happens quietly, without much fanfare, but it pays dividends every time the lights stay on during a storm or our crews can restore power more quickly when outages do occur.

This fall and continuing into early next year, we'll also begin replacing approximately 5,000 older single-phase meters with new meters. These older meters are nearing the end of their supported life, so now is the right time to make the change before they become a larger issue. By taking advantage of special pricing, we'll save our members more than \$300,000 while ensuring our metering system remains reliable for years to come.

Building technology & service to serve you better

Another major project that's well underway is our conversion to the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) software system. Anyone who has gone through a major technology change knows these projects aren't easy, but they'll make us more efficient, improve the tools our employees use every day and ultimately provide better service to our members.

Broadband builds high-speed internet to three counties

Our broadband team has been just as busy. Every mile of fiber we build throughout our three-county service territory gives another home, farm or business access to reliable, high-speed internet. It's exciting to see how fiber-to-the-premise is transforming rural communities and creating opportunities that simply weren't possible a few years ago. We're proud to

Introducing Federated's Board of Directors



Glenn Dicks
Lakefield
District 1
Board Vice President
20 years



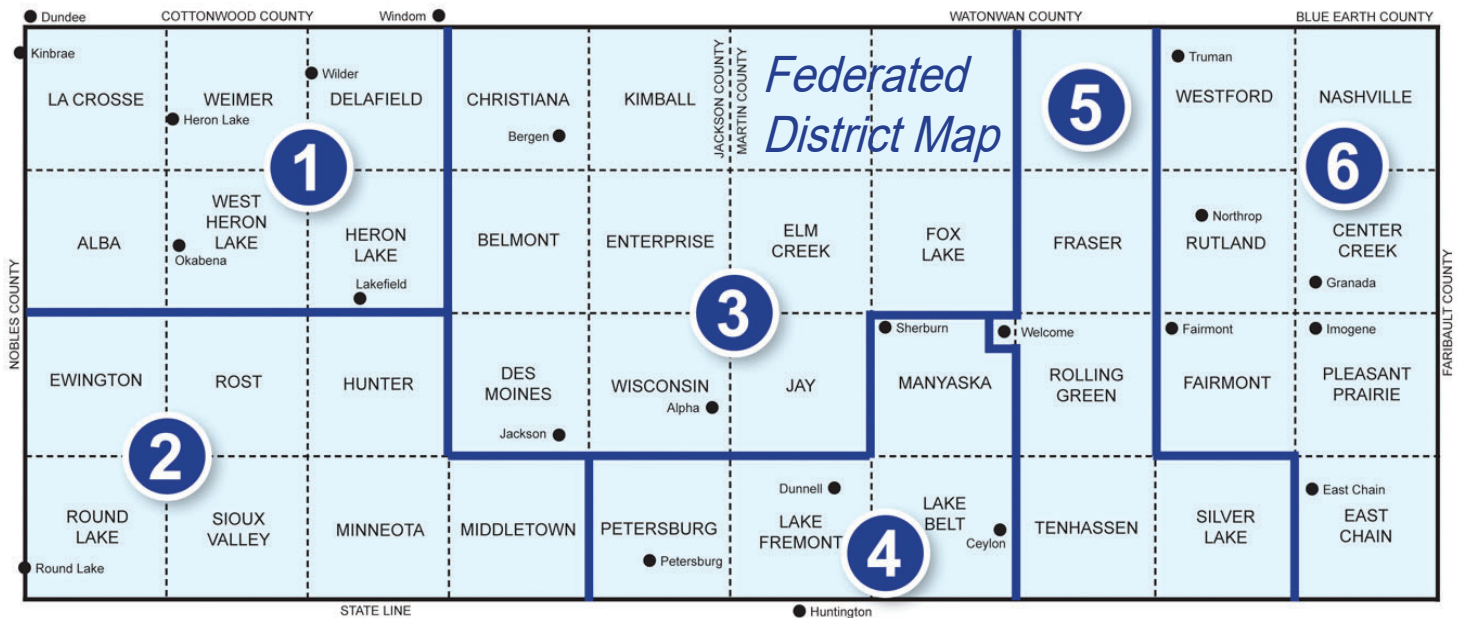
Tyler "Red" Ayers
Alpha
District 3
Board Member
1 year



David Meschke
Welcome
District 5
Board President
21 years



Bruce Brockmann
Granada
District 6
Board Member
13 years



Troy Post
Brewster
District 2
Board Member
1 year

Director duties:

- Attends monthly meetings and serves as a delegate at other meetings, as needed. Attends director training.
- Approves policies, procedures and budget. Reads reports, policies and other information pertaining to the co-op.
- Evaluates co-op's performance and plans for growth.
- Assures democratic process, according to Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.
- Hires general manager.
- Responds to members' input and concerns. ☎



Scott Thiesse
Welcome
District 4
Board Member
10 years



Jon Saxen
Sherburn
Director At-Large
Board Secretary/Treasurer
19 years

District 1 director candidate

LaCrosse • Weimer • Delafield • Alba • West Heron Lake • Heron Lake. Includes the towns of Wilder, Heron Lake and Okabena.



Glenn Dicks — running unopposed

Glenn Dicks lives in Heron Lake Township with his wife, Ruth. They have four children and four great grandchildren. He rents their crop land out to two sons and a daughter. Dicks raises contract-feed hogs and spring-calving cows with some sold on the internet. He helps his son with a custom-hay operation.

Dicks was a 12-year director of the old Farmers Co-op Elevator and was a six-year director for the Minnesota State Shorthorn Association. He has served as a Federated director for 20 years and has also served on the L&O Power Cooperative board for Federated for 13 years. Dicks' hobbies include goat and cattle shows/sales and watching his grandchildren's activities.

"I want to keep Federated's rates as low as possible and still keep our cooperative as financially strong as it can be," Dicks stated.

District 2 director candidate:

Ewington • Round Lake • Rost • Sioux Valley Hunter • Minneota • Middletown



Troy Post — running unopposed

Troy and his wife, Gwen, raise corn, soybeans and finishing pigs in Ewington Township for the past 31 years. Troy is the co-owner of Post Swine Farms with his brother Eric.

Post completed a one-year term as a Federated director due to a retirement. Following in his father David's footsteps, he is the

second generation to serve as a Federated director and earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate.

Post has an AAS degree in small business and accounting from the University of Minnesota in Crookston. He previously worked for the Veterinary Medical Center in Worthington in the early 1990s and Okabena Farmer's Co-op in the mid to late-1990s. Post is involved in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Rost Township, belongs to the Sons of the American Legion, Pheasants Forever and Minnesota corn/soybean growers.

They are the parents of two married children who both live in Brandon, South Dakota: Erika and Jacob, plus are enjoying two grandbabies.

"It has been a privilege to serve as the District 2 director for the past 1½ years," Post said. "I look forward to continuing to learn and advocate on behalf of Federated's patrons in the future." 📞

91st Annual Meeting notice

The 91st Annual Meeting of the members of the Federated Rural Electric Association will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026 at the National Guard Armory in Jackson. Food trucks will serve from 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Members will do mail-in voting, which determines a quorum. Members must return ballots by September 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. to Federated's office either by mail or at the drop box. If the ballot is lost, members will also be able to vote in person before the Annual Meeting.

The meeting will be called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to order and welcome
2. Determination of quorum
3. Approval of agenda
4. Election results on directors, nominating committee, bylaws amendment, plus approval of the 2026 Annual Meeting minutes and Nominating Committee minutes
5. Presentation and consideration of, and acting upon, reports of officers, directors and committees
6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Adjournment
9. Door prize drawing; must be present to win 📞

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Maintained to
Perform.



Regular inspections and sensor cleaning help your system stay ready through every season.

heartlandss.com

Contact us to help secure your home: 888-264-6380

Nominating Committee candidates

District 3 candidate:

Christiana • Belmont • Des Moines • Kimball • Jay
Enterprise • Wisconsin • Elm Creek • Fox Lake.



Adam Weets

Adam Weets lives in Wisconsin Township, with his wife, Julia. They have two children: Katelyn and Josiah.

Weets has grown hemp for six years for their company Alpha Alternatives. He also raises chickens. He has served 22 years on the Alpha Fire Department. He is presently the fire chief. For the last

six years they have opened their home for Sunday church services. His hobbies include: helping others, gardening, splitting wood, working with his hands and hanging out with his son, Josiah.

"I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to learn more about Federated and understand how it works so I can share with the community," Weets stated.

District 4 candidate:

Petersburg • Lake Fremont • Manyaska • Lake Belt.
Includes towns of Petersburg and Sherburn.



Jimmy Amundson

Jimmy Amundson lives in Petersburg Township with his wife Britteny. They have three children: Abby, 14; Eddy, 4; and Charlie, 2.

Amundson is the assembly coordinator at Fast Ag Solutions in Windom; he has worked there eight years. He is also a member of the Union Stateline Church in Petersburg and serves on

the church council. His hobbies include working on their acreage, spending time with family and friends, plus hunting and food plotting. Amundson also enjoys gardening, along with raising chickens and ducks on the farm.

"I am interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, as that's the best way to understand how Federated works — by getting involved," Amundson said.

Stop by Broadband booth to learn about fiber, streaming TV & VOIP



Stop and visit with the Federated broadband team at the Annual Meeting. Learn more about our current fiber optic projects and what service options are available to you in the meantime. Learn more about our streaming TV and voice phone offerings. ☎

Chat with us at Annual Meeting



How can Federated help you? Bring your questions about water heaters, heat pump rebates, electric vehicles, energy use and more! Visit with Federated employees, like Dave Berlin, September 10 at our Annual Meeting booth from 4:30-6:15 p.m. ☎



**Next Operation
Round Up deadline is
September 18. Find the
application at www.federatedrea.coop.**



**Turn to Federated for your next
water heater — \$750, plus tax,
installation included.
Call 507-847-3520!**

When will fiber be available at my address?

When will fiber service come to my address? Unfortunately, the answer is not always black and white and sometimes Federated does not even know the answer yet.

How are buildout areas decided?

Most of the fiber-buildout projects so far have been funded in part by state or federal grants. Grant funded projects dictate specific boundary lines for where we can bury fiber optic and the addresses that can be included. Some grants we have little say in these boundaries, such as the two Border-to-Border grants we received; some we can recommend routes based on specific criteria, such as the many Line Extension grants, we have received.

Building fiber optic infrastructure is expensive, especially in rural areas where homes and businesses are spread out over larger distances. Grant funding helps offset these construction costs, reducing the financial burden on Federated and helps us keep customer prices affordable. These grant funds also allow construction to move forward sooner than if projects were fully self-funded and we needed to wait years for capital to become available.

Minnesota Line Extension Program



Use this QR code to submit a line extension application with the state.

The Minnesota Line Extension Program is a grant program offered by the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD). Property owners can submit an application (use the QR code above) stating their address does not have access to a wired broadband service that meets the state minimum of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.

Twice a year, any applications that were submitted are sent out to broadband providers, like Federated, to submit construction bids to extend service to addresses. OBD awards grant funding to providers and construction occurs within 12 months. Typically, the spring round will be construction completed that same year, while the fall round will be completed the following spring. If an address is not awarded in the grant period following submission, it goes back on the list to be sent out in the following rounds until awarded.

Fiber project near me...now what?

Initial notification of a Federated fiber optic buildout project typically come in the mail. A letter explaining the project with the proposed timeline and a construction consent form are sent to every property owner within our grant areas.

Construction is a four-part process:

1. Main line construction: distribution fiber will be buried along roadways in the public rights-of-way and handholes or utility pedestals will be placed near the end of driveways.

2. Drop construction: addresses that submit a construction consent form will have a fiber drop buried for the handhole or pedestal at the end of their lane to a Network Interface Device (NID) placed on the exterior of the home or building.

3. Splicing: fiber optic cables are fusion spliced together at the NID, the pedestal or handhole and at the main distribution hut to "light" up service from our core network to the home or business.

4. Home installation: once all of these steps are completed and the splicing crew tests and hands off completed addresses to Federated, then we reach out to property owners for installation by e-mail or calling to set appointments. ☎

The Smart home begins with strong broadband

Today's homes are more connected and reliant on broadband than ever before. Not long ago homes were lucky to have one desktop computer and a corded phone, which could not be used at the same time. Now households manage dozens of connected devices, from smart TVs and video doorbells, to connected appliances and lights you control with an app; broadband has become a necessity for modern homes.

Parents work from home. Students attend online classes; others stream movies, do gaming or video chatting, which means the average household now relies on multiple devices being online at the same time. This increased demand and reliance on high-speed and reliable broadband drives Federated Broadband's goal of bringing fiber optic

internet to all homes in Jackson, Martin and Cottonwood counties.

The new technology standard

Smart home technology is no longer just for tech enthusiasts, many homeowners are adding devices that make everyday tasks easier and efficient.

- Smart thermostats adjust temperatures automatically or on a set schedule.
- Video doorbells and security cameras provide peace-of-mind when away.
- Smart lighting systems can be controlled from your phone from anywhere.
- Voice assistants answer questions, play music, manage lists and schedules.
- Smart appliances send maintenance notices and issue alerts.

Broadband hasn't just improved minor parts of home operation. Streaming TV services have become the primary

source of entertainment for many families. From binge watching your favorite show and skipping commercials entirely, to watching high-definition and 4K live sports, the TV experience has changed in leaps and bounds the last few years.

Looking ahead

As technology evolves and our reliance on it grows, the demand for fast, dependable internet will only increase. Ever-emerging innovations, such as artificial intelligence, smart energy management and connected vehicles will require even greater connectivity.

Broadband is more than a luxury these days, it has become a necessity for many. It is the backbone of modern living and Federated Broadband will continue to invest in building a strong and reliable fiber-optic network. ☎

2025

co-op in review



7,004
electric
accounts

2,464
miles of line:
1,494 overhead
970 underground

12.76¢

Average residential
price per kilowatt-
hour in 2025
(kWh)



2024 Minnesota average electric
rate was 15.5 cents, while the na-
tional average was 16.5 cents/kWh.

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2025 and 2024

Assets

2025

2024

Electric Plant

In service	\$80,959,179	\$76,968,441
Under construction	<u>386,594</u>	<u>2,300,222</u>
Total electric plant	81,345,773	79,268,663
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>29,866,858</u>	<u>29,168,325</u>
Net Electric Plant	\$51,478,915	\$50,100,338

Other Property and Investments

Investments in associated companies	\$22,802,540	\$21,609,313
Special funds - revenue deferral	600,000	1,907,466
Economic development investments	773,869	765,926
Other investments	2,369,066	2,249,055
Goodwill, net of accumulated amortization	682,710	796,495
Non-utility property, net	<u>5,716,144</u>	<u>3,304,322</u>
Total Cash and Investments	\$32,944,329	\$30,632,577

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,396,786	\$1,844,225
Accounts receivable, net	3,388,947	3,062,732
Materials and supplies	2,219,525	1,411,286
Prepayments	303,925	271,102
Interest receivable	<u>8,401</u>	<u>12,411</u>
Total Current Assets	\$9,317,584	\$6,601,756

Deferred Debits

Total Assets	\$992,614	\$1,204,710
	\$94,733,442	\$88,539,381

Equities and Liabilities

Equities

Patronage capital (capital credits)	\$41,617,235	\$40,856,260
Other equities	<u>7,884,070</u>	<u>7,441,435</u>
Total Equities	\$49,501,305	\$48,297,695

Long-term Debt, net current portion \$36,174,976 \$29,280,513

Current Liabilities

Current maturities of long-term debt	\$1,978,000	\$1,720,119
Line of credit	800,000	1,000,000
Accounts payable	3,733,895	4,966,155
Other current liabilities	<u>814,601</u>	<u>759,899</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$7,326,496	\$8,446,173

Deferred Credits

Total Equities and Liabilities	\$1,730,665	\$2,515,000
	\$94,733,442	\$88,539,381

Brady Martz audited the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024 and 2025 in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government audit standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General.

Statement of Operations

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Operating Revenues	\$36,452,344	\$38,782,846
Operating Expenses		
Cost of purchased power	\$27,267,894	\$30,451,741
Distribution - operations	1,430,373	1,351,530
Distribution - maintenance	1,329,500	1,072,849
Customer accounts	430,654	394,523
Customer service and informational	508,565	488,726
Administrative and general	1,368,859	1,231,402
Depreciation and amortization	2,261,556	2,122,338
Interest	938,556	916,040
Other	43,519	22,109
Total Operating Expenses	\$35,579,476	\$38,051,258
Operating Margins	\$872,868	\$731,588
G&T and Other Capital Credits	1,521,684	1,308,738
Nonoperating Margins	-168,727	259,403
Net Margins	\$2,225,825	\$2,299,729

Breakdown of how
\$100
spent

\$77 goes to wholesale power costs

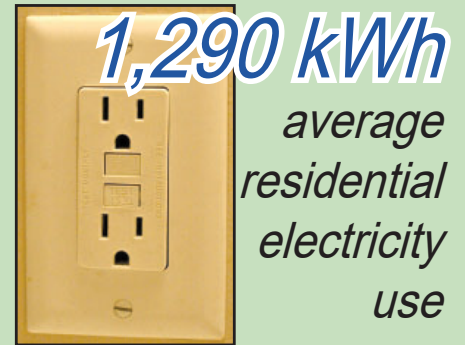
\$8 operations/maintenance

\$6 depreciation

\$4 administration/general

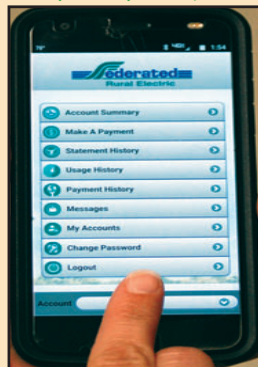
\$3 interest

\$2 member accounts/services



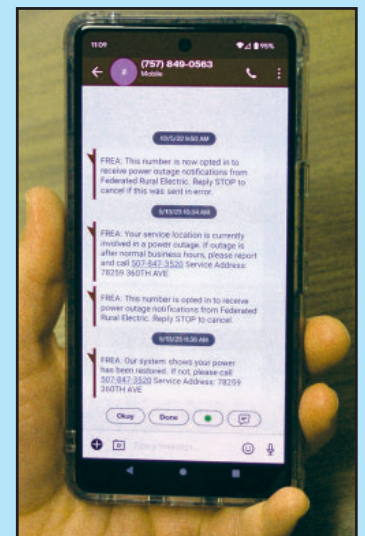
Ways to pay your electric bill:

1. Auto Pay (bank ACH; fill out brochure)
2. Online Pay (website)
3. Mobile app (search Federated Rural Electric)
4. Jackson dropbox
5. Credit card
6. Welcome State Bank
7. Use Post Office stamp



Sign up for outage text notifications

Call the office during business hours or go to our website: federatedrea.coop; click on the outage text notifications box. You can enter up to three cell phone numbers. Know the status of your power whether you are at work or on vacation. ☎️



The Nominating Committee reports need approval

March 9 meeting

A meeting of the Nominating Committee of Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Pizza Ranch.

Members of the committee who participated were Marlys Runge for District 1; Thomas Cunningham for District 2; Adam Weets for District 3; Paul Nelson for District 4; John Garbers for District 5; Ron Fowler for District 6; and Ronald Maurer for District At Large. Federated's General Manager Scott Reimer participated, as well as Federated's Attorney Brad Anderson.

Motion by Garbers, second by Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented with one change on page 2 where Mr. Nelson was listed as being from District 5 and that was amended to read District 4.

The 2025 Chair Adam Weets called the meeting to order. The business of election of chair and recording secretary for 2026 came before the committee. Fowler nominated and Cunningham seconded the reappointment of Adam Weets as Chair and Marlys Runge as Recording Secretary. All aye.

General Manager Scott Reimer reviewed with the committee the most recent financial highlights and what is new at Federated for both electric and broadband. He went through the Form 7 dated December 31, 2025, for last year's financials.

Attorney Brad Anderson of the association then reviewed with the committee the Nominating Committee's duties and responsibilities, as outlined in the Bylaws of the association. He also reviewed the qualifications necessary for directorship and the time necessary to be an effective director and went over the packet of information, including the new form.

One responsibility of the Nominating Committee is to review director compensation (which was discussed with Policy 100) and present recommendations to the general membership on the per diem as per the Bylaws. An increase to per diem was effective January 1, 2026, after a review of rates from other



Federated's Nominating Committee develops a slate of candidates for positions on Federated's Board of Directors and next year's Nominating Committee. Seated: Ron Fowler, District Six; Thomas Cunningham, District Two; and Chairman Adam Weets, District Three. Standing: Ronald Maurer, District At Large; Paul Nelson, District 4; John T. Garbers, District Five; and Secretary Marlys Runge, District One. (See Page 4 for the District map.)

local co-ops.

To aid in their search for candidates, the committee was provided with a copy of the district map, a script of job duties, responsibilities, including time required for the offices of directorship, nominator, and trust board members. The committee members whose districts are up for election were also provided with a copy of the membership listing for their respective districts to aid in their search. There was also a contact - questionnaire form provided that potential candidates will be asked to complete and submit to the cooperative.

Candidates will be reviewed at the second Nominator meeting scheduled for March 26 at 10 a.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Jackson.

Board of Directors candidates

Two nominees from District One for a four-year term: Glenn Dicks is the incumbent. A second candidate will be sought.

Two nominees from District Two for a four-year term: Troy Post is the incumbent. A second candidate will be sought.

Nominator candidates

Two nominees from District Four for a four-year term: Paul Nelson is the incumbent. A second candidate will be sought.

Term limits for Nominators were

discussed and will be looked into further with the possibility of removing or changing the term limit at the next annual meeting.

Trust Board Director Candidates

One nominee from District One: Ruth Dicks is eligible for a second term. No other candidate will be sought and Dicks will be recommended to the board.

One nominee from District Two: Jessica Williams is eligible for a second term. No other candidate will be sought, and Williams will be recommended to the board.

If anything changes, the committee will look into other Trust Board candidates at the next meeting.

The committee asked to see the annual meeting history and affiliated costs to be presented at the next meeting.

Future meeting dates

- 03/26/26 10 a.m. at Pizza Ranch-Jackson second regular Nominating Committee Meeting

- 04/??/26 third regular Nominating Committee Meeting. Date will be set on 3/26 if a third meeting is needed.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Nelson, second by Fowler, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned. Lunch at Pizza Ranch. ☺

— Recording Secretary Marlys Runge

during the co-op's Annual Meeting September 10

March 26 meeting

A meeting of the Nominating Committee of the Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was called to order at 10 a.m. March 26, 2026. The meeting was held at the Jackson Pizza Ranch.

Members of the committee present were: Marlys Runge, District 1; Thomas Cunningham, District 2; Adam Weets, District 3; Paul Nelson, District 4; John Garbers, District 5; Ron Fowler, District 6; and Ronald Maurer, District At Large. Federated's General Manager Scott Reimer participated, as well as Federated's Attorney Brad Anderson. Motion made, second, and carried approving the agenda as printed.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried approving the minutes of the March 9, 2026, meeting of the Nominating Committee.

The 2026 Chair Adam Weets called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to complete the nomination of Director candidates for District One and Two; and complete nominations for Nominator candidates for District Three and Four to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting of the Federated Rural Electric Association currently set for Thursday, September 10, 2026. In addition, the committee will submit nominations/recommendations for the Federated Rural Electric Trust Board for District One and Two. These recommendations will be submitted to Federated REA's Electric Board of Directors for approval.

After due consideration, motion made, seconded, and carried nominating the following candidates for directorship of:

District One (4-year term) Glenn Dicks

After due consideration, motion made, seconded, and carried nominating the following candidates for directorship of:

District Two (4-year term) Troy Post

After due consideration, motion made, seconded and carried nominating the following candidate(s) for nominator-ship of:

District Three (4-year term) Adam Weets

By-Laws read that no nominator may serve successive four-year terms.

Therefore, Paul Nelson is not eligible to run again for District 4. The board discussed whether by-laws should be changed. Currently, the Nominating Committee meets only twice a year and the annual meeting. It was recommended that this committee may want to meet quarterly and perhaps add more duties to their role, participating like an advisory or advocacy group. This would allow them to give their perspective on state and federal issues.

After due consideration, motion made, second, and carried nominating the following candidate(s) for nominatorship below based on eligibility after vetting review.

District Four (4-year term) James Merlyn Amundson

Motion was made to change Nominating Committee Member terms from one-term to two successive terms or no-term limit at all and to expand the scope of the duties of this committee. It was seconded and carried to bring this up to the Board of Directors as a change in terms would require a change in the by-laws.

This will be discussed to make the job duties broader with possible quarterly meetings. Further review will happen

before bringing this up to the Board of Directors.

Motion made, second, and carried approving the recommendations to the Federated Rural Electric Board of Directors of the following candidates for directorship of the Federated Rural Electric Trust Board:

District One (4-year term) Ruth Dicks

District Two (4-year term) Jessica Williams

At the March 9, 2026 Nominating Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the 2026 Director Compensation Summary. Motion made, second, and carried to leave compensation the same. Current Per Diem is \$315. Retainers are as follows: Directors \$445, Secretary \$495, and President \$550.

A review of the annual meeting history and budget was discussed.

Motion made, second, and carried to approve the minutes of this March 26, 2026 Nominating Committee Meeting.

A restructuring type meeting will be held June 9 at 10 a.m. at the Jackson Pizza Ranch.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn. (u)

— Recording Secretary Marlys Runge

Kids up to age 10 — win prizes at the Annual Meeting too!



Federated members: your kids may win one of these prizes. Ages 3-5 register for magnetic tiles play set. Ages 6-8 and 9-10 can register for the Lego sets. (u)

Martin County 4-Hers & registered adult leaders: T-shirt time pickup is August 14



This year Federated directors will hand out the red 4-H T-shirts on Friday, August 14, during Livestock Interviews from 4-8 p.m. General entry exhibitors can still pick up their T-shirts on entry day Monday, August 17.

Turn to Carr's Tree Service for tree trimming, tree saving & jobs



Storm season is here in Minnesota, which means by the time you are reading this, there is a fair chance a storm has already rolled through your area, knocked down a few branches and reminded everyone that trees do not always check the calendar before causing trouble.

At Carr's Tree Service, many of you know us through utility line clearance work, but we also provide private residential and commercial tree care services across Minnesota. With 25 ISA Certified Arborists on staff, we are always happy to take a look at tree concerns, storm damage, hazardous trees or general tree health questions.

One thing some people may not know is that we also love saving trees. With emerald ash borer now active across much of Minnesota, many ash trees are worth protecting through treatment. In southern Minnesota, however, it is getting harder to find untreated ash trees that are still healthy enough to save.

As storms increase and our plant health care services continue to grow, we are also looking for good people to join our team. Whether someone is looking for a job or a long-term career, Carr's Tree Service is a great place to work.

Carr's is a subsidiary of Federated. Visit their website: www.carrstreeservice.com or call 888-470-3355.



2026
BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS
AS A MEMBER, I VOTE FOR:

District One — VOTE FOR ONE
4-YEAR TERM — 2027 to 2030

Glenn Dicks Lakefield, MN	Nominated by Committee

District Two — VOTE FOR ONE
4-YEAR TERM — 2027 to 2030

Troy Post Brewster, MN	Nominated by Committee

I approve the Bylaws amendment (printed in August *Connections* newsletter and on the back of this page).
Yes ____ No ____

2026
BALLOT FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
AS A MEMBER, I VOTE FOR:

District Three — VOTE FOR ONE
4-YEAR TERM — 2027 to 2030

Adam Weets Jackson, MN	Nominated by Committee

District Four — VOTE FOR ONE
4-YEAR TERM — 2027 to 2030

Jimmy Amundson Jackson, MN	Nominated by Committee

I approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting (printed in August *Connections* newsletter).
Yes ____ No ____

I approve the minutes of the Nominating Committee minutes (printed in August *Connections* newsletter).
Yes ____ No ____

Your ballots should arrive around August 1 in the mail. Return it by September 9 at 4:30 p.m. to be entered for three \$100 electric bill credits drawing. See Page 16 for details.

Learn about the PowerOn Midwest's 765-kV transmission line at August meetings & September 10 Annual Meeting booth



Great River Energy (GRE), wholesale power supplier/transmission provider to Federated Rural Electric, is developing the PowerOn Midwest 765-kV transmission line across southern MN with ITC Midwest and Xcel Energy. Stop by GRE's booth at Federated's Annual Meeting September 10 (4:30-6:30 p.m.) to learn why this critical backbone transmission line is needed, see where the utilities are in the routing process and hear how you can participate in the development process. (b)(6)

Get a 'charge' out of this Annual Meeting attendance gift! Really!



Add this power bank to recharge your cell phone, tablet and iPad just by attending the Federated Annual Meeting registration table September 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. One per member account. The four attached cords cover USB, lightning, type C and micro. Re-charge it using the USB cord. (b)(6)

**August
PowerOn
open
houses**



August 6 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Worthington Event Center 1447 Prairie Dr., Worthington, MN
August 6 4 p.m.–6 p.m.	Fox Lake Event Center 730 125th St., Sherburn, MN
August 11 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	Jackson County Central H.S. Gym 1128 North Hwy, Jackson, MN



**PowerOn
Midwest**



www.poweronmidwest.com

Bring your questions & route input, as a reliable grid is built for the next 30 years.

Visit Heartland Security



Visit with Dan Howard from Heartland Security at our Annual Meeting September 10. Learn about security systems for home, farm and business along with medical alert systems, Smart Phone access and camera systems. Federated members: stop and pick up the \$100 off coupon. (b)(6)

Review the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes

The 90th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Federated Rural Electric Association (Federated) was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at the Martin County Fairgrounds, Fairmont, Minnesota. Doors opened at 4:30 p.m. with a pancake and sausage meal served until 6:15 p.m. The business meeting started at 6:30 p.m. All Federated members had the opportunity to vote one of two ways: (1) by mail or (2) in person at the Martin County Fairgrounds prior to the business meeting.

The ballots were mailed to all current members prior to the meeting, arriving in the mail to the members around July 1, and due back to Federated's office by 4:30 p.m. on August 1. For those members who chose to vote by mail, they were instructed to put their marked ballot inside the blank anonymous envelope, place that inside the bar-coded envelope, as provided, and sign the outside of the envelope prior to returning.

Secondly, members could vote the day of the meeting, August 5, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Martin County Fairgrounds, Jackson, Minnesota. Members who did not mail in votes were given a ballot to put in the ballot box.

Registered members who voted properly were entered into a prize drawing with the opportunity to win \$90 bill credit prizes to be applied to their September bill. There were seven awarded to those who cast their votes by mail and seven more awarded at the end of the meeting to meeting attendees.

The business meeting was held in the arena at the Martin County Fairgrounds, Fairmont, Minnesota. David Meschke, President of the Association, at 6:30 p.m. called on Director Bruce Brockmann who gave an invocation. Members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Andrea Christoffer, Marketing & Communications Manager announced winners of the \$90 bill credit based on mailed in ballots received by August 1, including: Ed Bulfer, Josh Leiding, Destiny Schley, Mark Walter, Verlin Goering, Lowell Olson, and Smith Farms. She also threw out some 90th Anniversary T-shirts to the crowd.

President Meschke welcomed all and announced special guests and former board members Dave Post, Dave Hansen, Darv Voss, Harry Knutson, and Jim Oltman. Basin Electric representatives were Todd Brickhouse, Becky Kern, and Jim Horan from Bismarck.

Todd Brickhouse, CEO at Basin Electric, said he hoped you never have to think about your electric utility. When you are in your home and business and go to flip the light switch, he hopes you have complete confidence that the lights are going to come on when you need them.

Todd Brickhouse said Basin Electric serves a large portion of the United States, about half a million square miles. They are the largest electric utility by retail footprint in the country, that's electric utility; it's not cooperative or municipal utilities. They aim to provide reliable and affordable electricity across the U.S. Todd said we can be very proud as a Basin and Federated team because as a utility service, we provide a public service and we provide an essential service. He congratulated Federated for 90 years in service.

President Meschke gave thanks to Sherburn Lions Club for the pancake/sausage supper; Rock It Man Entertainment for the dueling pianos and use of their sound system; Dan Howard at the Heartland Security Booth; Will and Ryan from Carr's Tree Service; Brandt Berkner for CTV antenna work; Heather and Dan from Great River Energy; Jackson Arts Center for doing the kids' face painting and the Prairie Ecology Bus for their insect educational displays.

President Meschke then introduced Attorney Brad Anderson and the directors who represent you on the Board for Federated including Districts:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Glenn Dicks | 5. David Meschke |
| 2. Troy Post | 6. Bruce Brockmann |
| 3. Tyler "Red" Ayers | At-large Jon Saxen |
| 4. Scott Thiesse | |

Secretary Jon Saxen stated there was a quorum, with 1,047 mailed returned member ballots.

With a quorum established, President Meschke called the meeting to order.

Secretary Jon Saxen read the Notice of Meeting. Said Notice and Printer's Affidavit of Publication are appended to the minutes of this meeting. The minutes of the 2024 annual meeting were printed on page 7 of the annual report mailed out. Members could vote on the approval of last year's annual meeting minutes. Over 1,047 votes to approve the minutes were received.

President Meschke then introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and asked they stand and be recognized including the following Districts:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Marlys Runge, recording secretary | 5. John T. Garbers |
| 2. Thomas Cunningham | 6. Ron Fowler |
| 3. Adam Weets, chairman | At-large Timothy Mailahn |
| 4. Paul Nelson | |

Chairman Adam Weets reported complete Nominating Committee meeting minutes were printed on pages 10-12 of the annual report that was mailed out. The Nominating Committee met four times in January to March 2025 and Chairman Weets listed the highlights. He listed their recommendations for Directorship, Nominatorship, and Trust Board. He said their committee reviewed the Directors compensation survey as presented and Weets then asked Attorney Anderson to come up to go over that.

Attorney Anderson asked for a motion to approve the nominator's report which was summarized from the minutes printed in your *Connections* newsletter. It was moved and seconded to approve the nominator's report. No discussion. Carried.

Attorney Anderson presented to the membership the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to adjust the per diem and retainer amounts for the directors. He wanted to make it clear that none of the Directors requested any change or an increase. The Nominating Committee considered what other co-ops were receiving in the area and recognized the five to six years since the last pay increase. They suggested increases listed below.

Federated	Per Diem	Retainer Directors	Retainer Secretary	Retainer President
Current	\$300	\$425	\$475	\$525
Suggested	\$315	\$445	\$495	\$550

There was a motion and a second to approve the suggested increase amounts. No discussion. Carried.

Attorney Anderson announced that Board President Meschke and General Manager Reimer will participate in what we are calling "Continuous Coop Conversations" to reflect upon our 90th Anniversary. Members had the opportunity for questions but there were none.

President Meschke then called on Federated CFO and Office Manager Julie Resch who shared an update on Federated's financial condition of the co-op. Resch said that Federated has the lowest cooperative rates in the nation with a residential electric rate of 11.59 cents a kilowatt-hour compared to 14.7 cents in Minnesota and 16 cents nationally. A bright aspect of being a cooperative member is that you get to share in these margins or profits, called capital credits. This summer, Federated returned \$955,000 in capital credits which you'll see as credits on your August 5th electric bill. She talked about a rate increase for 2026 due to growing demands of electricity for all the members across the U.S. that Basin serves. Discussion on this will be held at our September 30th board meeting.

President Meschke called on the elected chairman of the Nominating Committee, Adam Weets, to announce the election results.

Chair Adam Weets reported members could vote on candidates by mail until August 1. Otherwise, they could vote in person at the

Vote to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes on mailed ballots

— Continued from Page 14

meeting until 6:15 p.m. August 5. As each candidate was running unopposed, the election results were as follows.

The inspectors of election certified the following were duly elected as directors:

- Troy Post elected with 1,004 votes for a one year-term for District 2 director filling a position due to a retirement.

- Dave Meschke re-elected with 1,005 votes as District 5 director.

- Bruce Brockman re-elected with 1,015 votes as District 6 director.

The inspectors of election certified the following were duly elected as nominators:

- Adam Weets elected with 993 votes to the District 3 Nominating Committee for a one-year term due to a resignation.

- Ron Maurer elected with 995 votes to the District at Large Nominating Committee.

Minutes were approved with 998 yes votes and 4 no's.

Certificates of the inspectors of election are attached to these minutes.

President Meschke asked for any unfinished business.

President Meschke asked for new business from the membership.

There being no new or unfinished business, there was a motion and second to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

Andrea Christoffer drew prizes for the children: Stella Hein, Susanna Oberbeck, and Joshia Weets each received Lego sets. Several 90th Anniversary Annual Meeting t-shirts were given out. Andrea Christoffer introduced employee Taylor Flicek who juggled balls and tossed them into the crowd. Those who caught them will receive a \$90 bill credit applied to their September Federated electric bill. Winners were Kevin Kristenson, John Garbers, Gregory Post, Dennis Seene, Terry Prom, Mike Handzus, and Thomas Cunningham. Clayton Bart and Joshia Weets each won a plant. Harry Knutson won a twelve can cooler, graciously donated by Heartland Security.

President Meschke thanked those for attending your rural electric's 90th Annual Meeting. (C)

— Jon Saxen, Secretary

Vote on Bylaws amendment for longer Nominating Committee terms — up to eight years instead of four

The Board of Directors request Federated members to vote on one bylaw amendment using the ballots mailed to them by August 1. (See sample ballot on Page 12).

Explanation of amendment

Presently, Federated's bylaws only allow a Nominating Committee member to serve one four-year term and then must go off the Committee for four years. The Nominating Committee and Board of Directors are requesting that a member serving on the Nominating Committee can serve two consecutive terms just like the Operation Round Up Trust Board bylaws allow. The red underlined words indicate the proposed language change, as approved at the June 4, 2026 Board meeting.

Article III. Directors

Section 3.04. Nominations. A nominating committee of seven (7) voting members (herein called nominators), composed of one voting member from each district and one voting member from at large, who must be a permanent and year-round resident within the district they represent or, in the case of the nominator at large, an Association district. They shall be responsible to recruit and nominate directors, nominators and Trust Board Directors for vacancies in said positions and to make compensation recommendations for said positions to the Board of Directors and members. Nominators shall be elected for four-year terms to serve until their successors are elected at the annual meeting of the members in the year in which their terms expire. Vacancies occurring on the nominating committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. No nominator may serve more than two successive four-year terms, and no director nor any officer or employee of the Association shall be a member of the nominating committee. Five members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(a) At least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting, the nominating committee shall prepare and post at the office of

the Association a list of directors to be elected and a separate list of nominators to be elected. The committee shall also review and consider the compensation, including insurance benefits, if any, received by directors and officers for service to the Association and recommend to the members at the annual meeting changes, if any, in the fixed sum per diem to be received by directors and officers pursuant to Sections 3.07 and 5.12.

(b) Not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting, any fifteen (15) members or more all residing in the same district may submit to the Secretary of the Association additional nominations in writing over their signatures for any position to be filled from their district or from at large, listing their nominees in the manner described above for nominations by the nominating committee. All nominees shall be verified by the Association as to eligibility to serve prior to being placed on the ballot. The Secretary shall post the names at the same place where the list of nominations made by the nominating committee is posted.

(c) Ballots for the election of directors and nominators shall be in such form or forms as the nominating committee shall prescribe. The name of any nominee shall not appear on a ballot in any way that gives the nominee an advantage over any other nominee. A ballot marked "Ballot for directors" containing the names of all the nominees and stating the residence of each, and a "Ballot for Nominators" similarly arranged, shall be published at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting. A statement of the names and addresses of all nominees for each district from and with respect to which a director or nominator must be elected, showing clearly those nominated by the committee.

(d) During a meeting of the members for the election of directors and nominators, nominations from the floor are prohibited. (C)

Bring this registration card to the Annual Meeting. Clip it out!

Federated Rural Electric's Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Vote by mail-in ballot sent August 1 OR in person
at Jackson National Guard Armory, 4:30 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

Account # _____

(As printed on your electric bill)

Print name _____

Signature _____

Bring this card with you to the Annual Meeting to exchange for
Official Ballots, food truck tickets and to enter the prize drawing.
The bar code will be scanned to enter you in the prize drawing
for electric member-owners.



Clip registration card to include the mailing address and bar code.



Official monthly newsletter
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Jackson, MN 56143-0069
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Website: <http://www.federatedrea.coop>
Facebook.com/Federated
Phone: 507-847-3520 or 1-800-321-3520
Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Scott Reimer, General Manager

David Meschke, President — 507-236-4896
Glenn Dicks, Vice President — 507-840-1075
Jon Saxen, Secretary/Treasurer — 507-236-7027
Tyler "Red" Ayers — 507-840-1011
Bruce Brockmann — 507-399-3487
Troy Post — 507-360-5537
Scott Thiesse — 507-399-6427

The Board of Directors generally meets the first Thursday of the month at 8 a.m. 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.

91st Federated Rural Electric Annual Meeting Agenda Jackson National Guard Armory, 108 Co Hwy 51, Jackson, MN

Food trucks for supper 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Registration 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Bingo 5-6:15 p.m. or until all prizes are won

Federated Facetime (visit booths for water heaters, rebates, Broadband, CTV antenna installer, Heartland Security & Great River Energy on the 765 kV transmission line) 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Award three \$100 bill credit prizes from mailed ballots 6:20 p.m.

Drawing for children's door prizes David Meschke, President

Call to order of the 91st Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Determination of quorum..... David Meschke, President

Reading of the notice of meeting..... Brad Anderson, Attorney

Approval of previous meeting minutes (by ballot) David Meschke, President

Introduction of Nominating Committee..... David Meschke, President

Nominating Committee Report..... Adam Weets, Chairman

Continuing Co-op Conversations David Meschke, President;
..... Scott Reimer, General Manager; & Federated staff

Unfinished Business David Meschke, President

New Business David Meschke, President

Report of Election Tellers Adam Weets, Chairman

Adjournment of Meeting David Meschke

Prize drawing (must be present to win)..... Andrea Christoffer
Marketing & Communications Manager

Win three \$100 Annual Meeting bill credits



Will you win one of the \$100 bill credits? Three will be awarded to those who cast their votes by mail. Ballots are mailed around August 1 and must be received by mail or placed in our Jackson office dropbox by September 9 at 4:30 p.m. You can only vote once and the outer envelope must be signed. These winners will be announced at the beginning of the Annual Meeting, on Facebook the next day, with the media and in the *Connections* newsletter afterwards. In addition, more prizes will be awarded at the end of the meeting, but you must be present to win those. See the prize listing on Page 2. (16)