



An estimated 3,200 people attended the 2010 annual meeting.

## Thousands support Verendrye Electric Co-op

**V**erendrye Electric Cooperative (VEC) is financially sound and poised to continue a 71-year tradition of providing quality electrical service and supporting the communities in which it serves. An estimated 3,200 people heard the good news about the strength of VEC at the June 10 annual meeting at the State Fair Center in Minot.

Verendrye's annual meeting is known statewide as being the most well-attended meeting of any electric cooperative in North Dakota.

"The support of our membership is the biggest thing there is for the success of our cooperative," said Ralph Birdsall, who is retiring from the VEC board after having served for 39 years. The theme of the meeting was "Locally Controlled. Committed to Community." There were examples of that theme throughout the presentations.

### Election results

One of the most important parts of each annual meeting is the election of directors. In VEC's Western District, Karen Hennessy, of Des Lacs, defeated Marvin Heller, rural Berthold, for a seat to replace Birdsall on the board. Patrick Bachmeier, rural Granville, ran

unopposed for another three-year term on the board in the Central District and Blaine Bruner, rural Drake, ran unopposed in the Eastern District.

### Gov. Hoeven supports VEC

Gov. John Hoeven came to the meeting to show support for Verendrye. Hoeven, a Minot native, remembers coming to many Verendrye annual meetings with his father, Jack, who was

also in attendance. Hoeven praised Verendrye employees for their dedication to the member-owners of the cooperative.

"You've been doing a great job of taking care of people for 71 years," Hoeven said.

Hoeven said he will continue to support cooperatives in issues related to the Territorial Integrity Act, which sets boundaries of cooperatives and



Business Manager Christel Laskowski helps register members at the annual meeting.