

# 76<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**Runestone**  
Telecom Association



*Strong Connections*  
**STRONG COMMUNITIES**

**WEDNESDAY  
JULY 8TH, 2026**

5:30 p.m. — Registration  
6:00 p.m. — BINGO for CASH  
7:00 p.m. — Meeting

WEST CENTRAL AREA SCHOOL  
BARRETT, MINNESOTA

## **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

- Welcome
- Report on the number of members present to establish a quorum
- Report of the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Due Publication or mailing
- Approval of the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Election of District 1 Director to serve a 5 year term
- Presentation and consideration of reports of officers and manager
- Unfinished business
- New business

**DOOR PRIZE  
DRAWINGS**

**Prize Giveaways:**  
Member Gifts,  
Twins Ticket Giveaways,  
\$300 Cash & RTA Swag

**Refreshments**  
served by  
WCA Trap Team  
following the meeting.

**THANK YOU  
MEMBERS!**  
We appreciate you!

LOCAL SERVICE ● LOCAL PEOPLE ● LOCAL COOPERATIVE

# Welcome from the Manager & President

We are pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of Runestone Telecom Association. Thanks to the continued support of our members, 2025 was another year of remarkable growth and progress for your cooperative. As technology evolves and the demand for reliable connectivity increases, Runestone remains committed to investing in the rural communities we serve. Together, we have strengthened our network and connected rural homes and businesses to global opportunities through reliable broadband connections. We are proud of what we have accomplished and excited to share the successes of another outstanding year.

Our Round 8 and Round 10 Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Grant projects are well underway, with Round 8 scheduled for completion at the end of September, and Round 10 to be completed next year. Together, these projects significantly expanded Runestone's fiber network footprint across western Stearns County, including areas south of Interstate 94 near Sauk Centre, west of U.S. Highway 71 to the county line, and into the communities of Brooten and Belgrade. More than 600 homes, farms, and businesses in these areas previously had limited or no access to reliable high-speed internet service. We are proud to bring world-class fiber connectivity to these communities and honored to serve the residents and businesses that now have access to the essential broadband services they need to live, work, learn, and thrive.

2026 has already brought another exciting opportunity to expand our fiber network and continue fulfilling our mission of connecting rural communities. In late May, Runestone was awarded additional funding through the State of Minnesota's Line Extension Connection Program to deploy Fiber-to-the-Home service to a portion of Lake Henry Township in Stearns County. Upon completion, the project has the potential to close the digital divide for approximately 65 homes, farms, and businesses by providing residents with access to the same high-quality fiber services enjoyed throughout our service territory.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of Runestone Telecom Association, thank you for your continued patronage, trust, and support. As a member-owned cooperative, every accomplishment we achieve is made possible by the loyalty and engagement of our members. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and the communities we call home. The progress highlighted reflects not only the hard work of our employees and leadership, but also the confidence our members place in us to invest in the future of rural telecommunications. Your feedback, participation, and support help guide our cooperative and ensure we remain focused on serving the needs of our members for generations to come.

We invite you to join us at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Members of Runestone Telecom Association on July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at West Central Area Secondary School in Barrett. We look forward to sharing another successful year with you and thank you for being an important part of the Runestone family.

~ Kent Hedstrom, CEO/General Manager

~ Robert Leegaard, President

# Our Board of Directors



**Bob Leegaard, President**  
Representing District 3  
Barrett, Cyrus, Hoffman

**Tory Belgum, Vice President**  
Representing District 5  
Belgrade, Brooten, Elrosa, Lowry,  
Glenwood, Sauk Centre, Villard

**John Kapphahn, Secretary/Treasurer**  
Representing District 2  
Elbow Lake, Wendell

**Jolene Vipond, Director**  
Representing District 1  
Donnelly, Norcross, Tintah, Beardsley,  
Campbell, Graceville, Herman, Wheaton

**Dick Staples, Director**  
Representing District 4  
Kensington, Holmes City, Alexandria

**Kent Hedstrom**  
CEO - General Manager

# Runestone Telecom Employees



## Network Technicians

*Left to right- Back:* John Shekleton, Nathan Richards, Ryan Schonhardt, Matt Lloyd, Braeden Long, Brady Combs, Marvin Perkins  
*Front:* Shawn Engler, Gary Ness, Cyndi Gulbranson, Dan Perry, Curt Hyatt, Chris Veldhouse



## Network - Internet IT Technicians

*Left to right:*  
Joe Polzin,  
Russ Froemming  
James Simonson,  
Ken Elvehjem,  
Chris Schmiesing

## Customer Experience

*Left to right:*  
Dawn Bumgardner,  
Pam Randt,  
Liza Long,  
Michelle Martinson,  
Angie Huseth



# Balance Sheet

**RUNESTONE TELECOM ASSOCIATION  
BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024**

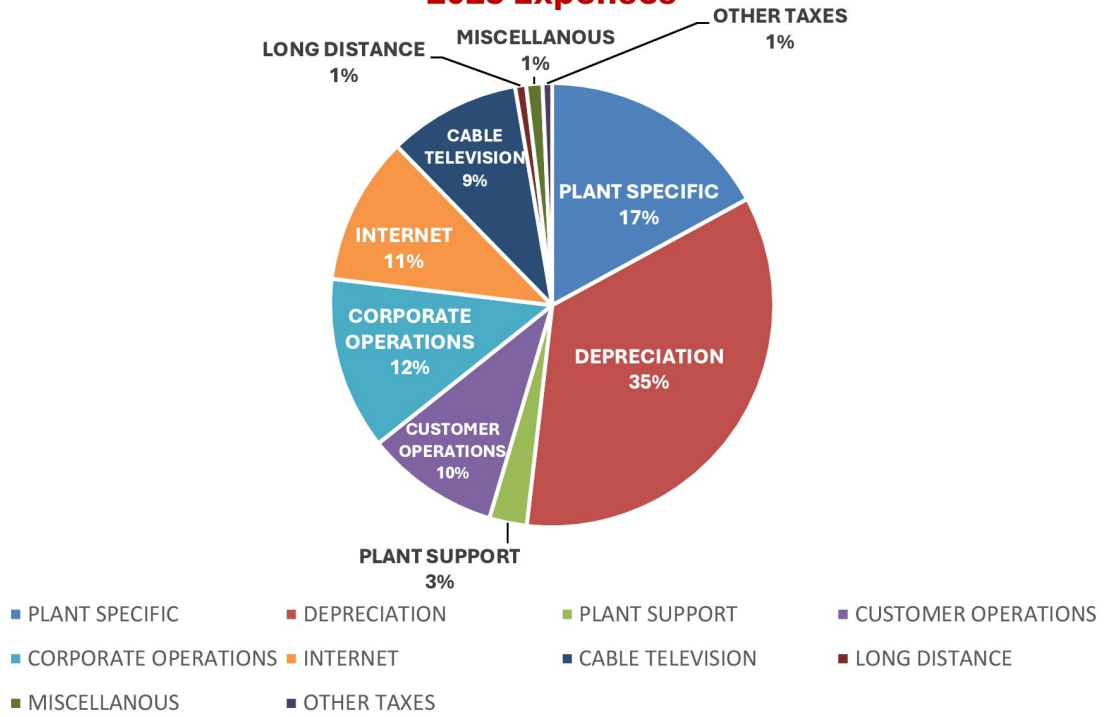
	2025	2024
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
<b>CASH AND TEMPORARY CASH INVESTMENTS</b>	5,899,174	5,459,560
<b>CURRENT PORTION OF NOTES RECEIVABLE</b>	28,566	55,010
<b>OTHER ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>	3,460,072	1,352,722
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>	1,475,295	2,856,132
<b>PREPAID EXPENSE</b>	115,357	122,350
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<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$10,978,464</b>	<b>\$9,845,774</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS:</b>		
<b>NOTES RECEIVABLE</b>	104,800	132,940
<b>GOODWILL &amp; INTANGIBLES</b>	0	0
<b>TEMPORARY CASH INVESTMENTS</b>	182,298	213,364
<b>INVESTMENTS IN PARTNERSHIPS &amp; LLCs</b>	986,125	994,990
<b>PREPAID EXPENSE</b>	5,000	49,026
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,278,223</b>	<b>\$1,390,320</b>
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANT:</b>		
<b>IN SERVICE</b>	\$54,094,887	\$51,054,863
<b>UNDER CONSTRUCTION</b>	8,089,842	7,439,712
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>	(31,732,964)	(29,500,094)
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<b>NET TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANT</b>	<b>\$30,451,765</b>	<b>\$28,994,481</b>
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$42,708,452</b>	<b>\$40,230,575</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</b>	357,702	484,849
<b>OTHER ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>	535,168	480,340
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<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$892,870</b>	<b>\$965,189</b>
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<b>DEFERRED LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$932,152</b>	<b>\$807,473</b>
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<b>MEMBERS EQUITY:</b>		
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL</b>	\$17,139,535	\$16,401,901
<b>OTHER EQUITIES</b>	23,743,895	22,056,012
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<b>TOTAL MEMBERS EQUITY</b>	<b>\$40,883,430</b>	<b>\$38,457,913</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; MEMBERS EQUITY</b>	<b>\$42,708,452</b>	<b>\$40,230,575</b>

# Statement of Operations

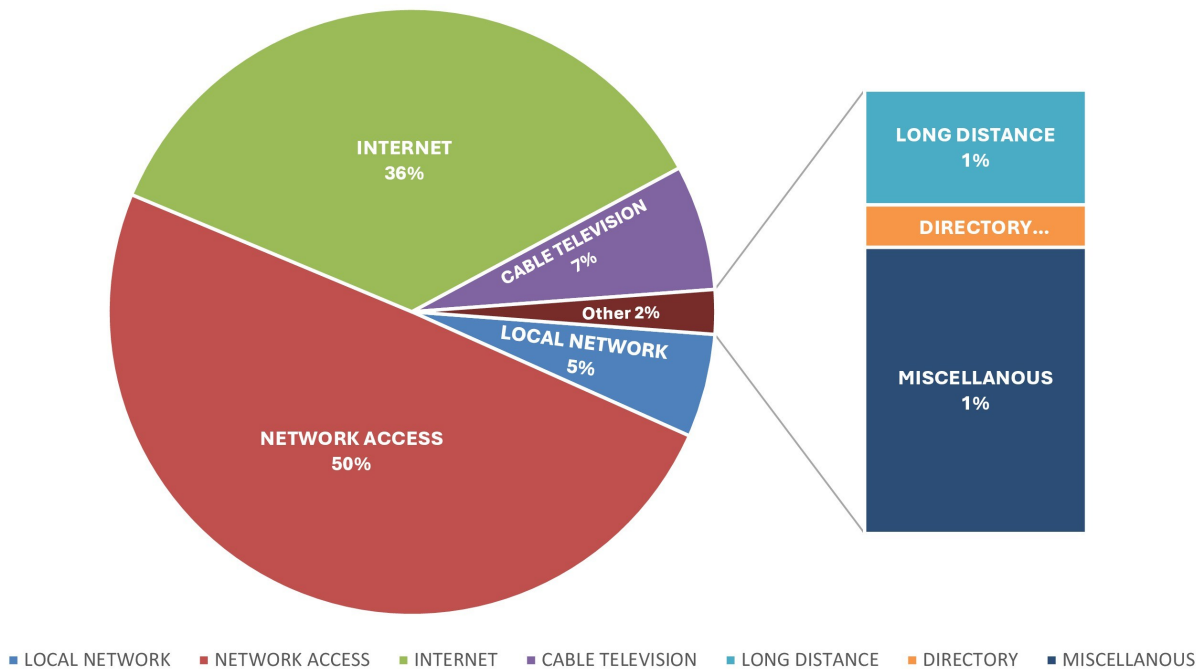
RUNESTONE TELECOM ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024	DIFFERENCE	
<b>OPERATING REVENUES:</b>				
NETWORK ACCESS	\$6,344,174	\$6,408,591	(\$64,417)	-1.0%
INTERNET	4,581,039	4,395,726	185,313	4.2%
LOCAL NETWORK	703,718	770,931	(67,213)	-8.7%
CABLE TELEVISION	853,214	883,346	(30,132)	-3.4%
LONG DISTANCE	78,591	71,911	6,680	9.3%
MISCELLANEOUS	189,284	190,503	(1,219)	-0.6%
DIRECTORY	29,034	29,316	(282)	-1.0%
UNCOLLECTIBLES	6,842	4,874	1,968	40.4%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$12,785,896</b>	<b>\$12,755,198</b>	<b>\$30,698</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>				
DEPRECIATION	\$2,943,541	\$2,753,454	\$190,087	6.9%
CORPORATE	1,067,630	984,478	83,152	8.4%
PLANT SPECIFIC	1,445,591	1,317,638	127,953	9.7%
CABLE TELEVISION	815,011	789,819	25,192	3.2%
CUSTOMER	824,593	747,492	77,101	10.3%
INTERNET	911,946	721,306	190,640	26.4%
PLANT SUPPORT	230,152	297,482	(67,330)	-22.6%
MISCELLANEOUS	100,034	153,393	(53,359)	-34.8%
LONG DISTANCE	67,648	67,825	(177)	-0.3%
OTHER TAXES	59,610	55,459	4,151	7.5%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,465,756</b>	<b>\$7,888,346</b>	<b>\$577,410</b>	<b>7.3%</b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b>\$4,320,140</b>	<b>\$4,866,852</b>	<b>(\$546,712)</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES:</b>				
INVESTMENT INCOME	169,855	155,484	14,371	9.2%
EQUITY IN INCOME OF LLCs	72,775	84,055	(11,280)	-13.4%
INCOME TAXES	(7,603)	(8,281)	678	-8.2%
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$235,027</b>	<b>\$231,258</b>	<b>\$3,769</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b>\$4,555,167</b>	<b>\$5,098,110</b>	<b>(\$542,943)</b>	<b>-10.6%</b>
TELEPHONE LINES END OF YEAR	3491	3667	-176	-4.8%
CATV SUBSCRIBERS END OF YEAR	826	867	-41	-4.7%
INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS END OF YEAR	5708	5454	254	4.7%

## 2025 Expenses



## 2025 Revenues



# **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF RUNESTONE TELECOM ASSOCIATION**

## **July 16, 2025**

The members of Runestone Telecom Association held their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on July 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Central School Auditorium in Barrett, MN, with President, Robert Leegaard and Secretary/Treasurer, John Kapphahn being present. Other directors in attendance were Tory Belgum, Richard Staples and Jolene Vipond.

President, Robert Leegaard, welcomed everyone to the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and thanked the members for attending the meal held prior to the meeting. The members were invited to a meal of pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and root beer floats, served by the Grant County Lions.

A register signed by the members established the attendance of a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum. The Secretary was directed to file the registration for the establishment of a quorum and make the same a part of the minutes of this meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer, John Kapphahn, read the Affidavit of Publication of Notice of Annual Meeting. President Leegaard then asked for a motion to approve the Affidavit and the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented in the 2024 Annual Report. A motion was made by Marilyn Smith, seconded by Les Alvstad and carried to approve the Affidavit and Minutes and make the same a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Vice President, Tory Belgum, explained the 2025 uncontested nomination and election of Robert Leegaard as a Director of District 3. A motion was made by Lori Sommers, seconded by Dave Hedner, and carried to elect Robert Leegaard by a voice vote to a 5-year term starting July 16, 2025, as the Director of District 3.

General Manager/CEO, Kent Hedstrom, presented the 2024 financial statement along with updates on fiber to the home projects and Border-to-Border grants and membership growth. A motion was made by Don Schmidt, seconded by Phil Corrigan, and carried to accept the financial statements as presented.

Kent Hedstrom presented guest speaker Brent Christensen, Minnesota Telecom Alliance CEO.

There was no old or new business to come before the meeting.

The Runestone directors and employees were introduced, and door prizes were given out.

A motion was made by Phil Corrigan, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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Secretary

Approved:

# Proudly Serving These Areas!

**High Speed Internet, Cable TV, Telephone Service and more!**

- **Alexandria**  
*Selective service area south of I-94*
- **Barrett**
- **Cyrus**
- **Donnelly**
- **Dumont**
- **Elbow Lake**
- **Farwell**
- **Forada**
- **Herman**
- **Hoffman**
- **Holmes City**
- **Kensington**
- **Lowry**
- **Norcross**
- **Tintah**
- **Villard**
- **Wendell**
- **Westport**
- **Wheaton**
- **Western Stearns County**

