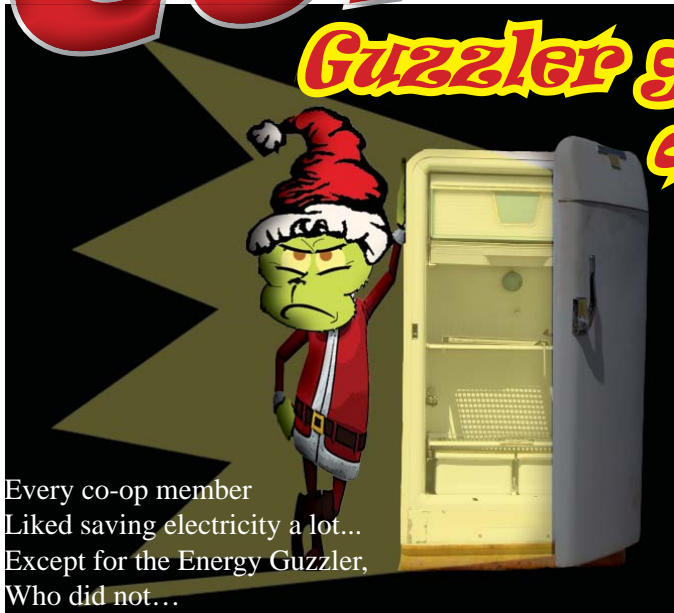




Connections



Guzzler grew energy-wise during Christmas



Every co-op member
Liked saving electricity a lot...
Except for the Energy Guzzler,
Who did not...

The Energy Guzzler saved no electricity at all.
Why? Maybe his math skills were weak,
Or maybe he had a contrary streak,
But I think the most likely reason of all,
Was that his brain was two sizes too small.

At Christmas, he grumbled at co-op members,
Looking down with a Guzzler frown,
Wearing disdain like a Guzzler gown.
As warm, lighted windows glowed in the co-op beneath,
And co-op members grew busy hanging holiday wreaths.

“They probably use LEDs,” the Guzzler snarled a sneer,
“My C7s from the 1980s bring just as much cheer.”
Next he complained (as if about Green Eggs and Ham),
“I bet their furnaces are all on the Dual Heat Program.”
Then the Guzzler growled, fingers into claws cramping,
“The fools probably use CFLs in their living-room lamping.
I’ll stick with incandescents instead of coily contraptions.
As for their load management programs, they can have
them!”

“All for stable rates and a cleaner environment,
Sounds to me like Jabberwocky burblement!”

Then the co-op members, young and old, sat down to a feast.
Energy Star ovens cooking pudding and rare roast beast,
Which was something the Guzzler couldn’t stand in the least.
Next, their Energy Star frigerators stored leftover turducken,
And their Energy Star microwaves reheated it for another
luncheon.
All of which drove the Guzzler into fits befitting a cur-
mudgeon.

Snarling, he fixed Ramen Noodles on his 1960 Kenmore,
The stove stayed on while he ate, more heat for the house,
And what noodles he didn’t finish, he left for a mouse.
Besides, his frigerator was packed with frost to its core,
He used it for light by letting it stand with an open door.

Then co-op members did what the Guzzler liked least of all!
Every member in the co-op, the tall and the small,
Stood close together, with adding machines ringing.
Stood hand-in-hand about energy-savings singing!

“\$500 a year saved with our Energy Star fridge!”
“\$100 a year saved with our LED decorage!”
“\$400 a year saved with our CFL lightage!”
“Rates kept stable with our co-op loads managed!”

Naturally, the song got stuck in the Guzzler’s brain-pandler,
As annoying — yet catchy — as *Duke of Earl* by Gene
Chandler.
The more the Guzzler thought of the co-op members’ song,
The more the Guzzler thought, “What if I’m wrong?”

— Continued on Page 2



Connecting our co-ops & members to a progressive future



Inside this issue:

75th Annual Meeting photos & winners...Pages 4-5

Students: 2 \$1,000 scholarships...Page 6



Guzzler sees the (energy-saving) light on Christmas eve night

— Continued from Page 1

But then his weak math skills retreated from the fight,
And his brain shrank further as stubbornness flexed with great might.

"I don't need to save any electricity at all!"
"What difference do changes make when so small?"

To cheer up, the Guzzler opened the one present he could afford,
Some nasty smelling soap-on-a-rope that was shaped like a gourd,
Oh sure, he wanted an original Green Hornet Decoder Ring,
But it cost too much, and soap-on-a-rope was just as good of a...thing...

The Guzzler checked on the co-op members, gloating... Surely none of them received a gift so greatness bloating. At first the Guzzler shook, then popped his eyes, For what he saw was a shocking surprise, Every co-op member, the tall and the small, Was laughing, opening and playing with all the presents for all. The Energy Guzzler hadn't conceived of such a treasure trove. It brought heat to his cheeks hotter than the heat from his stove.

Digital TVs and Blu Ray DVDs all under the light of LED trees!
Coffee makers and video games, electric blankets and RC planes!
Kindles, Bindles and cell phones, gadzickets and electric trombones!
And practical presents like Marathon water heaters,
Bought from the co-op to efficiently slow power meters!
All opened in warm houses that kept chilled bones out of the dumps,
Houses warmed by co-op rebated systems called "heat pumps!"



The Guzzler stood puzzling and puzzling, "How could it be so?"

"Where did they get money for boxes with ribbons and boxes with bows?"

And the Guzzler puzzled three hours until his puzzler was sore,

As co-op members played with all their gifts from the store,

On many products, the Energy Star logo gleamed, Calling to the Guzzler to "Get a Clue!" it seemed,

At last, the Guzzler thought of something he hadn't before,

"Maybe saving electricity," he thought, "isn't a bore."
"Maybe saving electricity means so much more!"

"It means money to spend on other things,"
"Maybe I could even get that Green Hornet Decoder Ring!"

And what happened then...?

Well, co-op members say,
That the Guzzler's small brain,
Grew three sizes that day,
And the moment his brain didn't feel quite so tight,
He whizzed to the store in that bright morning light,
And he brought back a bag, then proceeded to yell,
"Look at me, I'm about to install my first CFL!"
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night,"
"Wow, it sure was stupid to use my fridge as a light..."

Icicle lights — are they nice or do they dice up your electric bill?



Energy Wise Tip

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours. — *Courtesy of Alliance to Save Energy*

'Falling' LED lights now available in time for Christmas decorating



Gemmy's LightShow Icicles create a dazzling display of flashing holiday lights. They plug into a standard outlet. Total length is approximately 8.5 feet with 56 LED lights total (seven in each icicle). These types of lights cost \$55 on Amazon.com.



The Gemmy LED Shooting Star Icicle Multicolor Lights create a multi-colored light effect like shooting stars. Icicles are 11", 9", and 7" tall and contain 61 energy-efficient LED lights. A string includes 10 icicles. String is 10½ feet long. These lights cost \$25 on Walmart.com.

You've seen Christmas lights blink, fade and "chase" each other down the string, but have you ever seen Christmas lights fall? Icicle-style lights are now available that contain LED bulbs. As the icicles hang vertically, the lights inside

go on and off to make it look like they are falling inside the icicle. The lights can be found in many stores, like Menards, and are available online. Prices vary. 📺

— Photos courtesy of Amazon.com

Santa suggests safety stocking stuffers



What do you get someone who has everything? Buy electrical safety products for your loved ones. Surprise them with a gift that says "I care about you"

all year long!

- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) — These devices should be professionally installed on outlets in wet areas of the home: kitchen, bathroom, laundry and basement. GFCIs stop the flow of electricity instantly if there is a problem. When properly used, they save lives. It's important to know how to test and re-set them. Talk to your local electrician or buy at a hardware store.

- Portable GFCI drop cord — Use on outdoor outlets too. If the outdoor



outlets don't have them, consider purchasing a portable GFCI for the do-it-yourself person.

- Heavy duty extension cord — Often the tools or equipment for larger projects are energized through extension cords that are inadequate for the heavier electrical load. Make sure the cord used is appropriately rated for the connected electrical load.

- Power strip with built-in circuit breaker — Designed for safety, the built-in circuit breaker prevents overloading of the power strip. It often comes with the added feature of surge protection/surge prevention.

- Smoke detector — Since the primary job of a smoke detector is to

awaken sleeping persons to warn them of fire danger, put a battery operated detector in each sleeping room and place additional detector(s) in the hallway or area by the bedrooms within five feet of the door to these rooms. In a house where the bedrooms are upstairs, one additional detector should be near the top of the stairs to the bedroom area. Include the batteries too.

- Circuit breaker fault detector — This small hand held device safely detects faults in the circuit breaker panel and eliminates the guesswork of which one has tripped.

Buy electrical items with an independent testing laboratories logo, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

— Courtesy of www.safeelectricity.org 📺

Federated Focus

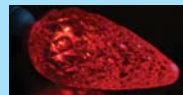
Congratulations to top 10 prize winners from Annual Meeting

Washer & dryer: Ed Yonker, Bingham Lake; refrigerator: Bonnie Bergendahl, Windom; 42" digital TV: Thelma Dunker, Jackson; Dimplex electric grill: Arthur Benda, Jr., Alpha; personal scanner: Weldon Ziemann, Fairmont; golf bag: Karen Harder, Ceylon; \$150 electric bill credit: Curtis Ohlenkamp, Alpha; \$135 Welcome TV gift certificate: Bonnie Hedquist, Wilder; crate of energy-saving products: Melvin Reimers, Lakefield; \$100 Walmart gift card: Carol Bretzman, Lakefield.

For a complete listing of all 96 prize winners please go to Federated's website: www.federatedrea.coop (on the home page).

Federated board officers elected

After the Annual Meeting the directors held an organizational meeting. They elected David A. Hanson as president; David Meschke as vice president; and Jim Oltman as secretary/treasurer.



LED holiday rebates due

December 15 is the deadline to buy LED holiday lights for the co-op rebate with the forms mailed by December 24. The \$3/string rebate form was in the October *Connections* or find it on Federated's website under rebates. The rebate is limited to five strings.

Congrats electricity 4-Hers

Federated presented electricity incentive awards to 4-Hers at their November recognition banquets. Recipients were: Nick Holm, son of Tim and Tammy, Fairmont; and Abbie Lucht, daughter of Dale and Cami, Jackson. 🍷

Celebrating 75 years



Big prizes were awarded at Federated's Annual Meeting November 20. Ed Yonker, Bingham Lake, won an Energy Star clothes washer and dryer. Bonnie Bergendahl, Windom; won the Energy Star refrigerator, while Thelma Dunker, Jackson, won the 42" digital TV. All 96 prize winners' names can be found on Federated's website.



Federated members traveled in time via a skit performed by the Jackson County Arts Guild. Jim Brennan (back) portrayed President Franklin D. Roosevelt and how rural electrification evolved from his own experience at Warm Springs, Georgia. Cissa Tusa (front left), as a 1940s farm wife, talked about how electrical appliances made rural living easier. Megan Micklos (right) showed how today's teenager takes electricity for granted and how many ways it powers our lives 75 years later.

of service at Annual Meeting



The JCC Holiday Choir performed during the meeting's registration for the crowd.



508 Federated member-owners registered at the Annual Meeting. Members received a wireless indoor/outdoor thermometer as an attendance gift.



Cast your vote! Election tellers Theresa Kolander and Kevin Hugoson collected ballots from the members. Members elected directors Glenn Dicks, Lakefield, for District 1; and Darvin Voss, Lakefield, for District 2. On the Nominating Committee, Steve Glidden, Jackson; was elected for District 3 and Harold Knutson, Jackson, was elected for District 4.



Ashley Riewe helps Cole Schmidt, son of Carrie and Jeff, with his juice and cookies served before the Annual Meeting. Federated thanks the Enterprise 4-H Club for serving these treats.



Kyla Merkel, age 3, won the Wii children's door prize; she is the granddaughter of Jean Drexler, Granada. Winning helium balloons were Dylan Stevens, age 8, and Lucas Potthoff, age 12. 🎈

The lame-duck session and co-ops: Congress might defer decisions, NRECA official says

Editor's note: In this interview Dena G. Stoner, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) vice president of government relations, explains what could happen in the lame-duck session of Congress.



Dena G. Stoner
NRECA vice president of
government relations

Q. Can we expect to see much legislation passed in the lame-duck session?

A. The lame-duck session could go a couple of ways. This is the last hurrah, at least for now, for Democrats to have control of both houses of Congress, so there might be an attempt to move legislation before Republicans take over the House in January. At the same time the atmosphere in Washington is very contentious and it is possible things will just get pushed back to 2011.

Q. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will start regulating carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act in January. Will there be an attempt to prevent EPA from going ahead with its action?

A. There is sentiment for legislation that would impose a two-year timeout on EPA and give Congress more time to act on a climate change bill, but the odds are against that happening in the lame duck. It's not going to succeed in the House; there's a real question as to whether it would even come up for a vote. We're not sure the Democratic leadership would allow that. The Senate could possibly vote on it, but if the House does not act, then that two-year timeout will remain stalled and the EPA regulations will proceed as scheduled. The real action on this issue will likely come in the next Congress.

Q. In September the House approved the Rural Utilities Service efficiency

bill, known as Rural Star. Will the Senate consider the bill in the lame-duck session so it can go to the president?

A. We were very pleased that this legislation, which would help co-ops improve energy efficiency in rural America, passed the

House. There's a chance that could be attached to some broader energy bill in the lame-duck session. It does contain a cost of \$75 million a year for 10 years. The benefits of improving the energy efficiency of members' residences and small businesses far outweigh the costs. But in this kind of atmosphere, there's a question whether anything like that will go forward. If it does not pass the Senate, it would have to be re-introduced in the new Congress.

Q. Talk about the appropriations process. This has significant consequences for co-ops, but is not very well understood.

A. Congress still has not passed a budget or most of the spending bills for the fiscal year that began last month. One of the questions is what will happen to the Rural Utilities Service in the agriculture appropriations bills. We have three major issues there.

First, the Senate bill contains language that would stop the Obama administration's plan to eliminate RUS lending for natural gas facilities and environmental upgrades to existing power plants.

Second, the bill opens up the RUS limitation on lending for baseload generation by authorizing three demonstration projects, one for nuclear and two for clean-coal. That has a small cost to it.

Third, the spending bill appropriates

\$500 million for the Guaranteed Underwriter Program, which helps co-ops secure loans at appropriate rates from private lenders like Cooperative Finance Corporation and CoBank.

Q. This is all in the Senate bill, and not the House bill, right?

A. That's correct. We are hopeful that Congress will follow the regular procedure where both houses pass their spending bills, and then they go to a conference committee where we can work for language favorable to co-ops.

However, the situation is more complicated than that. Right now, the government is operating under a continuing resolution that expires December 3. The question is whether Republicans will want to deal with appropriations issues in the lame-duck session or just punt until they are in control of the House, which might mean another short-term continuing resolution that operates under the 2010 funding.

Q. So a continuing resolution means there would be no changes in the RUS restrictions on lending?

A. A continuing resolution means things stay as they were in the previous appropriations. We would be fine with the RUS loan levels, but our baseload problem would not be solved.

If Congress were to adopt an omnibus resolution instead, it would put the legislation for the 2011 spending bills in one package and there would be a vote on the RUS issues.

However, a short-term continuing resolution means the new Congress could rework the spending bills for the current year, in addition to the spending bills for fiscal 2012. Then we probably would see a lot of proposals to cut spending. It's too soon to say what that would mean for RUS. 🗣️

— Photo & story courtesy of ECT.coop; written by Steven Johnson



Warm the family's tummies & souls with casseroles

Hotdish or casserole? Whatever you call this main course dish, share with us your family favorite recipes. Mail to: Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, drop it off at your local electric co-op. Add your name and phone number. 📧



My appliances aren't the only Energy Stars in my house

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

I'm saving just by using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up by visiting TogetherWeSave.com.

Dreamsicle Fudge by Vicki Busswitz, Westbrook

- 3 c. sugar
- ¾ c. butter or margarine
- 2/3 c. evaporated milk
- 7 oz. marshmallow creme (fluff)
- 12 oz. white chocolate chips
- 3 tsp. orange flavoring (or 6 tsp. Tang powder)
- 12 drops yellow food coloring
- 9 drops red food coloring

In a heavy saucepan over medium heat cook the sugar, butter and evaporated milk until boiling. Boil until the mixture reaches the "soft ball" stage on a candy thermometer or about 5 minutes. Remove from heat: add marshmallow fluff and chips. Mix well, until chips melt. Quickly measure 1 cup of the mixture out and set aside. To the remaining mixture add the orange flavoring and food colorings. Stir and pour into a greased 9x13" pan. Stir the white mixture until smooth and pour into the pan on top of the orange mixture. Swirl with a knife. Chill until set. 📧

Call before you dig



1-800-252-1166

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Contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before doing any digging more than 12-inches deep. Make this call 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees, tiling and more. You can also register on the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org. This gives utilities time to mark their underground lines up to your meter so you are safe! Then contact a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 📧



Richard 'Rick' Burud

Manager's Message

Annual Meeting wraps up

Thank you for your great participation in our 75th Anniversary Celebration. We had a very large crowd, nice weather and a great meeting. Highlights from the meeting were the historical video, REA skit and nearly 100 prizes given to our members. Check out the photos on Pages 4-5.

Thank you David Post for 20 years of service

At your Annual Meeting President David Post retired from the board after reaching the 20-year term limits, plus serving 10 years as your president. He received a clock/plaque and a well deserved recognition for his dedicated service. Personally, I've worked closely with Dave for many years and always admired his quiet leadership skills. He was fair with the employees and worked for you, the membership. Thanks Dave and you'll be missed!

Wisconsin substation work progresses

For those who live near Jackson, you've probably heard that Federated purchased from the City of Jackson, their fairgrounds substation. We are integrating it into our system with new feeders, doing maintenance on the breakers and regulators; and hope to place it in service this winter. It will serve the members near Alpha, plus north and south of Jackson, relieving the loads from the Middletown and Enterprise substations.

Holiday greetings from us to you!

As we enter the holiday season, we should pause and thank the Almighty for all of our blessings; share yourself with family and enjoy the festive season. From all of the employees and directors at Federated Rural Electric, we wish you a joyous and happy holiday season. ❄️



General Manager Richard Burud presents a clock/retirement plaque to president David Post at the meeting.



Rural Electric

Official monthly newsletter published by

Federated Rural Electric

77100 US Hwy 71, PO Box 69

Jackson, MN 56143-0069

E-mail: info@federatedrea.coop

Website: <http://www.federatedrea.coop>

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

Richard Burud, General Manager

David A. Hansen, President — 847-3530

David Meschke, Vice President — 238-1122

Jim Oltman, Secretary/Treasurer — 464-3479

Glenn Dicks — 662-5321

Lyle Fisher — 847-4757

Jon Saxen — 764-3771

Darvin Voss — 662-6679

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.

Board meeting highlights

Federated Rural Electric's Board of Directors met November 30. All board members were present. They acted on these issues:

- Welcomed newly elected director Darvin Voss to his first monthly board meeting.
- Reviewed the 75th Annual Meeting results.
- Suggested possible dates for the 2011 Annual Meeting, pending location availability.
- Approved the Salary Committee's recommendations.
- Approved the Audit Committee's recommendations to accept the 2010 Audit Report by Eide Bailly.
- Listened to the monthly reports from the managers and subsidiaries.
- Updated on upcoming meeting dates.
- Updated on the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's 2011 budget, meeting dates and resolutions.
- Briefed on the Great River Energy Manager's Advisory Committee Meetings in October and November. ❄️

Federated members fund \$7,753 in fall Operation Round Up projects

Organization	Amount	Purpose
Martin Co. West Community Ed	\$250	For Music Therapy programs: 3 sessions for preschool and a session for grandparents/children
Jackson County DAC, Lakefield	\$300	Two wheelchairs used to take people on outings
Big Buddies (Western Community Action)	\$450	For storytelling-hands project at Colonial Manor, Lakefield
Lakefield Fire & Rescue	\$459	For 3 drip torches used for prescribed burns & when controlled burns get out of hand
Alpha Fire Department	\$500	Add a light bar to a new water tank truck for safety
Good Samaritan Society, Jackson	\$500	For after-school intergenerational program
JCC Riverside Elementary, Jackson	\$794	For school patrol vests, raincoats and t-shirts; Peacemaker volunteer t-shirts and toward anti-bullying seminar
Fort Belmont, Jackson	\$1,000	Prepare display for 140-year-old Belmont Township Grist Stones
Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health, Jackson	\$1,000	For video technology system in community room used by citizens/agencies for training, law enforcement & parenting classes
MCW Yellow Ribbons Prog., Trimont	\$1,000	Courage retreat on bully prevention for 7 th & 8 th graders
East Chain 4-H Club	\$1,500	Buy 3 hand dryers for Arena & Industrial Building bathrooms at fairgrounds to reduce paper waste & improve sanitation ♻
Total	\$7,753	

The Trust Board received 16 applications totaling \$12,672 in fall funding requests. The Trust Board will meet again in the spring to determine the next recipients. The deadline for submitting applications is February 25, 2011. Call Federated or visit the website for a Round Up application.

Federated & Basin offer 2 \$1,000 scholarships to students



Your electric co-op will award two \$1,000 Basin scholarships to Federated members' son or daughter.

"These annual scholarships come from Basin Electric Power Cooperative based in Bismarck, North Dakota; and L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa," stated Richard Burud, Federated's general manager. "Federated distributes the scholarship materials and selects two local youth to receive the scholarships."

The scholarship is available to high school seniors and college students enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school working on

an undergraduate or master's degree.

Applicants must complete a two-page application, include the grades' transcript, ACT/SAT scores, write an essay and have an outside appraisal (reference checklist). Write a one-page double-spaced essay on: "You may have a variety of cooperatives in your hometown. How do these cooperatives contribute to your local community?"

The scholarship deadline is February 1. Applications are available from Federated's website (www.federatedrea.coop) or e-mail info@federatedrea.coop, call Federated (ask for Andrea) or from local high school counselors.

The scholarship must be used for college during fall 2011. Scholarships will be distributed in two equal installments in August and January payable

to the college.

Last year's winners were Andrew Paulson, Jackson; and Greg Tusa, Alpha.

In addition, another scholarship opportunity comes from Federated's Operation Round Up. The scholarship details will be finalized at the Trust Board's March 18 meeting; those Round Up scholarship applications are available around April 1. ♻

