

Connections

October 2026

For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric & Broadband



Volume 30, Issue 10

Prizes awarded at September 10 Annual Meeting

Congratulations to these Federated members who attended the Annual Meeting and won door prizes.

1. Trip for two on 2027 Basin Tour (no substitutions): Foul-Air Acres Inc, c/o Ron Fowler, Truman.

2. 50" Hisense UHD 4K Roku TV: Willis Hinkeldey, Windom.

3. Pedestal tabletop electric grill: Julie Hill, Fairmont.

4. Black & Decker 50-foot long extension cord with reel: Heather Fulfs, Sherburn.

5. Steelite LED rechargeable tripod light with stand: Glenn Moeller, Fairmont.

6. \$100 Round Lake Vineyards & Winery restaurant gift card: David Bulfer, Fairmont.

7. \$100 Hi-Lo Club restaurant, Lakefield, gift card: Gregor Borowski, Fairmont.

8. \$100 Bergen Bar & Grill gift certificate: Victor Abelson, Jr., Welcome.

9. \$100 Bergen Meats gift certificate: J Clifford Johnson, Lakefield.

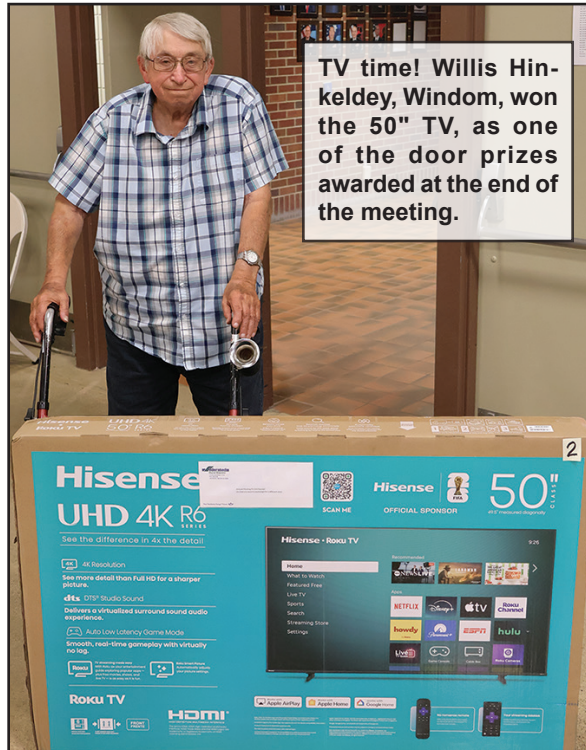
10. \$100 Welcome Meats gift certificate: Curtis Baumgard, Brewster.

11. \$100 Horse Barn & Hunt Club, Lakefield: gift certificate: St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lakefield.

12. \$100 Sherburn Nursery & Floral gift card: Leilani Boosinger, Dunnell.

13. \$100 Sherburn Liquor Store/Red Carpet Lounge gift card: Timothy Rossow, Lakefield.

14. \$100 Tami's on the Avenue, Fairmont, gift card: David Pomerence, Okabena.



15. \$100 Smokin' Java, Jackson, gift certificate: William Tusa, Jackson.

16. \$100 Sherburn Legion gift certificate: Darren Johnson, Jackson.

17. \$100 The Still Bar & Grill, Dunnell, gift certificate: Clarence Maday, Sherburn.

18. Loc N Go electric tabletop grill: Nancy Garrison, Truman.

19. \$50 Casey's gift card: Richard Perrine, Sherburn.

20. 22-watt LED bulb (for garage/machine shed): Lisa Hartke, Sherburn.

21. 22-watt LED bulb (for garage/machine shed): Rex Wohlhuter, Sherburn.

22. Federated bag w/solar/crank flashlight/radio: Dale Koster, Round Lake.

23. Federated bag w/solar/crank flashlight/radio: Elwin Turner, Sherburn.

24. Federated Broadband TV snack pack bowl gift set: Timothy Bachenberg, Windom.

25. Federated Broadband cleaning supplies & pail gift set: Alan Swanson, Sherburn.

26. Mum stage plant: Kyle Steffen, Sherburn.

27. Mum stage plant: Donald Vrchota, Lakefield.

Winning the three \$100 bill credits for voting by mail by September 9 were:

1. Curt Anderson, Paullina, Iowa

2. Roger Miedtke, Fairmont

3. Lisa N. Rienhardt, Sherburn

Turn to Pages 4-5 for more photos and highlights from the 2026 Annual Meeting. (5)

At A Glance



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

October is Cooperative Month! We tip our hard hat saluting you, our member-owners this month!

We are proud to be an electric cooperative. We are local, democratically controlled with each member having a vote to elect other members to represent you on the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. See Page 4 for latest voting results. (5)

Energy Wise

Shop at the cooperative's store to score energy-efficiency savings on LED lighting promo & weatherization products in October

"Fall" in love with this new online shopping opportunity for electric cooperative members. Rake up energy-efficiency savings with these energy-wise products for your home.

This website is offered by Great River Energy, Federated's wholesale power supplier and transmission line provider. The site features energy-efficiency products, ranging from LED light bulbs, weatherization products, electric vehicle chargers and smart thermostats. This cooperative store combines manufacturer discounts, along with instant cooperative rebates, to create the attractive pricing. Federated can then claim these energy-efficiency savings with the state of Minnesota, just like the rebates the cooperative offers.

Each month features a different promotion and added savings. For October co-op member-owners can save with two promotions:

1. Buy four LED light bulbs and receive four FREE LED light bulbs.
2. 25 percent off all Simply Conserve weatherization products.

These two incentives are valid through November 2, 2026 or while supplies last.

Other items that can be found online are water-saving devices, like faucet aerators, shower heads, garden nozzle hoses and a garden moisture monitor. You'll also find advanced power strips and air quality devices.

Go to www.EnergyWiseMN.com website for the online store. Be sure to bookmark this website too and check back monthly to grab the monthly promotion.

Shipping costs are a \$5 flat fee for orders under \$35. Free shipping exists for orders more than \$35. 

BUY FOUR, GET FOUR

Light up the night for less. New members can get a **free four-pack of Simply Conserve® LEDs** when you buy a four-pack.



ENERGY WISE  MN

* Offer valid through Nov. 2, 2026, or while supplies last. Discount, taxes and shipping applied at checkout. Additional terms apply. Please see website for details.
 072-3780-06-062026

Shop now
energywisemnstore.com/shop-all/leds



Shop from the comfort of your cozy couch for energy-efficiency items. Use the QR code to shop from your phone or go to www.EnergyWiseMN.com. You'll love the near manufacturer pricing with automatic rebates on top! Check out these two October promotions on LED light bulbs and weatherization products. Go back in November to explore the Smart Thermostat special pricing too!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DEFEAT THE DRAFTS.

Save 25% on Simply Conserve® Weatherization Products*

Last year, you promised yourself you'd winter-proof those drafty doors and windows. Is that still on your to-do list? Now members can **save 25% on Simply Conserve weatherization products** for windows, doors, and more.

* Simply Conserve offers valid through Nov. 2, 2026, or while supplies last. Discount, taxes and shipping applied at checkout. Additional terms apply. Please see website for details.

ENERGY WISE  MN



Shop now:
energywisemnstore.com/weatherization



072-3448-06-042026

We hope you fall in love with these products to save on your energy bills.

See the light for new spin on washing machines

Who needs hot water for clean laundry? Whirlpool now offers an ultraviolet (UV) light washing machine that reduces bacteria on clothing without the need to use extremely hot water that fades fabrics.

Imagine tackling the sweaty socks and workout clothes with this new technology. The bright blue LED light turns on inside the washer drum during the wash cycle. The UV light is located below the washer drum to treat the water, while avoiding direct exposure to the skin and eyes for safety. The UV Clean cycle turns on for the duration of the wash and does not add additional time to the existing wash cycle. Users are encouraged to still use detergent to remove dirt and stains from the clothing.



These washing machines are sold as a single-unit front-load laundry tower (washer and dryer). The washer is 4.5 cubic feet and the dryer is 7.4 cubic feet. Plus, this size is designed for a 33" closet depth and is nearly 28" wide.

This Energy Star unit comes in white or silver finish. The unit's sensors detect the load size, fabric type and adjust for ideal cleaning performance with the Intelligent Wash.

The manufacturer's suggested pricing runs around \$1,889. Choose from a gas or electric dryer. Visit the Whirlpool website or your local dealer for more information. 

You will be a fan of the new ultraviolet (UV) light washing machine from Whirlpool. Give it a spin for fighting bacteria during the wash cycle.

Safety

Small battery habits lead to big safety benefits

Battery-powered devices are part of everyday life — from phones and laptops to power tools, toys, e-bikes and lawn equipment. Many of these products use lithium-ion batteries, which are rechargeable and convenient, but can pose a fire risk if they are damaged, charged incorrectly or thrown away improperly.

A few simple habits can help keep your home and family safe:

- Use only the battery and charger recommended by the manufacturer.
- Charge devices on a hard, flat surface away from any bedding, paper, clothing or other materials that can burn.
- Do not charge or use a battery that has been dropped, crushed, punctured, exposed to water, swollen, leaking, smoking or overheating.
- Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, heaters and hot vehicles.
- Keep loose batteries in their original packaging or a



Do not charge or use a battery that has been dropped, crushed, punctured, exposed to water, swollen, leaking, smoking or overheating.



Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, heaters and hot vehicles.



Never place lithium-ion batteries in household trash or regular recycling bins. Take them to an approved battery recycling or household hazardous waste collection site.

protective case so the terminals do not touch metal objects.

- Never place lithium-ion batteries in household trash or regular recycling bins. Take them to an approved battery recycling or household hazardous waste collection site.

If you notice that a battery-powered device smells odd, makes unusual noises, changes shape, smokes or catches fire, stop using it immediately. If there is smoke or fire, leave the area and call 911.

Recycle before you toss

Lithium-ion batteries should be recycled properly to help

prevent fires in garbage trucks, recycling facilities and landfills. Before recycling loose batteries, cover the terminals with electrical tape or place each battery in its own plastic bag.

Safe charging, smart storage and responsible recycling are small steps that can make a big difference in keeping homes and communities safe. 

Federated Focus

91st Annual Meeting election results announced



Federated received 879 ballots by mail and 54 members registered onsite to vote.

- Members re-elected Glenn Dicks, Lakefield, as the District 1 director; and Troy Post, Brewster, as the District 2 director.

- Members elected Nominating Committee representatives: Adam Weets, Alpha, for District Three; and Jimmy Amundson, Jackson, for District Four.

- Members also passed the Bylaws amendment allowing the Nominating Committee to serve two consecutive four year-terms (863 voted yes to 30 no).

Thanks to all who voted either by mail or in person.

Continuity of electric service posted annually



Federated will endeavor to provide continuous service, but does not guarantee an uninterrupted or undisturbed supply of electric service. The Cooperative will not be responsible for any loss or damage resulting from the interruption or disturbance of service for any cause other than gross negligence of the Cooperative. The Cooperative reserves the right without previously notifying the member to temporarily interrupt service for construction, inspection, repairs, emergency operations, shortages in power supply, safety and state or national emergencies. The Cooperative will not be liable in any event for any loss of profits or other consequential damages resulting from the use of service or any interruption or disturbance of service. (U)



Scott Reimer

Manager's Message

Highlights from Annual Meeting Q & A forum

I thought all members might be interested in some of the discussion from the Annual Meeting during our question-and-answer session. I'm sharing some of the topics discussed below.

765 kV transmission line & data center prompt questions

We understand how important a stable electric grid is and equally we understand the importance of landowner rights. This is going to be a big deal as it comes closer to construction time and there is no way it's going to make everyone happy. The risk we all face is the energy future. What will that look like? Fortunately, blackouts haven't occurred here for our area, but without careful planning, it could happen. The grid is tied together through multiple regional transmission organizations to transport electricity in multiple directions. This 765 kV line affects a lot of landowners. We certainly have empathy for those affected. The biggest thing you can do as a concerned landowner is to go to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website and put your comments in writing. Make sure your voices are heard. Nominating Committee Chair Adam Weets made a statement, "when you leave here tonight and don't do anything, you shouldn't say anything." Truer words have never been spoken!

Data centers should not impact legacy rates Board President David Meschke said as he addressed a question about those rates. "Data centers pay for the cost of new power under their own new rate based on market conditions — the existing cooperative members do not pay for that. We protect our legacy members' rates."

Line construction highlights this year

We stretched out our four-year workplan for line construction and maintenance to six years to make it more affordable. We continue to focus on the worst first, which takes into account aged-underground cable and hardening of the system. This fall we will be starting on the replacement of 5,000 Sensus electric meters, as the original ones are nearing their end-of-life and are failing.

Co-op received clean auditor's report & update on capital credits

The financial report given at the Annual Meeting by Office Manager Julie Resch focused on a new billing/financial software upgrade that's underway and she commented on the cooperative's financial condition. "We received a clean audit the past two years," Resch said. "The investments with broadband, building upgrade and line upgrades mean that our 20-year capital credits retirement won't happen this year. We need to take a pause due to this high growth and hope to resume capital credits disbursement to our member-owners next year."

Office renovation update...the end is in sight!

September brought great progress on the office renovation. The painting is completed. The new cabinets are being installed throughout; the ceiling grid and permanent lighting are being installed. We are still on track for an October completion and moving back into our renovated offices as furniture is scheduled to arrive and begin set up November 2. I hope next month we can share our move-in date and when our office reopens to you, our member-owners.

What WindomNet (internet service) means to the electric members?

We are at the point with our WindomNet project where the city council approved the sale and it is now onto the Asset Purchase Agreement, which contains all of the details of the acquisition. It means that collectively, you are all part of a larger regional broadband system and the economies of scale apply. The regional system brings a higher level of reliability with multiple fiber rings for many options when fiber cuts occur. We have some of the best and brightest planners working towards a common goal. Ultimately, we would like to welcome the patrons of WindomNet into the Federated family and look forward to providing them with the same great products and services we provide to you now.

Have a safe harvest and a great fall; it is a pleasure to serve you. (U)

Food trucks, Q&A forum & fun prizes awarded at co-op's 91st Annual Meeting



Good eats were served from Gerhardt's Catering and Squealer's food trailers. Members enjoyed the choice of meal. Federated served 345 members meals.



Federated managers and board president answered questions on topics during the member forum. Discussion included the building renovation, fiber and line construction, along with the 765-kilovolt transmission line. See the Manager's column on Page 4.



Bingo! Members played for prizes during registration. Kathy Rademacher, Lakefield, selected her Bingo prize.



(Above:) Children could win prizes too! Pictured are two of the winners: Karmryn Bennet, age, 7, Bingham Lake; and Amber Schultes, 10, Jackson; with their Legos. Not pictured: Lainey Larson, age 4, Lakefield.



(Left:) Federated members could register onsite to vote. Plus, they picked up their food trailer meal tickets and the attendance gift of a portable power bank to recharge cell phones and other small devices. Customer Service Billing Representative Julie Edlin registers this member.

Thanks to all of the member-owners who attended Federated's 91st Annual Meeting. 📷

Federated offers two types of TV service: CTV UHF antenna or streaming packages with internet service

What's on TV tonight?
Federated offers two types of TV viewing services, depending on your budget and number of channels for viewing: CTV and Southwest Streaming TV through Federated Broadband. Let us explain both options in case you are looking to make a change.

CTV — the low-cost viewing option

CTV is a UHF channel TV service that requires a UHF antenna and offers about 60 channels. Buy and install an antenna yourself, use a window-mount TV antenna if close to a tower or hire Brandt Berkner (507-841-1169), a local installer who can install (or service) a UHF antenna on your roof.

Turn the antenna to pick up signal from the closest CTV tower at Jackson, Frost or Godahl. The Jackson and Frost towers have about a 30-mile coverage area and the Godahl tower is taller with a 45-mile radius coverage area. This service costs just \$8/month, but this over-the-air signal can be impacted by the summer atmospheric conditions, humidity and corn sweat, reducing the range, especially in July and August. If you watch CTV, kindly pay your fair share; the \$8 can be added to your monthly electric bill or can be billed annually for those who are not Federated electric customers. Visit www.CTV.coop with any questions.

Southwest Stream — internet

Southwest Stream is for Federated Broadband customers, whether fiber or line-of-sight towers. Enjoy a full cable TV experience with a streaming device like Roku, Android, IOS or compatible web browser. Choose from two different packages.

1. The Basic package starts at \$85 a month for 95-plus channels.
2. The Expanded Channels package offers 125 channels starting at \$95 a month.
3. Add the movie package for \$20 a month for Starz or Showtime.

Visit www.federatedbroadband.coop to see the channel listing. Click on "Services" and then on "Streaming TV." 

CTV UHF channels from 3 area towers

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2.1 TPT – Twin Cities PBS affiliate | 15-1 MovieSphere Gold (Godahl) |
| 2.2 TPT MN | 15-2 Defy TV (Godahl tower) |
| 2.3 TPT Life | 15-3 Outlaw (Godahl tower) |
| 2.4 TPT Kids | 15-4 Jewelry TV (Godahl tower) |
| 2.5 TPT NOW (Weather) | 15-5 Salem News (Godahl tower) |
| 4.1 WCCO – CBS (Jackson & Frost) | 15-6 Infomercials (Godahl tower) |
| 4.2 Start TV (only on Godahl Tower) | 15-7 365BLK (Godahl tower) |
| 4.3 dabl | 16.1 CTV local access channel |
| 4.4 Outlaw TV | 16.2 AMG TV |
| 4.5 K | 16.3 Right Now TV |
| 5.1 KSTP – Minneapolis ABC affiliate | 16.4 Biz TV |
| 5.2 Channel 45 | 16.5 Fun Roads |
| 5.3 MeTV – Television Classics | 18.1 Bloom T (Godahl tower) |
| 5.4 GreatTV – Television Classics | 23.1 The CW |
| 5.5 KSTCCam | 23.2 Comet |
| 5.6 Me Toons | 23.3 Charge! |
| 5.7 H&I | 23.4 ROAR |
| 5.8 IonPlus | 23.5 Rewind |
| 9.1 FOX 9 – Minneapolis FOX affiliate | 23.6 Antenna TV |
| 9.2 FOX 9+ – Minneapolis | 41.1 ION TV |
| 9.3 Movies! – Classic movies | 41.2 BOUNCE |
| 9.4 BUZZR – Old game shows | 41.3 GRIT |
| 9.5 QVC | 41.4 Mystery |
| 9.6 Catchy Comedy | 41.5 Laff |
| 9.7 Fox WX | 41.6 CourtTV |
| 9.8 Stories | 41.7 Busted |
| 9.9 Fox 9 | 41.8 QVC |
| 9.10 Fox9+ | 62.1 Daystar (Godahl & Jackson) |
| 11.1 KARE – Twin Cities NBC | 62.2 Latino (Godahl & Jackson) |
| 11.2 Quest | 62.3 Daystar Reflections (Godahl & Jackson) |
| 11.3 Crime | |
| 11.4 Shop LC | |
| 11.5 Nest | |
| 11.8 Home Shopping Network | |

Available from the Jackson, Frost or Godahl UHF towers. Clip and keep by your remote control.



Pay your fair share for CTV — only \$8/month

Yes, please add this CTV charge to my electric bill.

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Electric account # _____

Clip and return with your next bill payment or drop in our office drop box. Otherwise, e-mail billing@frea.coop.



Lick your lips! Pick favorite chicken recipes to share with us!

How do you like your chicken? Share your chicken recipes, whether baked, grilled, casserole, soup, wings or as chicken nuggets. Please send us chicken recipes that your family enjoys. Send to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by October 26. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 📞

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Federated is proud to bring electricity to our rural area starting 91 years ago and more recently fiber to our rural area! 📞

Home security to help protect what matters

Most home fires start without warning. Monitored smoke and heat sensors alert you instantly and can dispatch emergency response.

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heartlandss.com

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Call before digging:

1-800-252-1166

Contact Gopher State One Call before doing any digging more than 12" deep — 48 hours before digging for foundations, trees and tiling. Register at www.gopherstate-onecall.org or call 811. Call a licensed electrician to locate the underground lines on your side of the meter. 📞

Understanding the security landscape



exist for securing your online accounts: standard passwords and managers, multi-factor authentication and passkeys. Yet, which is the safest option or the best option for you and your family?

Standard passwords and password managers: We all know about passwords and the struggle that comes along with remembering them and having to change them every few months, depending on the application. Most of us are probably even guilty of having a notebook stashed somewhere with all of our usernames and passwords written down. Consider switching that paper notebook to a password manager. Password managers are a secure vault that can generate, remember and auto-fill complex passwords for every site you need to access. The user just needs to remember one master password and let the vault do the rest. Many password managers can also securely store and sync across your devices.

Two-factor authentication: Generates a code or requires you to approve a login attempt with an app notification, e-mail or text message after you enter a correct password. Two-factor is generally much safer than just a password alone, but it can be vulnerable to advanced phishing attacks if you type the code into a fake login page or accept a login attempt you did not request.

Passkeys: Passkeys are a secure, passwordless login method that uses your biometrics (fingerprint or face ID) to sign into websites and apps. This is considered the safest method to secure your accounts and logins. Passkeys verify the validity of web addresses before applying your private passkey with your biometric verification to prove you are actually the person trying to login. Your private passkey is never shared or stored so there is nothing to leak for hackers to steal and it will not allow you to access spoofed websites with your credentials. (U)

October is Nation Cybersecurity month; it is a great time to do an audit of your online presence and to make sure you are keeping all of your accounts secured. Nowadays, multiple options



info@federatedbroadband.coop • www.federatedbroadband.coop

507-847-3520 or 1-833-847-8001

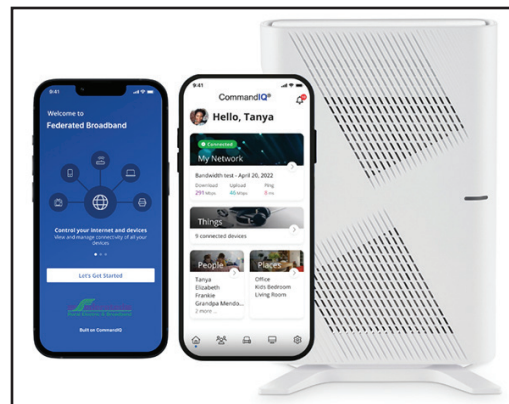


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Bruce Brockmann — 507-399-3487
Troy Post — 507-360-5537
Scott Thiesse — 507-399-6427

The Board of Directors generally meets the first Thursday of the month virtually at 8 a.m. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.



Choose the 'Easy Button:' managed Wi-Fi from your local Federated Broadband

Don't want to deal with the hassle of shopping for hardware and setting it up, plus troubleshooting?

Federated Broadband offers a managed Wi-Fi service for fixed wireless and fiber connections. We provide a router, and mesh if necessary, that we keep up to date so you don't have to worry. If there is ever an issue, we can troubleshoot remotely — meaning you don't have to worry about finding a time for a technician to come to your home, avoid the service call charge and get back to enjoying your connections faster. This is included with all fiber connections or runs \$10/month for fixed wireless accounts. (U)