

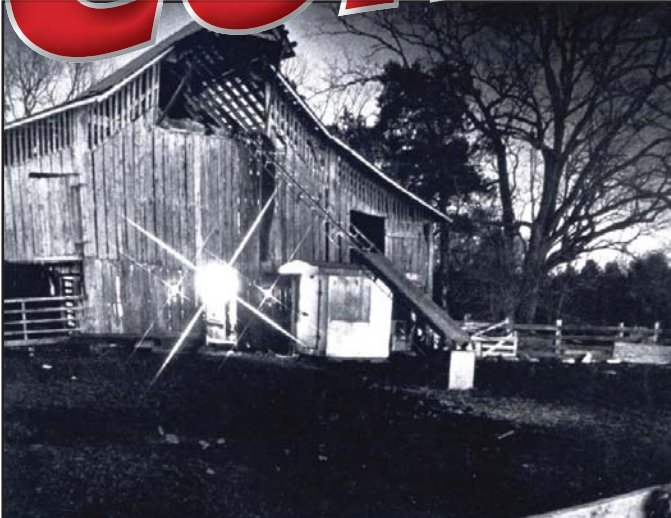
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



October 2010

Connections

Vol. 14, No. 10



CO-OPS FIRST DELIVERED AFFORDABLE POWER TO RURAL AMERICANS 75 YEARS AGO. WHY STOP NOW?

October is Cooperative Month. And even though electric co-ops have been around for awhile, we're still finding new ways for you to save money. Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.



Electricity is a bargain!



Today's dollar still has power, especially when it comes to your home. Few things resist inflation like the price of electricity. We'll keep it up, so you can keep on going.

Minnesota law offers payment options for active duty military



Minnesota law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills.

The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and an annual notice to cooperative members. Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for military personnel with active duty, deployed or a permanent duty station change.

The form can be requested from the cooperative's billing department. Call or e-mail us for details.

Adding horsepower to bins?



If you are adding bins or more drying capacity, whoa! Call the co-op first and let us know. We'll check to make sure your electric service transformer is appropriately sized for the extra load. If not, you could cause an outage when you start it up.



Inside this issue:

Attend 75th Annual Meeting Nov. 20...Page 4

\$3 LED holiday lighting rebate...Page 5



One little, two little, three little energy-saving ideas...and more!



A new year is rapidly approaching. Instead of waiting to the last minute to make resolutions, start early to ensure success.

The most popular changes people try to make involve dieting and saving money. Homeowners can combine these two by putting their home on an *energy diet*. By adopting some easy, low-cost strategies you can save on energy costs all year long.

1. Switch to energy-efficient lighting. Replace burned out light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

2. Maintain heating and cooling systems. Clean or replace furnace filters regularly and have the system checked by a qualified technician.

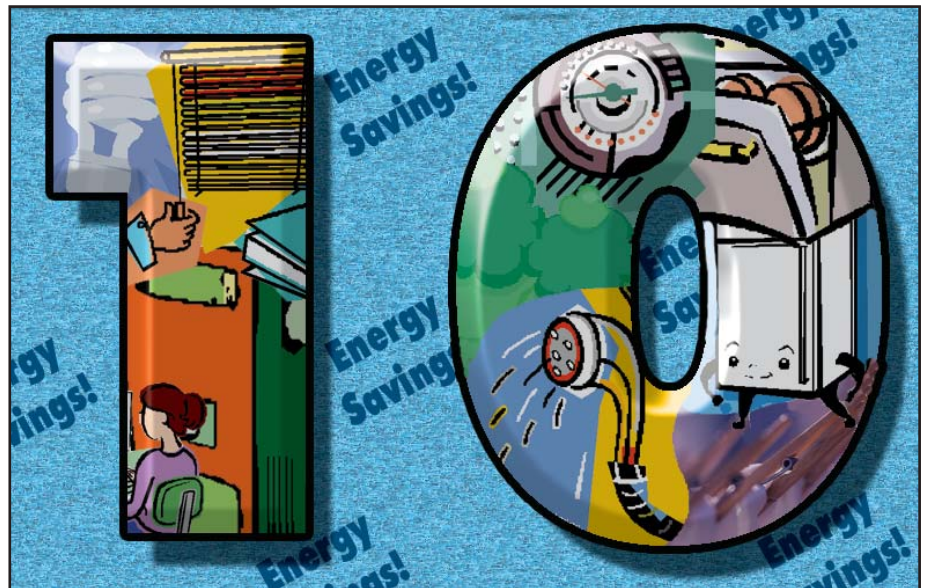
3. Plug energy leaks. Install weather-stripping around doors and windows to ensure that they are properly sealed.

4. Heat and cool naturally. Take advantage of natural sunlight and window shading to provide no-cost heating and cooling.

5. Conserve hot water. Maintain water heater temperature at 120°F or lower and take short showers instead of baths.

6. Adjust the thermostat. Properly adjust the thermostat when the home is unoccupied to avoid wasting energy by heating or cooling an empty house. To make it easier invest in a programmable thermostat.

7. Work with a full load. Save energy by running the dishwasher



and clothes washer only when they are fully loaded.

8. Air dry the laundry. Clothes dryers are a big energy user. Air dry clothing whenever possible.

9. Power down. Turn off or unplug computers, battery chargers or electronic equipment when it's not in use.

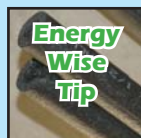
10. Focus on energy efficiency. If possible, replace older appliances and equipment with high-efficiency Energy

Star-rated products. Your co-op even offers rebates on certain ones!

It is no secret that New Year's resolutions can quickly go by the wayside. To help you stay on track set goals that are specific and measurable. Measure your progress by comparing your monthly energy bill with previous years' bills. The savings should provide enough incentive to keep you going all year. 🐾

— *Information courtesy of Questline*

Insulate your hot water pipes for energy savings



Insulating your hot water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature 2°- 4°F hotter than uninsulated pipes can deliver, allowing for a lower water temperature setting. You also won't have to wait as long for hot water when you turn on a faucet or showerhead, which helps conserve water. Insulate all accessible hot water pipes, especially within three feet of the water heater. It's also a good idea to insulate the cold water inlet pipes for the first three feet. — *Courtesy of www.energysavers.gov* 🐾

From the field to the breakfast table — make your own soy milk



While farmers raise large crops, few taste the fruit of their labor. Raw soybeans and corn don't offer much for the tastebuds. However, the SoyaPower Plus changes that. It offers a revolutionary leap in milk-making technology, giving you the ability to make soy milk from soybeans.

The SoyaPower Plus has four push-button operations, each optimized for making milk from soybeans, grains, seeds/nuts or unlimited combinations of them. The SoyaPower Plus's grinding system enables not only the highest milk yield and easiest soymilk operation available, but also the capability for making non-dairy milks and porridge from any type of beans,



Farmers: drink the fruits of your labor this harvest season with a cool glass of soy milk! The SoyaPower Plus makes it possible.

rice, grains, seeds and nuts, such as soybeans, mung beans, oats, millet, wheat groats, quinoa, almonds, hazel-

nuts or any combinations of them. It can even make broths and soups like soy-pumpkin soup and rice-sweet potatoe soup. To make soy milk all you do is add soybeans and water. The SoyaPower Plus grinds the beans up and cooks them. About 20 minutes later you have soymilk. You can even add your own flavorings.

The SoyaPower Plus is quiet and energy-efficient thanks to its thermo-plastic outlier over the stainless steel body. Safety features, such as safety latch and thermo-isolation, make the SoyaPower Plus one of the few UL-approved filterless soymilk makers on the market. Visit their website (www.soyapower.com) for more information.

The SoyaPower Plus is available on Amazon.com for \$120. 📌

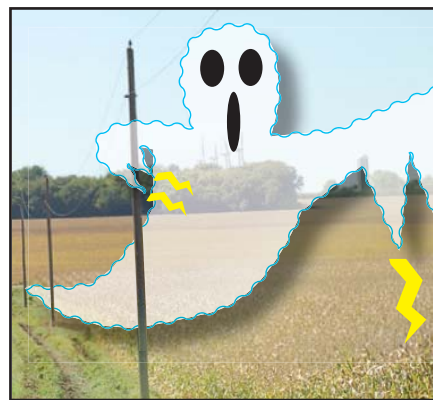
Be spooked by powerlines this harvest season; stay away!



Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines near the end rows, may get overlooked during the hectic harvest. Failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.

Most farmsteads could use a very careful overhead visual inspection of the electric power lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.

Utility regulators require power lines to be 18.5 feet or more above the ground to provide adequate clearance. However, today's farm equipment has a long reach when extended. Even when collapsed for roadway transport, farm equipment may exceed that 18.5-



Don't allow a "ghost" of a chance contact with power lines and machinery this harvest season. Be aware of line locations and keep a safe distance.

foot height. A daily check of where equipment will be moving should be conducted to ensure that it will clear power lines.

Never take matters into your own hands with a potential problem; you risk electrocution. Wires may not be as high as they look. Never undertake

the height measurement of the lines without the on-site help from your local electric cooperative.

Always maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line — above, below and on the sides — whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it.

Field repairs with farm welders can also become fatal accidents. Long days full of stress, followed by broken equipment that requires a welding repair, could turn into a tragedy. Frayed and worn leads touching someone will electrocute them. Being burned by hot metal is one thing, but suffering a fatal shock from the welder or a ground gradient is something else.

Always keep in mind that electricity doesn't allow for mistakes — neither should you. 📌

— Courtesy of safeelectricity.org

Federated Focus

Congratulations!

As part of the 75th Anniversary Contest for the favorite youth memory involving Federated, Steven Petrowiak, Fairmont, won. He shared a photo from when his daughter Jenny won a Federated coloring contest in 2002. He receives a \$50 electric bill credit.

Vote for the Federated candidates November 20



The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting elections November 20.

District 1 Director: Karl Fredrickson, Heron Lake; and Glenn Dicks, Lakefield.

District 2 Director: Richard Erickson, Lakefield; and Darwin Voss, Lakefield.

District 3 Nominating Committee: Jason Espenson, Windom; and Steven Glidden, Jackson.

District 4: Harold Knutson, Jackson; and Chad Schneekloth, Jackson.

The candidates listed above will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. Other nominations can be made from the floor.

In addition, nominations were made for Operation Round Up directors: District 1: Ardis Mickelson, Lakefield; and District 2: Debra Rentschler, Lakefield.

Last month for larger rebates

Take advantage of the bigger bonus rebates on refrigerators with recycling (\$125) and clothes washers (\$75) if purchased by October 31, 2010. This Energy Star rebate is double the standard rebate. The special rebate form is on Federated's website or call the co-op.

Federated's 75th Annual Meeting Saturday, November 20 at the Jackson County Central High School

1128 North Highway, Jackson, MN

Registration: 8:30 a.m.-9:50 a.m.

- Registration
- Recycle 4 fluorescent bulbs for free
- Free cookies and beverages
- Visit booths for Federated, WildBlue and Heartland Security
- Operation Round Up recipients slide show starts at 9 a.m.

Performance by JCC High School

Carolers: 9:30 a.m.-10 a.m.

Meeting starts at 10 a.m.

- Meeting called to order
- Business meeting/reports
- Election of Directors and Nominators
- Historical video and REA skit
- Drawing for door prizes (42" digital TV, Energy Star refrigerator, Energy Star clothes washer/dryer set and nearly 100 door prizes)



Annual Meeting Attendance Gift

Indoor/outdoor wireless weather station transmits the outside temperature indoors using a small sensor placed outside. Wall mounts included for both units. It also features the month/date and time display. Requires six AAA batteries. This gift is yours just for attending the annual meeting!

For co-op month share what Federated means to you & your family or business



Recognize any of these young ladies? If you know any details on this 1956 centennial float, please call Federated (ask for Andrea) or e-mail info@federatedrea.coop using the coupon below or e-mail us these details (info@federatedrea.coop); submit by October 25. The coupon should be mailed to Federated Rural Electric, Attn: Andrea, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069. 📧

How has Federated made a difference in your family or business? During cooperative month, share a memory or moment that stands out regarding your local electric cooperative — maybe it involved an outage, answering a question or customer service.

Share the cooperative memory of Federated making a difference



Celebrate in the glow of LED lights this holiday season. You'll glow from the savings on your electric bill!

For the 2010 holiday season, Federated is offering a \$3/string rebate on LED Energy Star holiday lights with 50 or more bulbs for homes (not to exceed half the cost) bought online or in stores. Lights must be installed where electricity is provided by Federated.

Use the coupon below for up to five strings of lights and submit it to Federated by December 24, 2010. The amount will be credited to your electric bill.

LED holiday lights use up to 80 percent less electricity. LED bulbs also last 10 times longer than incandescent holiday lights. LEDs use only 2 to 10 watts of electricity — 1/30 the amount of incandescent strings. Learn more about LEDs on www.mnbrighterideas.com. Take the short quiz to try and win a \$500 electric bill credit. 📧

October's 75th Anniversary Contest

Name (as it appears on electric bill) _____
 Address _____
 City/state/zip _____
 Federated location # _____ Member # _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Comments on Federated's cooperative difference (feel free to attach on a separate page if more space is needed):



Include this registration coupon with your photo(s).

Mail or drop off at Federated by October 25, 2010. Otherwise, scan and e-mail to info@federatedrea.coop by October 25.

LED Holiday Lights Coupon

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/state/zip _____
 Phone number _____
 Fed. location # _____
 Fed. member # _____

Number of LED light strings _____
 (Limit of 5 light strings)
 Multiplied by \$3/string x \$3.00
 Total rebate _____

Lights must be purchased between 10-1-10 through 12-15-10 & rebate submitted by 12-24-10.

The rebate will be applied as a credit to your electric bill. Return with your electric bill payment or mail to Federated Rural Electric, ATTN: Jon, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069.



WILDBLUE!

\$0 DOWN
\$0 INSTALLATION FEE
\$0 ACTIVATION FEE

Sign up with Federated WildBlue by 10-25-10.
 Call 1-800-321-3520 for an application.

LOWEST PRICE EVER!

Cold weather rule outlines process to avoid winter disconnection and loss of electricity

Co-op members do not need to worry about cold homes from winter disconnection. Just follow the five main points of the cold weather rule to avoid winter disconnection.

Residential customer notice

An electric cooperative utility must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit **and all of the following conditions are met:**

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A cooperative electric association utility may verify income on forms it provides or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;

2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and

3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills. In addition, an electric cooperative must, between August 15 and October 15 of each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Customers facing disconnection

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer between October 15 and April 15, an electric cooperative must provide the following information to a customer:

1. A notice of the proposed disconnection;
2. A statement with the customer's rights and responsibilities;
3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
4. Forms on which to declare an inability to pay; and
5. A statement explaining available time-payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.

Restrictions for disconnection

1. If a customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with residential disconnection provisions, it must not occur on

Emergency energy assistance phone numbers

Brown County Family Services.....	1-800-450-8246 or 354-8246
Brown County Energy Assistance.....	507-359-6504
Cottonwood County Family Service.....	831-1891
Jackson County Human Services.....	847-4000
Jackson County Sheriff's Department.....	847-4420
Martin County Human Services.....	238-4757
Martin County Sheriff's Department.....	238-4481
MN Dept. of Energy Services (Ask for fuel assistance).....	1-800-657-3805
Minnesota Valley Action Council.....	1-800-767-7139
Martin County.....	238-1663
Nicollet County.....	934-5224
Sibley County.....	237-2981
Watonwan County.....	375-5748
Murray County Human Services.....	836-6144
Nobles County Family Service Agency.....	372-2157
Redwood County Human Services.....	637-4050
Renville County Family Services.....	320-523-5522
Renville Sheriff's Department.....	320-523-1161
Salvation Army's Heat Share (Jackson & Martin Co.).....	238-9797
Sibley County Human Services.....	237-4000
SW MN Opportunity Council, Inc. (Nobles Co.).....	376-4195
Watonwan County Human Services.....	375-3294
Western Community Action (Jackson & Cottonwood Co.).....	1-800-658-2448
Redwood County.....	1-800-658-2480

If you live in an area that is not listed, call the co-op for details.

a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by the electric cooperative;

2. Also, the disconnection must not occur on a weekend, holiday or the day before a holiday, when utility offices are closed, or after the close of a business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative from the electric cooperative who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment and continue service offers a payment agreement to the customer; and

3. If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection. If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, call your local electric cooperative. 📞





Hunting season arrives; share your venison recipes

Share with us your favorite venison recipes by October 25 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. Thanks for sharing!

Cinnamon Breakfast Cereal (gluten free) by Collette Landsteiner, Fairmont

- 2 c. cooked brown rice 1/8 tsp. cinnamon 1 T. butter
- 1 c. milk 3/4 tsp. vanilla 2 T. raisins
- 2 T. brown sugar 2 T. maple syrup 1/3 c. toasted pecan pieces

Place all ingredients in the top of a double boiler over boiling water stirring frequently for about five minutes. When the cereal is thoroughly warmed, spoon it into two serving bowls.



Pumpkin Bars (gluten free) with Cream Cheese Frosting by Collette Landsteiner, Fairmont

- 2 c. sugar 2 c. pumpkin 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 c. oil 1/2 tsp. salt 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 4 eggs 2 tsp. baking powder

2 c. flour mixture (1 c. white rice flour and 1 c. potato starch). I use Beth's gluten-free all purpose flour (Gluten Free Pantry brand) from Hy-Vee.

Combine all ingredients. Pour into an ungreased 11x17" pan. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes. Frost when cool with the cream cheese frosting. Can be made into cupcakes; yields 28.

- Frosting:** 3 oz. cream cheese, softened 1/3 c. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla 3 c. powdered sugar

Gluten-free Cookie Pizza by Shirley Wiese, Jackson

- 4 c. gluten-free rice Chex
- 1/3 c. sugar 1/3 c. brown sugar
- 1/3 c. peanut butter 1 egg, beaten
- 1/4 c. softened butter 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. mini marshmallows
- 1/4 c. mini chocolate chips

peanuts, walnuts & dried fruit

Crush the cereal. Add in the sugars, peanut butter, butter, vanilla and egg. Spread on a 12" pizza pan. Bake 12 minutes at 350°. Sprinkle with marshmallows to within 1" of the edge. Bake five minutes or until soft and lightly brown. Sprinkle with chocolate chips, nuts and fruit.



Basic Sorghum Bread by Diane Buntjen, Sleepy Eye

- Dry ingredients:** 3/4 c. sorghum flour
3/4 c. brown rice flour
3/4 c. potato starch or sweet rice flour
3/4 c. tapioca flour
2 1/4 tsp. xanthan gum
1/4 c. dry milk powder 3/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. unflavored gelatin
3 T. sugar 2 1/4 tsp. yeast
- Wet ingredients:** 2 eggs
4 T. oil 1 1/2 c. water
3/4 tsp. apple cider vinegar

Put everything in your breadmaker the way you would for regular bread. It mixes easier if you mix the dry ingredients in a separate bowl before you add them to the breadmaker. I use the basic white loaf setting on my breadmaker and it turns out good. After the breadmaker has mixed for awhile, use a rubber spatula and make sure that it is mixing well; you may need to scrape the corners as this dough does not form a ball.

Otherwise, bake it in the oven. Use a mixer and put in prepared bread pans. Let it raise for 45 minutes to an hour and bake at 350° for 1 hour. This bread has a really nice texture and the dough can also be used to make buns, breadsticks, cinnamon rolls, etc.

Don't dig up trouble! Call 1-800-252-1166 48 hours before digging. www.gopherstateonecall.org

Annual post office form notice printed

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Richard 'Rick' Burud

Manager's Message

The value of cooperative membership

You may ask, what is the value of membership at my electric cooperative?

First, no other electric utility operates at cost and returns excess revenue to the member. What a deal...just think if everything you purchased was at cost; you would receive a pretty "big check" annually from all purchases. At your cooperative we pay back a portion of the previous year's patronage, as well as a portion of the

oldest patronage.

Second, we are local. We are your local neighbors working for you to get your questions answered. Federated is locally-controlled by a democratically-elected Board of Directors. These directors have the members' interest first in their minds as they make decisions. Our employees respond to your outages and questions in a positive, proactive manner. No 800 phone number sends you and your questions overseas for answers. We are local in your community.

Third, we continue to work and find services and programs that make you more efficient and use the electricity we supply our members in a cost effective, efficient manner.

Fourth, we strive to give you the best service available and invest back in the system annually.

Sometimes I think we forget about the value of the cooperative business model. The model guarantees that every member has a voice in business decisions; so be sure to vote for the candidates at the Annual Meeting November 20. Members can trust their cooperative because it was created not to make profits, but simply to deliver needed services. Federated offers stability, reliability and better value.

Make this a safe harvest season

Keep safety in mind at all times this harvest season. Safety is first at our cooperative and we urge each of you to be safe too. 🍂

Get fired up for the big game!

Interested in an entertainment center that provides more than just a place to set the TV? The Marana Media Console from Dimplex is also an electric fireplace! Cost is \$1,288, plus tax. The fireplace measures 33-inches; call Federated to order it. 🍂



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Richard Burud, General Manager

David Post, President — 853-4518
David A. Hansen, Vice President — 847-3530
Jim Oltman, Secretary/Treasurer — 464-3479
Glenn Dicks — 662-5321
Lyle Fisher — 847-4757
David Meschke — 238-1122
Jon Saxen — 764-3770

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 October 1 for its monthly board meeting via teleconference. All directors were present. They acted on these issues:

- Approved the Operation Round Up Trust Board director nominations: Ardis Mickelson for District 1 and Debra Rentschler for District 2.
- Approved the 2010 uncollectible accounts that will be turned over to a collections agency.
- Approved returning \$545,681.90 as capital credits to members on the November 1st electric bills for patronage in 1990 and a portion of 1991 and 2009.
- Updated on insurance claims.
- Appointed a director to serve as the cop's delegate at the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting.
- Reviewed Federated's proposed Annual Meeting agenda.
- Read the Nominating Committee's minutes from their second meeting with nominations. See Page 4. 🍂