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Minnesota Farmers Union 75th annual state convention closes with strong policy in place, special orders passed and a farewell to long serving President.

ST. PAUL (November 20, 2016) – The Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) held its 75th annual state convention on Saturday November 19 and Sunday November 20, 2016. The grassroots organization took to the floor several key issues that are important to the family farmers of Minnesota. The realigned policy will set forth a strong agenda for the organization in the upcoming legislative year.

President Doug Peterson expressed gratitude and honor for being able to serve as the state president of the organization for 14 years. “I have spent the majority of my live fighting for the family farmer and the last 14 years being the voice for the members of the Minnesota Farmers Union, the fight will never end for me, I will always be a farmer and I will continue to be a part of Farmers Union. The support and respect the members of this organization have for the life on the farm and for each other is something I can’t imagine being away from.”

“Minnesota Farmers Union is a grassroots organization that truly listens to the members and they create the policy that we work by.” said Doug Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union President. “Every voice has the chance to be heard every day within our organization, and our annual convention offers the perfect platform for these discussions.”

The MFU delegates debated special orders of business addressing the concerns with the upcoming Farm Bill, Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), and Health Care. Delegates went through the Minnesota Farmers Union policy and set the groundwork for the legislative lobbying on behalf of family farmers that will take place in 2017 by Minnesota Farmers Union.

During the convention, speakers included: Senator Amy Klobuchar; Senator Al Franken; Dave Frederickson, Department of Agriculture Commissioner; Lt Governor Tina Smith; Roger Johnson, National Farmers Union President; Representative Collin Peterson; Tim Rudnicki with MN BioFuels; and Jim Ennis with Catholic Rural Life.

Several awards were given out at the banquet Saturday night including: Markell Vogt, Dedicated Service Award; Dustin Hoffmann, Ag Communicator of the year award; and Gene Paul, Lifetime Achievement Award.

Delegates were chosen to represent Minnesota Farmers Union at the National Farmers Union convention which will be held March 5-8, 2017 in San Diego, CA. National delegates elected are:

District 1:

Delegate: Alton Walker, Clearwater County

Alternate: Dean Pederson, Norman County

District 2:

Delegate: Jan Lundebrek, Pope County

Alternate: Josh VanderPol, Chippewa County

District 3:

Delegate: Tim Velde, Yellow Medicine County

Alternate: Jerome Graff, Brown County

District 4:

Delegate: Eric Hoese, Carver County

Alternate: Eric Sannerud, Benton County

District 5:

Delegate: Aidan Read, Rice County

Alternate: Ed Jostock, Wabasha County

Minnesota Farmers Union (www.mfu.org), Standing for Agriculture, Fighting for Farmers.
