

THE PROGRESS

MAY 2024

OFFICES CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

In observance of Memorial Day our offices will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024. Our 24/7 help desk will be available by calling 800.247.2706.

RECEIVE A \$5 BILL CREDIT

We are continuing to encourage our customers to sign up for autopay and/or e-billing. As our way to say thank you for doing this, we will provide you with a **\$5 BILL CREDIT** on your next bill. Simply stop by one of our offices to sign up or visit www.parkregion.com/bill-pay/ to print the Direct Payment Plan Form. Return the form to one of our offices, or mail to PO Box 277, Underwood, MN 56586.

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100 Main Street N
Underwood, MN 56586

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Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Foundation for Rural Service awards grants through the Community Grant Program up to \$5,000 for nonprofit organizations in our communities doing great work. These grants are an opportunity for NTCA members to amplify the ways we are supporting our communities. These grants are designed to provide support to a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high-quality life in rural America. The grants awarded each November support a variety of projects concentrated in four major categories:

Business and Economic Development – Devise a plan to turn your community into a global phenomenon by growing small or existing businesses, developing new ones, and implementing a job creation program that attracts key talent from your community or from skilled individuals interested in relocating to small town America.

Community Development – Develop an outreach program that helps to promote advancing technology skills of your community members, incorporates innovation into learning, raises the visibility of your community's talent and artistry, and places your town on everyone's bucket list as the place to visit.

Education – Support advances in education by helping your school's technology (computers, smart boards, etc.) in the classroom, build resources for curriculum development, strengthen extracurricular activities and programs, and promote distance learning programs.

Telecommunications Applications – Show how you plan to turn your community into a technological powerhouse by promoting the implementation and use of broadband-enabled applications for telehealth, education, government services, safety and security, and efficient energy distribution and use.

As an NTCA member, Park Region encourages organizations in our communities to apply for the Community Grant Program. Applications for the grant program are due to the Underwood or Fergus Falls office by August 15, 2024. View the FRS Community Grant Flyer & Application Guide here: www.parkregion.com/about-us/community-donations/

2023 PARK REGION ANNUAL MEETING & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

UNDERWOOD, MN – Park Region hosted nearly 500 members and customers at their 2023 Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Event on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the Underwood Public School. Doors opened at 5pm with an Underwood Lion's pork chop dinner served in the commons area. Members and customers then made their way to the gym to register for the meeting, visit with staff and board members, see product demonstrations and more.

At 6:30pm Park Region's Network Operations Manager Ken Budd welcomed those in attendance and introduced Underwood High School student Khyllie Watson to sing the National Anthem. President Keith Sellner then called the meeting to order, declared the quorum had been met, and called for approval of the 2022 meeting minutes. Company Attorney Rob Bigwood reported on the election process. President Sellner declared the following individuals were re-elected by acclamation to the positions of Director at the close of the 2023 Annual Meeting: Ashby Exchange – Peter Hoff, Dalton Exchange – Keith Sellner, and Underwood Exchange – Bonnie Denzel. Park Region's Controller Mary Jo Biegler provided the 2023 Financial Report and Park Region's General Manager/CEO Dave Bickett reviewed the company's activities in 2023 and previewed plans for the coming years.

Following the meeting adjournment, numerous prize drawings were held and included four grand prizes. Grand prize winners were Ramona Hauge (TV, Soundbar & Firestick), Jake Christensen (45 Qt Wheeled Cooler), Peggy Lein (iPad), and Charles Swenson (\$200 Bill Credit).

Park Region would like to extend their appreciation to the members and customers who support Park Region and its companies year after year. Park Region is dedicated to going beyond the connection and keeping you connected to the things that matter most.



Peter Hoff
Ashby Exchange



Keith Sellner
Dalton Exchange



Bonnie Denzel
Underwood Exchange



L to R: **Jake Christensen** along with sons **James & Henry**, **Ramona Hauge**, **Charles Swenson** & **Peggy Lein**