

# Connections

July 2025

For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric



Volume 29, Issue 7

## Pianos, prizes & pancakes...celebrate co-op's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting August 5

Celebrating Federated's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting August 5 is "music to our ears!"

Headlining this Annual Meeting involves Rock It Man Entertainment from the Twin Cities. Two Dueling Piano musicians will jam with the crowd. Come ready to request favorite tunes to sing or sit back and enjoy the show. They will perform from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Martin County Fairgrounds in the Arena building.

Pancakes and sausage will be served by the Sherburn Lions and Welcome Fire Departments from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The Annual Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Federated will again mail ballots due to the popularity of the previous four years — where more members voted. "This is the fifth 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 seven \$90 electric bill credits.

Watch for your ballots to arrive in the mail near July 1. You'll have ballots for three 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 \$90 bill credits drawing. Drop it in the mail so Federated receives your ballot by Friday, August 1, at 4:30 p.m. Otherwise, drop the ballot off at the office's front counter or use the outside payment drop box before August 1 by 4:30 p.m. If you miss the mailing deadline, one registration line will exist for in-person voting between 4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

The ballots cast count as having a quorum for the meeting



Enjoy the free Dueling Pianos act starting at 4:45 p.m. before the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting August 5. Bring the family for sausage and pancakes between 4:30 to 6:15 p.m. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

with the following business conducted:

1. Approval of the Nominating Committee reports and increasing the director stipend. (Printed on Pages 10-12.)
2. Announce the voting results: directors, nominating committee and Annual Meeting minutes.
4. Short reports by the president, general manager and office manager.
4. Any other business, which may come before the meeting, along with adjournment.

At the conclusion of the meeting seven more \$90 bill credits will be awarded among those present. 🎁

### At A Glance



**Learning time & fun for the kids at the Annual Meeting August 5**

Kids: Enter the drawing for Legos if ages 3-10. Stop by the face painting booth operated by the Jackson Arts Center. Pick up a kid's plastic hard hat. The Prairie Ecology Bus will have insect educational displays. Plus, enjoy the piano music and pancake supper. The kids fun runs from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 🎁

# Board authorizes \$955,000 in capital credits; find credits on electric bills received in August

Cash back is coming your way! Federated members will see capital credits refunds on the August 5 electric bills.

This year the Board of Directors is retiring and returning nearly \$955,000 in capital credits from three different sources:

1. Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (wholesale power supplier capital credits) returned nearly \$66,000 from 2022 patronage.

2. Great River Energy returned capital credits to Federated for a portion of 1996 and 2014. Federated will distribute to co-op members the 2014 amount, which is from the Midwest Ag Energy Group, LLC's margins. The 1996 partial year will be held until the full year is returned to Federated.

3. Finally, Federated is returning capital credits from 2004-2005 and 2024.

- 17 percent (the balance) from 2004: \$52,000
- 83 percent from 2005: \$459,000
- 51 percent of 2024 patronage: \$340,000
- Federated total \$851,000

Federated returns a portion of last year's electric margins so newer cooperative members see the benefits of capital credits. When Federated's Board of Directors approved the rate consolidation of Federated's legacy and former Alliant electric rates in 2021, the wholesale power supplier capital credits are now allocated among all electric members. In the last decade Federated has returned over \$8.7 million to its member-owners.


The Broadband division generated margins of \$6,882 from electric members who also received broadband service in 2024; this was allocated as capital credits to these electric members. Margins from nonmembers are being retained as unallocated capital to build broadband equity. Since broadband is capital intensive and in the early stages of bringing fiber to the homes, the Board of Directors decided that no retirement of broadband margins would occur at this time.



**Federated directors celebrate the cooperative difference by returning \$955,000 to Federated members as capital credits; look for your credits on the August 5 electric bill. Directors from left to right: Troy Post, Bruce Brockmann, Glenn Dicks, David Meschke, Jon Saxen, Scott Thiesse and Tyler "Red" Ayers.**

Current members will receive a bill credit on their August bills listed as "Capital Credits Retired." Checks will be mailed in late July if the amount was more than \$500. Checks will also be mailed to former members if the amount is larger than \$20. Capital credits are returned as a bill credit, which saves labor, postage and printing costs for the membership.

"During these inflationary times, capital credits being returned to you, our member-owners, helps out a lot," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "This is the cooperative difference of local ownership. Members reap the rewards!"

Unlike many corporations, Federated is a not-for-profit organization. We reinvest our profits back into the cooperative. Plus, we allocate the value of those profits (based on electricity purchased during the year) to a capital credits account maintained for each member. Federated holds these margins over time to finance part of line construction and maintenance. Using our margins this way means Federated does not have to borrow as much money, saving members interest charges that would otherwise be reflected in higher electric rates. 



# *90 years of service: maintaining affordability & reliability, while expanding into fiber broadband for accessibility*

2025 is a monumental milestone for Federated reaching 90 years of great work and growth. As we look back at the timeline of events, it was quite clear that Federated was here to stay, grow and push boundaries. 90 years later we are operating under 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, compared to the 20<sup>th</sup> century technology that got us most of the way here. Yes, the 20<sup>th</sup> century had a lot to offer, but it did have its dark side. The Great Depression from 1929-1939 and World War II from 1939-1945; then on the bright side the space race during the 1950s-1970s between the U.S. and the USSR for space exploration and development of the Internet and World Wide Web in the 1980s-1990s, which revolutionized communication and information sharing, just to name a few. While these major milestones were being cemented in history, Federated chugged along right through it all continuing to provide the desperately needed electricity to homes, farms and businesses, while creating its own timeline of accomplishments (see Pages 16-17). If you haven't read it, you should, as it's a great read.

## **Financially strong cooperative then and now**

One thing that must have been just as much of a challenge back then, as it is today, is the financial stability of the co-op with all of the changes that took place with many being uncontrollable. Rates and cost of service analysis were done then likely just as they are today; however, the longhand math of the early days is now all done via financial programs with formulas in spreadsheets. In both cases the human element was the most important with simple common sense taking center stage in decision making. With minimal growth of kilowatt-hour sales to most rate classes, we tend to ask a lot of our larger users in the form of ethanol or the soybean processors. With one of these large loads down indefinitely, it has required us to take a closer look at expenses and make some choices to help us weather the storm. The other side of that scenario is what we don't sell, we don't have to buy, so it's not necessarily a crisis situation; however, it still warrants close attention.

## **From rural electrification then to building broadband now**

Federated, looking to the future of revenue diversity along with another nearly essential service, brought on broadband for our member owners.



**David Meschke**  
President



**Scott Reimer**  
General Manager

Currently, we are working in both Jackson and Martin Counties, along with now being called to duty for our neighbors to the north, Cottonwood County. With the digital world growing by leaps and bounds, broadband is the electricity of old and history is repeating itself. The broadband business plan calls for new infrastructure investments for the foreseeable future with the goal of serving all of our member owners, as well as patrons in adjoining counties with high-speed internet,

video services, plus phone service via VoIP. We regularly meet with members and patrons; their question is, "When will we get to their neck of the woods?" The current plan is estimated around \$18.4 million, which includes activities in all three counties with middle and last-mile infrastructure. The current projects would serve roughly 3,500 subscribers who are currently unserved or underserved with low-speed tiers. The ultimate goal is to provide our services to those who desire it. We understand that this is a competitive business and that's why we have embraced the co-op business model to ensure we are giving you the most affordable, reliable and safe services, while providing excellent member service. This is a long-term plan, just like electric service, so we will not stop growing, maintaining and serving subscribers. This means we are in it for the long haul and oh by the way, we have a local phone number and actually answer it — most of the time with a live person.

## **Facilities planning for the future**

Some discussion has taken place regarding the aging condition of our headquarters facilities in Jackson. Built in the 1970s, the office facility has been evaluated by our architectural firm, Olson Hobbie, Mankato, who is helping us with the assessment and indicates it seems to have a good structure. The design and pricing of a remodel is underway; however, no final plans have been made. We would propose making the best use of the space we have to get the most out of it. The attached concept sketch is a design being contemplated.

Until then, we'll see you at the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting August 5! ☺  
**The office remodel in yellow shows a new addition for meeting space and lunch room. Office sizes will change to accommodate more employees. Upgrades are needed for failing plumbing, roof issues and expanded electrical.**



# Introducing Federated's Board of Directors



**Glenn Dicks**  
Lakefield  
District 1  
Board Vice President  
18 years



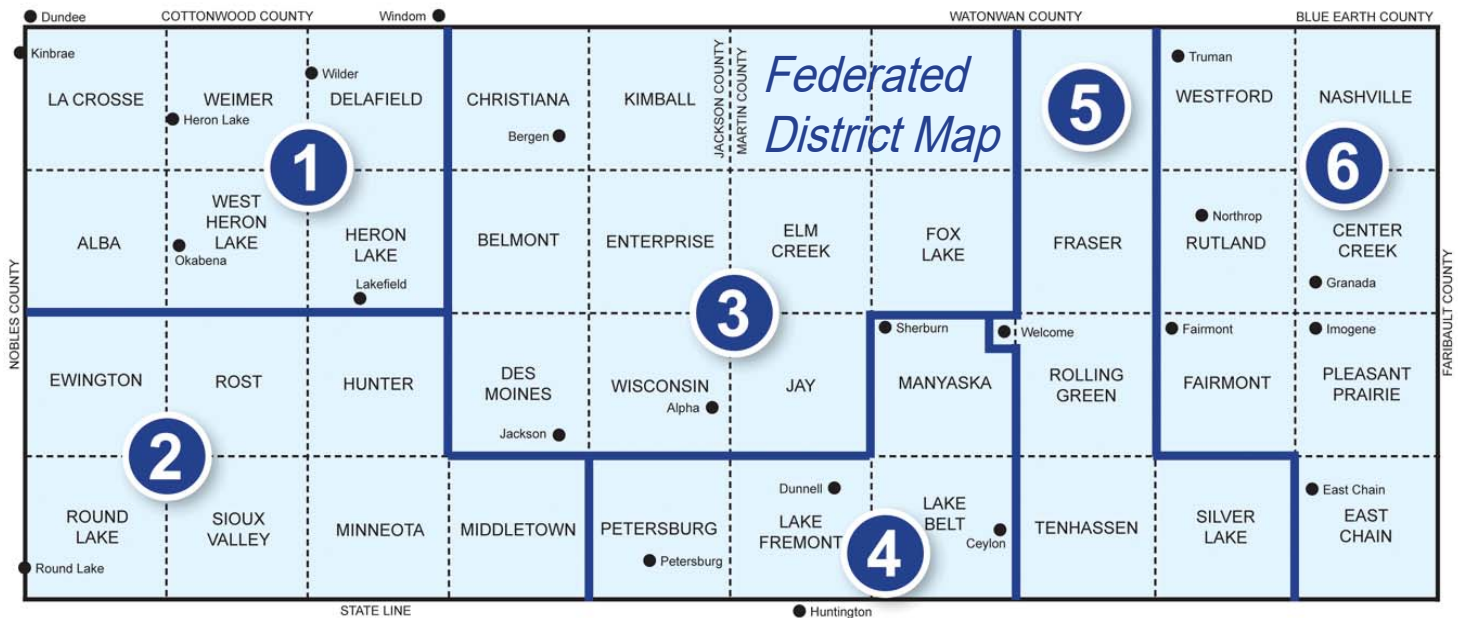
**Tyler "Red" Ayers**  
Alpha  
District 3  
Board Member



**David Meschke**  
Welcome  
District 5  
Board President  
19 years



**Bruce Brockmann**  
Granada  
District 6  
Board Member  
11 years



**Troy Post**  
Brewster  
District 2  
Board Member

## 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  
8 years



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



## *District 2 director candidate:*

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



### **Troy Post**

Troy and his wife, Gwen, raise corn, soybeans and finishing pigs in Ewington Township for the past 30 years. Troy is the co-owner of Post Swine Farms with his brother Eric.

Post was appointed to District 2 by Federated's Nominating Committee, according to the co-op's bylaws; it was approved by the Board when a retirement occurred until members could vote at the Annual Meeting. That is why this position is for a one year-term.

Following in his father David's footsteps, he is the second generation to serve as a Federated director.

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.

## *District 5 director candidate:*

Fraser • Rolling Green • Tenhassen • Silver Lake  
and the town of Welcome



### **David Meschke**

David and his wife, Lisa, raise corn and soybeans and facilitate a swine and cattle operation. He has worked on the family farm, established in 1883, for 47 years in Fraser Township. Meschke also does crop insurance adjusting. He has two sons. Meschke was active on the Fair Board and Fraser Township Board for more

than 20 years.

Meschke has been a Federated director for 20 years and serves as president, plus eight years as a Basin Electric director for wholesale power. "I would like to continue serving because I know the importance of our membership having a voice in the board room," he said. "Affordable rates and reliable service are imperative; we need to conduct our business safely. All members are important; we need to offer valuable goods and services."

## 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting notice

The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the members of the Federated Rural Electric Association will be held Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at the Martin County Fairgrounds in the Arena. Pancakes will be served from 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Members will do mail-in voting, which determines a quorum. Members must return ballots by August 1, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. to Federated's office either by mail or in person. 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. Approval of the Nominating Committee Minutes and changing director stipend. See Pages 10-12.
5. Election results on directors, nominating committee and 2024 Annual Meeting minutes approval.
6. Presentation and consideration of, and acting upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Adjournment.
10. Present the \$90 electric bill credits for annual meeting attendees. 🗳️

## *District 6: director candidate*

Westford • Nashville • Rutland • Center Creek  
Fairmont • Pleasant Prairie • East Chain  
plus the towns of Granada and Northrop



### **Bruce Brockmann**

Bruce and Cheryl live in Center Creek Township. They raised three children and have six grandchildren. Brockmann raises grain, hogs and cattle with his brother, Bryan, and son, Kevin. The hog operation includes his sister, Sandy, and nephew, Kent. Brockmann and his brother have farmed together for 53 years. Brockmann attends the East Chain

Evangelical Free Church, where he has served on the church board. He is a member of the Martin County Pork Producers and Martin County Corn and Soybean Growers Associations. He enjoys all sports and going to his grandchildren's events.

"Federated has always been important to our farming operation," Bruce stated. "I want to thank the members for allowing me to serve on the board for the last 12 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board and would like to serve another four years as a board member." 🗳️

## Nominating Committee candidates

### District 3 candidate:

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

**Fills a one-year term due to a resignation.**



#### Adam Weets

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

Weets has grown hemp for five years for their company Alpha Alternatives. He also raises chickens. He has served 21 years on the Alpha Fire Department. He is presently the fire chief and last

year was the assistant. For the last five 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 At-large candidate:

Member from any township or town served by Federated. Serves a four-year term.



#### Ron Maurer

Ron Maurer has lived in the Windom area with his wife Monica since 1980. They have two adult children and two grandchildren, ages 17 and 5.

Maurer was born and raised on a dairy farm at Morgan, Minnesota. He is a graduate of Willmar Community College with an ag business degree. Maurer was an

employee for agricultural sales company BASF for 48 years until retirement and worked 54 years in the ag sector. He is still active in the Minnesota Corn and Soybean Growers Associations. He is past board member and past president for both the Windom Hockey Association and the Windom Country Club. For 44 years he has served as an official for the Minnesota High School League officiating football and girls' softball games. He is currently a member of Ducks Unlimited with 43 years of involvement. He was on the Nominating Committee with Ag Country Banks at Fargo, North Dakota, last year.

Maurer explained his willingness to serve on the Nominating Committee, "To contribute in any way that I can to select strong candidates for the Federated Board by screening and interviewing potential candidates for future board positions." (U)

## 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. (U)

## MINNESOTA FARMFEST<sup>®</sup> August 5-7, Redwood Falls

Visit the Touchstone Energy Co-ops' booth



Bring this coupon. Enter the grand prize drawing for battery-powered electric tools.

**Federated Rural Electric Farmfest 2025**  
**Drawing at the Touchstone Energy**  
**Cooperatives' Booth #2301**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip this coupon & put it in your wallet now!**





# Review the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes

The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Federated Rural Electric Association (Federated) was held on Thursday, August 1, 2024, as a Zoom webinar/call starting at 3:30 p.m. All Federated members had the opportunity to do mail-in voting.

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 July 31, 2024.

David Hansen, Federated's Board President welcomed all joining our first time virtual annual meeting using zoom explaining attendance numbers for in-person meetings were declining and annual meeting expenses were increasing.

A quorum was present, as the Bylaws allow for the returned, mailed ballots to count toward this. We had 1,049 Federated members cast ballots. The meeting was then called to order by President Hansen.

President Hansen asked for a motion to approve the Annual Meeting agenda, as printed in the July *Connections* and in the Official Meeting Notice. A motion was made, seconded, and carried approving the 2023 Annual Meeting agenda, as printed.

President Hansen introduced the Cooperative's Board of Directors, Attorney, and General Manager.

Attorney Brad Anderson demonstrated proof of publication. The Annual Meeting notice was published in the June 23, 2024 *Jackson County Pilot* and the June 25, 2024 *Fairmont Sentinel*. In addition, the July *Connections* newsletter also published this notice of Annual Meeting. Our vendor Dairyland Power printed and mailed 5,261 ballots June 24, 2024, as documented on the certificate of mailing.

Attorney Brad Anderson read the Notice of Meeting. Said Publication Notice and Printer's Affidavit of Publication are appended to the minutes of this meeting.

President Hansen said members voted on the approval of the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting printed on Pages 12 and 13 of the July *Connections*, Annual Report edition. We had

980 votes cast in favor of approval of the minutes from the mailed ballots. Approval of these minutes passed.

President Hansen introduced members of the Nominating Committee by district. The Nominating Committee meeting minutes were printed on Pages 14-15 of the July *Connections*, along with being posted on our website. Members voted on the approval of this year's four Nominating Committee meeting minutes. We had 978 votes cast in favor of the approval of these minutes. Approval of these minutes passed.

The order of business then moved to the election of directors and nominators, both positions for a four-year term. Ballots were due at Federated's office by the close of business July 31, 2024. The Nominating Committee Chairman and co-op employees, supervised by the Attorney and Office Manager, counted the ballots.

There were two director positions open this year. The following director candidates were nominated as prescribed by the bylaws:

District Three (3): Tyler Ayers received 981 votes.

District Four (4): Harold Knutson received 430 votes. Scott Thiesse received 592 votes.

Their terms start December 31, 2024. President Hansen said this was his last Annual Meeting he will preside over as he is retiring after 24 years on the Board of Directors and 14 years serving as president. President Hansen said it has been his honor to serve you, our local member owners.

Two nominator positions were open this year. The following Nominating Committee candidates were nominated as prescribed by the bylaws:

District One (1): Blake Rossow received 460 votes. Marlys Runge received 553 votes.

District Two (2): Thomas Cunningham received 988 votes.

Bylaws amendments were outlined in the July *Connections* newsletter on Pages 2-5, along with the mailed ballots. The Board of Directors requested that members approve the Bylaws

and Articles of Incorporation changes to allow for Federated Broadband to operate on a cooperative basis and allocate capital credits to those Federated electric members who are also using Broadband services.

- 902 votes were cast in favor of the amendments

- 57 votes were opposed.

The bylaw amendments passed.

President Hansen asked if there was any old business from the membership. There was none.

President Hansen asked if there was any new business from the membership. There was none.

Being no new or unfinished business, President Hansen thanked the Nominating Committee, Trust Board, and Federated employees. A motion was made, seconded, and carried adjourning the meeting.

Marketing & Communications Manager Andrea Christoffer announced the electric bill credit prize winners. All registered members who voted properly were entered into a prize drawing with the opportunity to win one of nine bill credit prizes to be applied to their September bill. There was one grand prize winner receiving a \$300 bill credit, one receiving a \$250 bill credit, another one receiving a \$150 bill credit, and six receiving a \$50 bill credit. Winners were randomly selected via the computer. In addition, our subsidiary Heartland Security donated four insulated stainless steel wine tumblers with lids, which winners can pick up from Federated's Jackson office. 📍

— Darwin Voss, secretary



Have UHF antenna questions for CTV reception? Visit with Brandt Berkner, Jackson, at the Federated Annual Meeting during registration. 📍

# 2024

co-op in review



7,005  
electric  
accounts

2,465  
miles of line:

1,518 overhead  
947 underground



11.59¢

Average residential  
price per kilowatt-  
hour in 2024  
(kWh)



2023 Minnesota average electric  
rate was 14.7 cents, while the national  
average was 16 cents/kWh.

## Balance Sheet

December 31, 2024 and 2023

### Assets

2024

2023

#### Electric Plant

In service	\$76,968,441	\$75,050,361
Under construction	4,732,347	1,065,224
Total electric plant	81,700,788	76,115,585
Less accumulated depreciation	29,168,325	27,970,757
<b>Net Electric Plant</b>	<b>\$52,532,463</b>	<b>\$48,144,828</b>

#### Other Property and Investments

Investments in associated companies	\$21,609,313	\$20,708,297
Special funds - revenue deferral	1,907,466	900,000
Economic development investments	765,926	759,561
Other investments	2,249,055	2,126,055
Goodwill, net of accumulated amortization	796,495	910,280
Non-utility property and goodwill, net	872,197	870,676
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$28,200,452</b>	<b>\$26,274,869</b>

#### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,844,225	\$1,994,880
Accounts receivable, net	3,062,732	3,093,352
Materials and supplies	1,411,286	1,915,788
Prepayments	271,102	224,234
Interest receivable	12,411	6,401
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$6,601,756</b>	<b>\$7,234,655</b>

#### Deferred Debits

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$88,539,381</b>	<b>\$82,382,528</b>
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### Equities and Liabilities

#### Equities

Patronage capital (capital credits)	\$40,856,260	\$40,744,155
Other equities	7,441,435	6,482,038
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>\$48,297,695</b>	<b>\$47,226,193</b>

**Long-term Debt, net current portion** \$29,280,513 \$26,355,623

#### Current Liabilities

Current maturities of long-term debt	\$1,720,119	\$1,561,290
Line of credit	1,000,000	800,000
Accounts payable	4,966,155	3,651,437
Other current liabilities	759,899	735,756
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$8,446,173</b>	<b>\$6,748,483</b>

#### Deferred Credits

<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$88,539,381</b>	<b>\$82,382,528</b>
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Brady Martz audited the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2023 and 2024 in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and government audit standards issued by the U.S. Comptroller General.



# Statement of Operations

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$38,782,846	\$39,306,361
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Cost of purchased power	\$30,451,741	\$31,403,520
Distribution - operations	1,351,530	1,223,464
Distribution - maintenance	1,072,849	1,220,510
Customer accounts	394,523	384,982
Customer service and informational	488,726	468,700
Administrative and general	1,231,402	1,237,056
Depreciation and amortization	2,122,338	2,133,450
Interest	916,040	826,227
Other	22,109	21,539
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,051,258</b>	<b>\$38,919,448</b>
<b>Operating Margins</b>	<b>\$731,588</b>	<b>\$386,913</b>
<b>G&amp;T and Other Capital Credits</b>	<b>1,308,738</b>	<b>1,821,733</b>
<b>Nonoperating Margins</b>	<b>259,403</b>	<b>802,400</b>
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$2,299,729</b>	<b>\$3,011,046</b>

**Breakdown of how**  
**\$100**  
**spent**

\$80 goes to wholesale power costs

\$6 operations/maintenance

\$6 depreciation

\$3 administration/general

\$3 member accounts/services

\$2 interest

**1,674**

**broadband accounts**



**\$1,280,810**

**in capital**

**credits**

**returned**

**1,255 kWh**

**average  
residential  
electricity  
use**



## 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 drop box
5. Jackson office
6. Credit card
7. Welcome State Bank
8. Use Post Office stamp



## Sign up for outage text notifications

Call the office during business hours or go to our website: [federatedrea.coop](http://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

**January 17, 2025**

A special meeting of the Nominating Committee of Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at 1 p.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Jackson office.

Members of the committee who participated were: Marlys Runge for District 1; Thomas Cunningham for District 2; Paul Nelson for District 4; John Garbers for District 5; and Timothy Mailahn for District at Large. Federated's General Manager Scott Reimer participated, as well as Federated's Attorney Brad Anderson.

Chair Timothy Mailahn called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

General Manager Scott Reimer reviewed with the committee the purpose of the special meeting being selection of a pool of candidates to fill a one-year term until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting when the District 2 Director will be on the ballot to fulfill the term of recently retired District 2 Director Darvin Voss. District 2 Nominator Thomas Cunningham brought before the committee, five names:

- Eric Post
- Troy Post
- Melissa Ackerman
- Trevor Wintz
- Scott McClure

A motion was made by Garbers and second by Nelson to instruct Mr. Cunningham to contact the five individuals to confirm they are indeed interested in being considered once they are aware of the requirements. If they are interested, they are to fill out and submit the information required and submit to Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham will present the candidates to the Nominating Committee at a meeting set for Thursday, January 23, 2025 at noon.

The committee will review the applicants and submit two or three candidates to the full Board at their January 30, 2025 regular meeting for appointment of a candidate to serve until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting.

In addition, a membership list for District 3 was given to each nominator with the intent of finding a candidate(s) to fill the vacant nominator position for District 3. If possible, a candidate for District 3 nominator will be presented to the Federated Board at their January 30, 2025 regular meeting for consideration and appointment.

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



**Federated's Nominating Committee develops a slate of candidates for positions on Federated's Board of Directors and next year's Nominating Committee. Seated: Secretary Marlys Runge, District One; Chairman Adam Weets, District Three; and Ron Fowler, District Six. Standing: Thomas Cunningham, District Two; Paul Nelson, District 4; John T. Garbers, District Five; and Tim Mailahn, District At Large. (See Page 7 for the District map.)**

tive director.

To aid in their search for candidates, the committee was provided a copy of the Articles and Bylaws, a copy of the district map, a script of job duties, responsibilities, including time required for the offices of director and nominator.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

**January 23, 2025**

A special meeting of the Nominating Committee of Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 12 p.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Jackson office. There was also a zoom link set up.

Members of the committee who participated were: Marlys Runge for District 1; Thomas Cunningham for District 2; Paul Nelson for District 4; John Garbers for District 5; Ron Fowler for District 6; Timothy Mailahn for District at Large; and Federated's Attorney Brad Anderson. Federated's General Manager Scott Reimer participated remotely via Zoom.

Chair Timothy Mailahn called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

Motion by Cunningham, second by Garbers to approve the agenda as presented.

General Manager Scott Reimer reviewed with the committee the purpose of the special meeting being selection of a pool of candidates to fill a one-year term until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting when the District 2 Director will be on the ballot (to fulfill the term of recently retired District 2 Director Darvin Voss) and to nominate District 3 Nominator (to fill the open seat recently occupied by Tyler Ayers until he became a Director on January 1, 2025) until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting.

District 2 Nominator Thomas Cunningham brought before the committee, five names:

- Eric Post
- Troy Post
- Melissa Ackerman
- Trevor Wintz
- Scott McClure

A motion was made by Garbers, second by Nelson to approve the slate of candidates to be further vetted and presented to the Federated Board for District 2 Director on January 30, 2025.

1. Melissa Ackerman
2. Troy Post



# during the cooperative's Annual Meeting August 5

Nominations for District 3 Nominator were presented to fill the open seat until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting. No names were brought forward so this discussion was tabled.

Dates for regular nominating committee meetings were discussed and set as:

- Monday, March 3, at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, March 27, at 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 8, time to be determined as third meeting may not be needed.

Other business, Nominating Committee agreed to review minutes from January 17, 2025 and January 23, 2025 special meetings and approve them today.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Fowler, second by Runge, and carried to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

## March 3, 2025

A meeting of the Nominating Committee of Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Jackson office.

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 Timothy Mailahn for District at Large. Federated's General Manager Scott Reimer participated, as well as Federated's Attorney Brad Anderson.

Motion by Runge, second by Mailahn, to approve the agenda as presented.

The 2024 Chair Timothy Mailahn called the meeting to order. The business of election of chair and recording secretary for 2025 came before the committee. Timothy Mailahn nominated Adam Weets who was appointed as Chair and John Garber nominated Marlys Runge who was appointed Recording Secretary. All aye.

General Manager Scott Reimer reviewed with the committee the most recent financial highlights and what is new at Federated. He went through the most recent financial, January form 7 and they talked about the audit with Brady Martz. The electric and broadband budget and current state of the co-op was reviewed: Green Plains, rates, Cost-of-Service Study, building remodel, district map, connections, OT and Finley engagement on the Broadband master plan, and questions from the group were discussed. Our substations and the fact that seven of them have been identified by GRE as possible targets to be deenergized in the event of a MISO generation critical event. The likelihood is somewhat slim,

but it is possible. Our load management efforts, which could be used as a partial mitigation effort, were also talked about.

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. A survey will be presented at the next meeting regarding compensation. We will have to resurrect the survey from last year and update, securing candidates for director and nominator positions.

To aid in their search for candidates, the committee was provided 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 a bound 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 27 at 11 a.m.

## Board of Director Candidates

Two nominees from District Two for a one-year term. Troy Post will serve until the August 5, 2025 Annual Meeting at which time an election will held to elect a candidate to complete the balance of the four-year term, which is an additional one year.

Troy Post is the incumbent. A second candidate will be sought.

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

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

## Nominator Candidates

Two nominees from District At-Large. Tim Mailahn's term is up and has indicated that he plans to move from the district so this can occur now or after the annual meeting if Tim is still available. Need two

candidates if possible for Tim's District at Large Nominator position.

Tim Mailahn is the incumbent and has agreed to contact Ron Mauer as a candidate.

A second candidate will be sought.

Two nominees from District 3 for a one-year term. Adam Weets was selected to serve until the August 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at which time an election will be held to elect a candidate to complete the balance of the four-year term, which is an additional one year.

Adam Weets is the incumbent. A second candidate will be sought.

## Trust Board Director Candidates

One nominee from District Five: Stewart Smart is eligible for a second term. No other candidate will be sought, and Stewart will be recommended to the Board.

One nominee from District Six: Jessica Sauck eligible for a second term

No other candidate will be sought, and Sauck will be recommended to the board.

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

## Future Meeting Dates

March 27, 2025 at 11 a.m. with Subway lunch at noon second regular Nominating Committee Meeting. April 8, 2025 at 8 a.m. third regular Nominating Committee Meeting, only if needed

## Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Garbers, second by Runge, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned. Lunch at Pizza Ranch.

## March 27, 2025

A meeting of the Nominating Committee of the Federated Rural Electric Association, Jackson, Minnesota, was called to order at 11 a.m. March 27, 2025. The meeting was held at the Jackson office.

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 Timothy Mailahn, 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 3, 2025, meeting of the Nominating Committee.

The 2025 Chair Adam Weets called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting was to complete the nomination — **Continued on Page 12**

# The Nominating Committee proposes to increase the directors' compensation

— Continued from Page 11

of Director candidates for District Two, District Five, and District Six; and complete nominations for Nominator candidates for District Three and District At Large to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting of the Federated Rural Electric Association currently set for Tuesday, August 5, 2025. In addition, the committee will submit nominations/recommendations for the Federated Rural Electric Trust Board for District Five and District Six. These recommendations will be submitted to Federated REA's Electric Board of Directors for approval.

After due consideration, motion made, second, and carried nominating the following candidates for directorship of District(s) below:

District Two (1-year term): Troy Post

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

District Five (4-year term): David

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

## Director compensation has not changed since 2021.

Meschke

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

District Six (4-year term): Bruce Brockmann

After due consideration, motion made, second, and carried nominating the following candidate(s) for nominatorship of:

District Three (1-year term): Adam Weets

After due consideration, motion made, second and carried nominating the following candidate(s) for nominatorship of:

District At Large (4-year term): Ron

Maurer

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 Five (4-year term): John Borchardt

District Six (4-year term): Jessica Sauck

At the March 3, 2025 Nominating Committee meeting, the committee reviewed the 2025 updated Director Compensation Survey, with final review to be discussed at the second meeting. After further review at this second meeting, motion made, second and carried to increase directors' compensation to the amounts in the chart above.

Motion made, second and carried to approve the minutes of this March 27, 2025 Nominating Committee Meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made, second and carried to adjourn. ☺



2025  
**BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS**  
AS A MEMBER, I VOTE FOR:

**District Two** — VOTE FOR ONE  
1-YEAR TERM — 2025 to 2026

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Troy Post</b> Brewster, MN	Nominated by Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>		

**District Four** — VOTE FOR ONE  
4-YEAR TERM — 2026 to 2029

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>David Meschke</b> Welcome, MN	Nominated by Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>		

**District Five** — VOTE FOR ONE  
4-YEAR TERM — 2026 to 2029

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Bruce Brockmann</b> Granada, MN	Nominated by Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>		

2025  
**BALLOT FOR NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE**  
AS A MEMBER, I VOTE FOR:

**District Five** — VOTE FOR ONE  
1-YEAR TERM — 2025 to 2026

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Adam Weets</b> Jackson, MN	Nominated by Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>		

**District At-Large** — VOTE FOR ONE  
4-YEAR TERM — 2025 to 2029

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ron Maurer</b> Windom, MN	Nominated by Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>		

I approve the minutes of the August 1,  
2024 Annual Meeting (printed in July  
Connections newsletter)  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Your ballots should arrive around July  
1 in the mail. Return it by August 1 to be  
entered for seven \$90 electric bill cred-  
its drawing. See Page 16 for details.

**SAMPLE**



Visit with Dan Howard from Heartland Security at our Annual Meeting August 5. 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. ☺



## Chat with Carr's Tree Service at Annual Meeting booth



Are tree branches growing into Federated's power lines? Visit with Carr's Tree Service during the Annual Meeting August 5. Learn how close is too close and could cause outages. Federated contracts with Carr's to do its tree trimming. In addition, if you have trees on your property that need trimming, you may hire Carr's. ☎

## T-shirts for the 4-Hers and the screened adult leaders given at both county fairs



T-shirt time! This summer Federated is handing out corn silk yellow T-shirts to 4-H members and screened adult leaders with the slogan of "Shine on!" Jackson County 4-Hers: pick up your shirts on July 28 from 2-6 p.m.; wear them for General Project Reveal July 29 or the livestock auction August 2 for a green surprise! Martin County 4-Hers: pick up your shirts on entry day August 11 from 3-7 p.m. Wear this shirt for the livestock auction August 15 and receive a green surprise! Pictured is a Martin County 4-H family picking up their shirts last year from Director Scott Thiesse and his wife Flora. ☎

## Talk to us! 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, August 5 at our Annual Meeting booth from 4:30-6:15 p.m. ☎



Great River Energy (GRE), Federated's major transmission provider, will lead a project to build a 765 kilovolt (kV) transmission backbone that will move power from generators across the Midwest to be used in our local communities. The 765-kV line will run approximately 80 miles in eastern South Dakota and then run approximately 400 miles across southern Minnesota, continuing into Wisconsin and Iowa. GRE representatives will be available at the Annual Meeting to answer questions about this project, which will ensure that Minnesotans have access to affordable, reliable and carbon-free power generation. ☎

# Reflect on eras that made

## 1935-45: REA — the beginning of a brighter countryside

December 17, 1935 — Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws signed.  
1935-1938 — Federated shared an office with Federated Cooperative Oil Association.

1936 — Federated's first general manager, Paul Ferguson, hired.

April 2, 1936 — Federated applies to the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) for its first construction loan of \$50,000. The co-op had 592 stockholders.

October 8, 1936 — A groundbreaking ceremony marked the first line construction near Lakefield.

March 7, 1937 — The first section of line was energized from Lakefield to Round Lake.

1938 — An office was rented at 607½ Second St., Jackson.

April 16, 1940 — Open House occurred for Federated's new



**Sherman Street office**

headquarters at 310 Sherman St., Jackson. It was built for \$8,000.

December 2, 1941 — Purchased Martin

County Electric Company for \$65,000, which connected Jackson and Martin Counties.

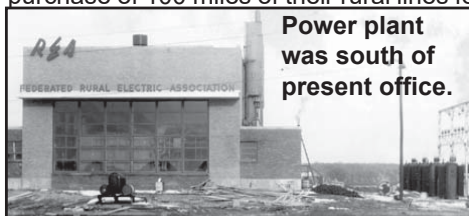
1940s — World War II causes a shortage of manpower. Work orders were approved on an animal unit basis for limited line construction.

## 1946-1955: Electricity use jumps so power plant built

1946-1947 — New service applications pour in. Electricity use skyrockets. Notices were mailed to members warning them their power would be turned off during certain periods due to the lack of power. No new members were connected. The Board pursues contract negotiations for more power sources.

May 17, 1946 — Board approves applying for an REA loan to purchase the Wilder Electric Cooperative for \$5,000.

November 14, 1946 — The City of Fairmont approved Federated's purchase of 100 miles of their rural lines for \$65,000 and to supply



**Power plant was south of present office.**

power.

December 10, 1948 — Federated requests a \$1.08 million loan to build a power plant.

1950 — Federated's warehouse and

garage were built near the power plant for co-op vehicles and supplies.

July, 1950 — Federated's three Nordberg Duafuel engines drive 1230 net kilowatt Elliot generators generate electricity.

July 1, 1954 — Federated receives a letter from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (now the Western Area Power Administration) for its initial allotment of hydropower.

## 1956-1965: Building the system with power resources

July 31, 1956 — Cooperative Power (CP), Federated's power supplier, was incorporated.

November 1, 1956 — Federated joins CP and buys power on behalf of Federated as a "paper co-op" since it doesn't own a power plant.

1957 — Federated received an REA award for "Most efficiently operated of all REA internal combustion plants."

June 1953 — Federated is featured in Diesel and Gas Turbine Progress, an industry publication for its experienced operators and

efficient plant operation.

October 12, 1961 — Federated's Board of Directors approves paying the first capital credits totaling \$12,604.40 from 1941 patronage.

## 1966-1975: Growing pains eased with office, power plant

March 14, 1968 — Approved first underground line construction; it was called "experimental". A contractor was hired to plow in the cable.

1969 — The Rural Electrification Administration instructs Federated to compare costs of building a new headquarters vs. remodeling the power plant and selling the downtown office.

September 19, 1970 — Members attended an Open House at Federated's new headquarters located about one mile south of Jackson. The building cost about \$252,000.

1973 — Hired an engineer that would be shared by four co-ops. This was the first shared employee.

1973 — First all-electric grain dryer installed on Federated's system.

1974 — Planning begins for the construction of the Coal Creek Power Plant near Bismarck, North Dakota, and for the direct current (DC) transmission line to deliver the power to Minnesota customers.

January 10-12, 1975 — This "Superbowl" blizzard caused more outage hours (39,930) than one average year's worth of outages.

## 1976-1985: Energy crisis prompts conservation efforts

Mid-1970s — Controversy arises on the DC power line construction build from Coal Creek. Energy crisis hits.

January 4, 1977 — A resolution is mailed to members advising of a possible power shortage for Fall 1978 if DC power line construction was halted. Conservation was encouraged.

October 11, 1977 — Federated's Board passed a resolution to promote conservation and energy efficiency.

December 8, 1977 — The Energy Alert Program was introduced at the Annual Meeting asking members to curtail energy use during peak periods.

1979 — The first unit at Coal Creek power plant comes online.

January 25, 1979 — Federated's directors approved hiring a full-time employee to work with the membership on conservation and efficient use of energy.

1980 — Dual heat program is born.

1981 — The second unit of Coal Creek power plant comes on-line.

September 30, 1982 — First three-day tour of Coal Creek occur for members to visit the power plant in North Dakota.

1983 — Federated installs first radio receivers on water heaters.

1984 — Federated adds a program to install/maintain water heaters.

## 1986-1995: Customer service expands to money-saving programs, TV

Mid-1980s — Due to farm crisis, Federated approves an economic development loan program.

1988 — Federated offers Rural TV for satellite dish owners.

1989 — Federated adds the storage water heating program.

1990 — Federated starts the Cycled Air conditioning program

October 1992 — Federated and three co-ops buy the financially-troubled Watonwan Television Improvement Assn. Cooperative Television of Southern Minnesota (CTV) operates the Godahl tower.

May 1994 — A new grant and loan program from Federated's power supplier helps members switch to energy-efficient lights, motors and equipment.

September 1994 — The members participating in Operation Round Up see their electric bills rounded up with the spare change going to local projects.



# Federated 90 years strong

December 1994 — The first generator is hooked up under Federated's new interruptible rate program.

April 1995 — CTV construction is completed for new UHF towers in Jackson and Frost, expanding its coverage area.

## **1996-2005: Teams up with other co-ops & subsidiaries**

January 1996 — Cooperative Alliance Partners (CAP) formed. CAP is four neighboring electric cooperatives (Brown County REA, Sleepy Eye; Federated, Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington; and South Central Electric Association, St. James) working together to serve members more efficiently and cost-effectively.

June 1996 — CTV offers six UHF scrambled TV channels, called CTV Plus, to subscribers from the Godahl tower.

April 1997 — Members have different options for paying their bill: Auto Pay, Even Pay and by credit card.

July 1997 — Federated offers two-way communications to members with Alpha Wireless.

August 1997 — *Connections*, a 16-page two-color newsletter, is formed with three other electric co-ops (Brown County Rural Electric Association, South Central Electric and Nobles Cooperative Electric). This award-winning publication lasts through December 2008.

March 1998 — Federated and nearly 500 other cooperatives endorse Touchstone Energy as the national brand.

July 1998 — Federated puts its first website online and upgrades its office network and server.

January 1, 1999 — Cooperative Power and United Power Association consolidate, becoming Great River Energy, one of Federated's wholesale power suppliers.

March 1999 — Federated partnered with eight other electric cooperatives to form Heartland Security Services.

March 1999 — Changed the electric bill style from a carbon printed bill to laser-printed bill with yellow reuseable envelope to save costs on monthly bills and provide better quality.

June 2000 — Federated joins six other electric co-ops to become part owner of Karian-Peterson, a power line construction contractor, and Carr's Tree Trimming Service.

November 2000 — Federated offers CommLink, a long-distance telephone service, to members.

June 2001 — Federated and Nobles Cooperative Electric share general manager.

September 2002 — Installed ground-source heat pump to replace 1970 office heating/cooling equipment.

November 1, 2002 — A substation for Cenex Harvest States is built near Fairmont. This largest single load, CHS soybean crushing plant near Fairmont, starts producing in 2003.

January 2003 — Received a \$15,000 grant from the state of Minnesota to work toward a paperless filing system using digital storage on DVDs, saving paper, money and time.

February 2003 — Energy Star Appliance rebates offered.

June 27, 2003 — Awarded a \$500,000 USDA Renewable Energy grant to build a wind turbine in service territory.

July 2003 — Federated installs its 100<sup>th</sup> genset.

2005 — Received \$2.5 million Clean Renewable Energy Bond to finance Federated's Welcome Wind Turbine.

July 2005 — Federated offers high-speed satellite Internet to members with WildBlue. First customers activated.

## **2006-2015: Growth continues with ethanol plants**

March 2006 — Heron Lake BioEnergy substation built.

November 2007 — Buffalo Lake and VeraSun substations built.

January 2008 — Federated sells CFLs to promote energy savings.

July 22, 2008 — Federated wind turbine commissioned.

October 2008 — Federated breaks ground on warehouse addition.

November 1, 2008 — Federated adds third power supplier: Basin Electric/L&O.

January 2009 — *Connections* becomes an 8-page, full-color member newsletter serving Federated and two other co-ops' members.

February 2009 — Easy 2 Pay program introduced with online bill presentation, payments and online meter reading.

August 2010 — First AMR meters installed on seasonal accounts, City of Welcome and co-op-read accounts.

January 2011 — Federated adds Wisconsin Substation to its system. It was bought from the City of Jackson to serve members.

July 2011 — Federated installs Outage Management System.

October 2011 — Federated constructs new rainwater drainage system for grounds.

November 2011 — Federated lays underground loops for a ground-source heat pump system for its Jackson warehouses.

December 22, 2011 — The last main AMR meter is installed.

April 2012 — Exede Satellite Internet offered to members.

June 2012 — Federated presents \$740,000 USDA economic development loan to AGCO of Jackson.

October 2012 — New ground-source heat pump for warehouses.

2013 — Federated adds an Outage Management System, which displays outages on a computer in the office automatically.

2014 — Federated begins to switch to digital maps.

## **2015-Present: Continuing into the future...**

May 2015 — Federated, as part of Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) purchases Alliant territory. Federated begins serving the towns of Heron Lake, Okabena, Sherburn, Northrop and Granada and their 1,700 member-owners.

September 2016 — Federated serves Dundee and Kinbrae.

May 2017 — Federated unveils smartphone app, which members can use to pay their bills.

November 2017 — First public Tesla electric vehicle charger installed on system.

April 2018 — Upgraded Jackson office to LED lighting

December 2018 — Conversion process begins for second generation of radio controls (Sensus brand).

January 2021 — Electric vehicle time-of-use rate added.

November 2021 — Federated Board authorizes purchase of Back 40 Wireless internet company bringing on three new employees in January with the goal of bringing fiber internet to rural areas.

Fall 2022 — Fiber added in Ceylon, thanks to city's grant.


February 22, 2023 — 100 Dunnell electric customers become co-op members.

June 28, 2023 — Broadband awarded \$7 million grant to add fiber for 480 households in Jackson County. Fiber installed in 2024-25.

December 2023 — Fiber added for 71 customers in Northrop.

October 9, 2024 — Broadband awarded \$8 million grant to add 457 households in Martin County. Fiber construction occurs 2025-26.

April 2025 — Operation Round Up tops \$1 million milestone of funds and scholarships returned to area.

2025 — Federated exploring options for office remodel for added Broadband employees. 



## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting Agenda

**Martin County Fairgrounds, 1300 N Bixby Rd, Fairmont, MN**

<b>Pancake supper in the Arena</b> .....	4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
<b>Registration</b> .....	4:30-6:15 p.m.
<b>Kiddie Karnival</b> (Prairie Ecology Bus insect displays, face painting by the Jackson Center for the Arts, toy prize drawing, pick up kids' hard hat).....	4:30-6:15 p.m.
<b>Federated Facetime</b> (visit booths for water heaters, Broadband, CTV antenna installer, Carr's Tree Service, Heartland Security & Great River Energy on the 765 kV transmission line) .....	4:30-6:15 p.m.
<b>Dueling Pianos entertainment</b> .....	4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
<b>Award seven \$90 bill credit prizes from mailed ballots</b> .....	6:20 p.m.
<b>Call to order of the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting</b> .....	6:30 p.m. Fairmont Arena
<b>Determination of quorum</b> .....	David Meschke, President
<b>Reading of the notice of meeting</b> .....	Brad Anderson, Attorney
<b>Approval of previous meeting minutes (by ballot)</b> ....	David Meschke, President
<b>Drawing for Children's Door Prizes</b> .....	David Meschke, President
<b>Introduction of Nominating Committee</b> .....	David Meschke, President
<b>Nominating Committee Report</b> .....	Adam Weets, Chairman
<b>Continuing Co-op Conversations</b> .....	David Meschke, President & Scott Reimer, General Manager
<b>Financial Report</b> .....	Julie Resch, Office Manager/CFO
<b>Unfinished Business</b> .....	David Meschke, President
<b>New Business</b> .....	David Meschke, President
<b>Report of Election Tellers</b> .....	Adam Weets, Chairman
<b>Adjournment of Meeting</b> .....	David Meschke
<b>Award seven \$90 bill credits (must be present to win)</b> .....	Andrea Christoffer, Marketing & Communications Manager

## Kids: 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. (C)



Official monthly newsletter  
77100 US Hwy 71, PO Box 69  
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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 last business day of the month at 8 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

## Win 14 \$90 Annual Meeting bill credits



Will you win one of the \$90 bill credits? Seven will be awarded to those who cast their votes by mail. Ballots are mailed around July 1 and must be received by mail or dropped off at our Jackson office by August 1 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, Federated will award seven more \$90 electric bill credits to Federated member-owners at the end of the meeting. Must be present to win those last seven. (C)