

FEDERATED NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release — September 11, 2026

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Federated Rural Electric celebrated 91st Annual Meeting with food truck supper, Bingo & prizes!

(Jackson, MN) —A sizable crowd attended Federated Rural Electric's 91st Annual Meeting September 10 at the Jackson National Guard Armory.

"We had 879 members vote by mail and 54 members voted in person," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "We also served members and their family a food truck supper from Gerhardt's Catering and Squealers Smoke Shack, which was a big hit, along with about 50 Bingo prizes awarded during the registration/meal serving. Members received a power bank as an attendance gift.

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).

During a member forum question and answer session, topics focused on the building renovation, rates, Broadband expansion and the 765-kilovolt transmission line. "We understand how important a stable electric grid is," commented General Manager Scott Reimer. "Fortunately, blackouts haven't happened here yet, 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. On one hand we need a stable grid and on the other hand we need to respect and understand landowners' rights. 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." A statement was made by Nominating Chair Adam Weets, "when you leave here tonight and don't do anything, you shouldn't say anything."

Reimer also provided an update on the co-op's headquarters remodeling progress for a fall completion and that Federated is nearing the end of its existing workplan. "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 meters as the original ones are nearing their end-of life and are failing.”

Office Manager Julie Resch focused on a new billing/financial software upgrade that’s underway and 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.”

Board President David Meschke addressed a question about data centers and how are those rates are developed. “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.”

In addition, Broadband Manager Troy Rasmussen explained the growth in fiber this past year due to grants in Jackson, Martin and Cottonwood Counties. The first step entails plowing the main line fiber, the next step is installing the pedestal at each site and finally the drop and connection in the home.

Prizes were award too. 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

Children registered for prizes too winning Legos or magnetic tiles:

1. Lainey Larson, age 4, Lakefield
2. Kamryn Bennet, age, 7, Bingham Lake
3. Amber Schultes, 10, Jackson

After the Annual Meeting adjourned prizes were awarded to attendees. The top three prizes were:

1. A trip for two on the 2027 Basin Tour: City of Welcome
2. 50” TV: Willis Hinkeldey, Windom
3. Pedestal electric grill: Julie Hill, Fairmont

Federated is a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative serving 5,300 members in Jackson and Martin Counties.

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