

NORTHERN

L I G H T S



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

March 2017

COMING SOON!

As of Feb. 10, Beltrami Electric Cooperative has 50 percent subscribed and we are moving forward with our plan to build a community solar array at our headquarters.



What is Northern Solar? It is Beltrami Electric Cooperative's 80-kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) community solar array that will be at our headquarters. The Duo System array will consist of 180 photovoltaic panels.

How does a community solar garden work? The community solar model is easy to understand. Beltrami Electric Cooperative will build the solar array – a group of solar panels on our property – then, interested members purchase a share of the energy produced, often in the form of a subscription to one or more solar panels. The energy is distributed to the power grid and community solar members receive credits for their subscribed portion as a credit on their electric bill.

Why should I participate? If you would like to receive locally-produced solar energy as part of your home's energy mix, Northern Solar gives you this opportunity without the hassle of permitting, installing, insuring and maintaining your own solar array.

How much does it cost to participate? We offer several options: Beltrami Electric members can subscribe to the output of a full panel for a one-time payment of \$1,295, or a half panel for \$647.50. (Members may subscribe to as many panels as they wish, up to the equivalent of their annual average usage.) Participating members will receive the energy produced by their panel(s) for 20 years as a credit on their electric bill. Easy Pay

allows eligible members to select a 12, 24 or 36 month payment plan, with no money down at 6 percent interest. Members will receive a monthly credit on their electric bill based on the portion of the array they have subscribed to. For members who don't wish to sign a 20-year contract, you have the option to Pay As You Go. Simply tell us a set amount of kWh/month you would like to come from Northern Solar, and we will add it to your monthly electric bill. With no contract, you can cancel at any time.

How much will a panel produce? The manufacturer's projected average output per panel is 450 kWh/year or an average of 37.5 kWh/month. This is taking into consideration that the array will produce more during the sunny days of summer and less during the short days of our Minnesota winters. Members will see the actual kWh production of their portion of the array credited on their electric bill at current electric rates, so if/when electric rates increase, your credit will too.

How do I sign up for Northern Solar? You may download a Northern Solar Member Agreement from our website at www.beltramielc.com/content/northern-solar, or stop into our office and we would be happy to assist you. For more information, you may contact our office at 218-444-2540 or 800-955-6083 or view the Northern Solar brochure from our website.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Member Service: 218-444-2540
or 1-800-955-6083

www.beltramielectric.com

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami and Clearwater Counties

Davis Smid

507-227-2772 - mntristate@gmail.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

218-652-2213 or fax 218-333-0451

These are the inspectors covering the area served by Beltrami Electric. They can be reached by phone Monday through Friday between 7 and 8:30 a.m. or by fax or email as indicated.

Gopher State One Call

1-800-252-1166 or 811

www.gopherstateonecall.org

Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance.

All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

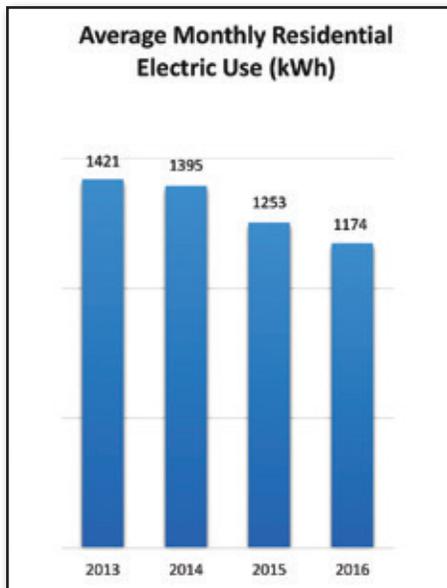
ON THE COVER: Beltrami Electric is moving forward with plans to build the Northern Solar community array at our headquarters. There is still time to participate. Contact our office to learn more.



Energy sales decline, rate increase needed

Jared Echternach, CEO

The books are now closed on 2016, and as I reported last month, electric utilities nationwide are experiencing flat or declining energy sales. That statement held true for your cooperative as residential sales were down 4.5 percent from 2015. This disturbing trend has continued for the last several years (see graph below). Some of this is



due to increased energy efficiency and state-mandated conservation programs, some is due to fuel switching and some is due to the economic downturn of the late 2000s, from which we still have not fully recovered.

Over the next 25 years, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects the amount of electricity purchased per household to fall more than 11 percent. This is alarming, and if the prediction holds true, we must be prepared for upward pressure on rates. Regardless of the business you are in, if you sell fewer units and your fixed costs remain the same, you either need to increase revenue or reduce expenses to maintain a margin. Approximately 70 percent of our costs are directly related to purchasing wholesale power over which we have little control. The remaining 30 percent is internal, some of which is controllable, some of which is not. Your board of directors and

employees have done an excellent job of keeping those controllable costs in check.

Over the next 25 years, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects the amount of electricity purchased per household to fall more than 11 percent.

Rate increase needed

Reduced energy sales over the last three years have placed upward pressure on rates. Couple this with a pending wholesale rate increase of 2.9 percent from our power supplier in April results in a needed rate increase for 2017. The good news is that our off-peak rates will remain unchanged so our members who participate in this money-saving program will continue to experience cost savings. The board will be reviewing rate options and will only increase rates the amount necessary to remain financially stable and to meet our lenders' financial covenants.

While no one likes to see a rate increase, we still need to recover our costs and provide a margin. Selling fewer kilowatt-hours (kWh) year after year means that we need to recover our costs over fewer kWh sold. Our last cost of service study conducted in 2015-2016 showed that our monthly access charge should be in the low \$40s. Our existing monthly access charge is \$34.50, so we still have a ways to go before we recover our fixed costs through the monthly access charge. That means those who are using more kWh are shouldering more of the burden, while members who consume less energy are not paying enough to cover the fixed costs of our operation. What I envision over the next several years is that you will see an increase in the monthly access charge with less emphasis on the energy rate.

We will communicate any rate change as soon as possible so our members have time to prepare and better budget for the increase.

State legislative update

Last month I discussed our primary legislative push at the state level is for cooperatives to maintain local democratic control. Cooperatives are owned and governed by their members and we want to keep it that way. Over the last decade the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has expanded its reach to the point where it is costing electric cooperatives and their members' time and money. This regulatory overreach must be curtailed and we must fight to maintain our autonomy to govern ourselves.

Despite clear statutory language, the current PUC process has created uncertainty over the autonomy of cooperatives to locally regulate. We are resolving that uncertainty with reform that clarifies that cooperatives are locally regulated. At the time of this writing, the House has passed HF 234 that provides the local control we were seeking. In the

Senate, SF 141 was still in conference committee and much can change by the time this issue hits your mailbox. I'd like to thank Rep. Matt Bliss and Rep. Matt Grossell for their support. Sen. Paul Utke and Sen. Justin Eichorn have also indicated their support.

Your cooperative is very active in state and federal energy issues and rightly so. Cooperatives were born in politics and we will continue to advocate on your behalf. Occasionally we call on you, our members, to assist us in these efforts and will continue to do so. 2017 saw tremendous turnover in the legislature and we will continue to educate our elected representatives on energy issues. Their contact information can be found below, and I encourage you to call on them.

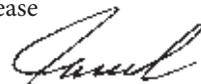
District meetings

Speaking of local democratic control, your cooperative is holding three district meetings this month, at which candidates

may be nominated to serve on the cooperative board. Seats in District 2, currently served by Lea Perkins, District 4, currently served by Jerry Larson, and District 6, currently served by Rick Coe, will be up for election. Please see the detailed information on page 8 for meeting locations, dates and times. If you are interested in learning more about serving on the cooperative board, please feel free to contact me.

New employee

I'd like to welcome a new employee to your cooperative. Logan Mystic was hired as a full-time apprentice line worker in January. Logan worked for us the past two summers as part of our seasonal apprentice line worker program. Logan is from the Bemidji area, and we're glad he's joining our cooperative family. If you see Logan around town, please welcome him to our co-op.



BELTRAMI ELECTRIC LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Federal legislators

Senator Al Franken

309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.franken.senate.gov
(202) 224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar

302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
(202) 224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minn. office)

Congressman Collin Peterson

U.S. House - District 7
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
(202) 225-2165

Congressman Rick Nolan

U.S. House - District 8
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.nolan.house.gov
(202) 225-6211

State of Minnesota legislators

Representative Matt Bliss

MN House - District 5A
529 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn
(651) 296-5516

Representative Matt Grossell

MN House - District 2A
429 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn
(651) 296-4265

Senator Justin D. Eichorn

MN Senate - District 5
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 3213

95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155
sen.justin.eichorn@senate.mn
(651) 296-7079

Senator Paul Utke

MN Senate - District 2
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 3403
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155
sen.paul.utke@senate.mn
(651) 296-9651

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 77th annual meeting of the members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Bemidji High School, 2900 Division Street West, in Bemidji, Minn., at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017, for the following purposes:

1. To pass upon reports covering the previous fiscal year;
2. To elect three (3) directors of the cooperative in accordance with the Bylaws, one each in Districts 2, 4 and 6, each for a three-year term;
3. To transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

*In order for the member corporation, etc., to nominate a representative to serve on the board of directors and participate in business matters, a form must be received by the secretary of Beltrami Electric Cooperative on or before the date of the members' meeting(s). To receive a copy of this form, please contact the co-op at **218-444-2540**.

Murl Nord, Secretary
Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. – Board of Directors

Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

Beltrami Electric has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, please call Sam Mason at **218-444-2540**.



SHOP LOCAL AND SAVE BIG!

with Beltrami Electric's Co-op Connections Card!

AUTO

- Beck's Auto Service** (218) 835-4213
80 Main St. SE, Blackduck
Enjoy same discount as our AAA customers
- Bemidji Best Auto Service** (218) 333-0933
1006 Washington Ave. S., Bemidji
10% off labor (\$400 max)
- Darrell's Auto Glass** (218) 759-8810
2035 Adams Ave. NW, Bemidji
25% off rock chip repairs
- Northwest Tire** (218) 444-8696
402 Paul Bunyan Dr. SE, Bemidji
\$5 off oil change, \$20 off brake service, \$25 off 4-tire purchase
- Pete's Place South** (218) 751-9255
179 Convenience Lane SW, Bemidji
5¢ off per gallon of gasoline
- Petro Serve USA** (218) 751-8518
2470 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
5¢ off per gallon of gasoline
- Pine Ridge Sales & Service** (218) 751-2355
4289 Minnkota Ave. NW, Bemidji
10% discount on labor; purchase a used vehicle and receive 2 free oil changes
- Simonson Market** (218) 755-1580
1820 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
\$2 off Blue Wash

ENTERTAINMENT

- Beltrami County Historical Society** (218) 444-3376
130 Minnesota Ave. SW, Bemidji
\$1 off adult admission, up to 4 adults, single visit only (not valid with other offers)
- Blackduck Lanes** (218) 835-6620
233 Summit Ave. W, Blackduck
Bowl 2 games, get 3rd game free per individual. Free fountain soda with any one sandwich order
- Buena Vista Ski Area** (218) 243-2231
19276 Lake Julia Dr. NW, Bemidji
*10% off regularly priced lift tickets, 10% off regularly priced tubing tickets
Not valid with any other offers or discounts*
- Headwaters Science Center** (218) 444-4472
413 Beltrami Avenue NW, Bemidji
Receive 1 free child admission with the purchase of 1 adult admission
- Alpine Sleeper Fish Houses** (218) 647-8379
35241 Hwy. 72 NE, Northome Toll Free (888) 921-5222
10% off Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- AmericInn Lodge & Suites Bemidji** (218) 751-3000
1200 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
\$1 off open swimming (reg. \$7) OR \$5 off ten-punch pass (reg. \$50)
- Balsam Beach Resort & RV Park** (218) 751-5057
51155 219th Avenue, Bemidji
5% off a daily pontoon rental
- Hamilton's Fox Lake Campground** (218) 586-2231
2556 Island View Dr., Bemidji
10% off daily rate, valid once every 30 days (no discount from July 1-8)
- Northwoods Park Models** (800) 452-8023
24777 Pass Road NE, Hines
Save \$750 on any NEW Park model, save \$1,500 on any NEW Park model and enclosure

LODGING/RESORTS

- Royal Shooks Motel** (218) 647-8379
35241 Hwy. 72 NE, Northome Toll Free (888) 921-5222
10% discount Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Tomahawk Lodge** (218) 835-4510
24777 Pass Road NE, Hines
10% discount on daily RV site or daily boat rental

RESTAURANTS/DINING

- Big Apple Bagels** (218) 444-7840
1710 Paul Bunyan Road NW, Bemidji
10% off regularly priced menu items
- Canal House Restaurant** (218) 335-6311
5510 U.S. 2 NW, Cass Lake
10% off your ticket on Mondays or Tuesdays (not valid with any other discounts/offers)
- Country Kitchen of Bemidji** (218) 444-8963
728 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
10% off ticket
- Dunn Bros Coffee** (218) 444-5252
501 Paul Bunyan Dr. S, Bemidji
10% off all beverages
- Keith's Pizza, Inc.** (218) 444-7940
South: 110 Paul Bunyan Dr. S, Bemidji
North: 1425 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji (218) 444-7941
\$2 off any large or extra large pizza (not valid with other discounts, offers or unbaked pizzas)
- Papa Murphy's** (218) 444-7025
512 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
\$3 off any pizza, any size - no limit (not valid with other offers)

RETAIL

- Bemidji Communications** (218) 444-3389
211 Minnesota Avenue NW, Bemidji
20% off labor
- Bemidji Woolen Mills** (218) 751-5166
301 Irvine Avenue NW, Bemidji
10% off total purchase
- Cass Metal Craft, Inc.** (218) 335-2336
PO Box 296, Cass Lake
Free consultations on all stair and railing projects. 10% off on all welding repairs
- Culligan of Bemidji** (218) 751-2651
1400 Neilson Avenue SE, Bemidji
4 free bags of salt with a signed 12-month delivery contract. New clients only
- Gallery North** (218) 444-9813
502 3rd Street NW, Bemidji
\$5 off a \$25 purchase
- Gifts O' the Wild** (218) 751-4914
7 miles south of Bemidji on U.S. 71
10% off total purchase. Not valid with any other offer or coupon
- Image Photography and Framing** (218) 751-8308
1305 Bemidji Avenue, Bemidji
5% off in-studio portraits, 5% off framing, 5% off picture custom frames
- Ken K. Thompson Jewelry** (218) 751-1433
1080 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
20% off jewelry purchase (not valid on repairs or prior layaways)
- MAG Graphics, Inc.** (218) 209-7007
23567 398th Street, Laporte
20% off any product
- MedSave Family Pharmacy** (218) 759-1222
217 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
10% off all over-the-counter products
- Midnight Sun Pools 'n' Spas** (218) 759-8518
3411 Hannah Avenue NW, Bemidji
10% off chemicals
- MJB Home Center** (218) 751-2420
418 Beltrami Avenue, Bemidji
Free hoses or cords with any new washer, dryer or range purchase
- Northwoods Habitat for Humanity ReStore** (218) 444-6398
1357 Industrial Park Dr. SE, Bemidji
5% off purchase (not valid with other discounts)
- Stittsworth Meats** (218) 751-1320
722 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW, Bemidji
5% off total order

Added benefits! More savings!



- Timberline Sports 'n' Convenience** (218) 835-4636
209 Summit Avenue W, Blackduck
Save 10% on select gun accessories with purchase of firearm
- Wilkening Fireplace Company** (218) 547-3393
9608 State 371 NW, Walker (800) 367-7976
20% off installation or service

SERVICES

- Advantage Audiology & Hearing Healthcare, LLC** (218) 333-8833
677 Anne Street Suite G, Bemidji
*5% off all hearing aid accessories (*does not include batteries), buy 2, get 1 free on all hearing aid batteries, free hearing screening*
- Dobmeier Excavating/Septic Service** (218) 835-5568
21440 Hines Road NE, Hines
Free site evaluation and estimate on new or existing septic system upgrade
- Evolve Creative** (218) 444-8327
481 Mag Seven Court SW #3, Bemidji
Free consultation on Web/design/marketing services
- Gary Anderson Insurance Agency, Inc.** (218) 835-7711
PO Box 28, Blackduck
Free insurance review for new residents to area and retirees who may be leaving a group plan
- Hanson Law Office, PLLC** (218) 444-6922
3728 Bemidji Avenue N, Suite C, Bemidji
Free estate planning consultation (\$150 value), 10% off legal fees
- InCharge Fitness** (218) 444-8138
619 5th Street NW, Bemidji
Free week pass
- Jackson Hewitt Tax Service** (218) 444-4829
410 Lemond Loop, Bagley
\$25 gift when refund is placed on American Express card

- Mari's All Breed Pet Grooming** (218) 547-1290
305 7th Street S, Walker
Complete pet grooming services, appointments preferred
10% discount on a complete pet grooming
- Mort's Dock & RV Campground** (218) 647-8128
18335 Mort Lane NE, Kelliher
10% on season pass for summer or winter lake access
- Mort's Electric, Inc.** (218) 647-8128
18335 Mort Lane NE, Kelliher
5% on Steffes off-peak storage heating systems
- Northern Event Rentals** (218) 209-6160
3859 Cornflower Court SE, Bemidji
10% discount on any table and chair rental
- Service Master of Bemidji** (218) 751-4081
51584 279th Avenue, Bemidji
Have carpets in 3 rooms cleaned for \$129, plus a free hallway (carpet in 3 rooms cannot exceed 500 sq. ft.)
- Shamrock Storage** (218) 835-6633
PO Box 220, Hwy. 72, Blackduck
Pay one year rent in advance and get 1 month free
- Todavich Electric, Inc.** (218) 751-1699
10330 Irvine Avenue NW, Bemidji
10% discount on material and labor for service calls only
- Turtle River Electric, Inc.** (218) 751-0286
4357 Minnkota Avenue, Bemidji
10% discount on service call
- We Love Messes!** (218) 760-0197
10189 West Way NW, Bemidji
Free on-site 1-hour organizing consultation - a \$55 value

You benefit from Co-op Connections!

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, is proud to be an integral part of the communities we serve. That's why we're happy to offer the Co-op Connections Card, a member benefit that provides discounts on products and services from participating local and national businesses.

This same program has saved co-op members nationwide millions on prescriptions and now offers significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab and imaging services and chiropractic work.

There's even an App for that!

Search using Smartphones or Tablets

- The Co-op Connections Program allows consumer-members to find discounts while on the go. Use this app to find discounts right at home or anywhere you travel.



Now for iOS and Android devices
Search "Co-op Connections" in the App store or Google Play to download your free smart phone app!

- Search "Co-op Connections" in the App Store or Google Play to download your free smartphone app!
- The app also acts as a digital card that you can present at local merchants or Healthy Savings providers.

Free to all members

Each member of our co-op receives the Co-op Connections Card free. There's no sign-up. No annual fees. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of **BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**.

Valuable discounts

You can easily recognize where the Co-op Connections Card is accepted by decals in local retailers' windows. In addition to local businesses, we have secured discounts from a variety of national businesses and chains, such as rental car companies and hotels. Your card also entitles you to substantial prescription discounts nationwide!*

 Local Deals	 National Deals	 Shop Online	 Coupons.com
 Hearing Aids	 Vision	 Pet Assure	 Prescription
 Dental	 Chiropractic	 Cash Back Mall	 Appliances

*Pharmacy discounts are **NOT** insurance, and are **NOT** intended as a substitute for insurance. The discount is only available at participating pharmacies.

Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

ATTENTION!

The April 2017 issue of Northern Lights is the 2016 Annual Report and will not include any classified ads.

All ads submitted February 10 - April 10 will be published in the May issue

- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramielc.com. (preferred)
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a first-received, first-printed basis, with no guarantee your ad will appear.
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for three consecutive months and must be resubmitted to run additional months.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619

For Sale:

Casson 7' slate pool table, like new, \$850. 243-2635.

2008 Ford Focus, very nice condition, leather heated seats, Weather Tech floor mats, interior lighting, blue tooth, nonsmoker. Asking \$4,500/obo. Regular service and oil changes at Bemidji Chrysler. 368-0198 or 766-3049.

Tractor tire chains size 14.9x34 \$300. Two 20-kW electric furnaces with approx. 50 feet of wire each. \$450 each. Call Jack at 766-4976.

Standing mature Aspen, approximately 50-60 trees, 6 miles northeast of Pennington, Minn. 320-963-3265 or 763-516-8296.

Dog-Loo XL insulated doghouse, 40" diameter x 30" tall, \$100. Dog travel crate, 24"W x 36"L x 26"H, \$75. Both in excellent condition; suitable for a large dog ~ 100 lb. lab. Nordic Track "Achiever" model X-C Ski Machine with full electronics package. Very good condition. \$100, or make offer. 751-7254.

Coleman Power Mate generator, 120-volt, 300-watt, 6 hp, 5 hours on motor and on wheels. \$200. 333-8925.

Kitchen-Aid standing mixer w/5-qt. glass bowl and three attachments, \$250; queen mattress/box spring w/frame, \$100; gray metal office desk, \$100; Ashley 8' soft brown couch, like new, \$250; rust/brown chair with ottoman, \$100. George Foreman grill, \$30. Call 224-2483 mornings.

Dining room table, two leaves, four chairs - \$200, HP printer (scans, prints and copies) \$25; walnut desk, \$50; oak school chair/desk \$50. Call 766-7976 mornings.

Ruger Super Blackhawk 44 Mag 7½ inch barrel. Nice condition \$475. May consider trades for other guns. Call 766-3038.

Magnavox 36" TV \$40. Casio CTK-2080 piano keyboard and stand \$65 great cond. Tilt top art/drawing table 30x24, \$35. 32-2x2 acoustic ceiling tiles and supplies (128 sf) \$65. Call 586-2496.

Kirby vacuum (red bag) w/crevice tool, upholstery tool, utility brush, duster brush, rug shampooer attachment, pet groomer inflator/deflator, paint spray gun and shoulder strap, Handi-Butler Group: w/sanding discs, polishing wheels and buffer pad. \$100/obo. Corning Ware Spice of Life pattern 1-qt and 1½-qt, \$15/obo. Call 612-618-0422.

1999 Mercury Sable, 41,000 actual miles, like new condition, red, always stored inside, never on winter roads. \$3,200. 335-7838.

Restored antique chests, chairs (sets and singletons), variable costs. Duncan Phye rectangular dining room table (two leaves and protectors) and six chairs \$600, end tables, rockers, weight-driven clocks, plus more. Call 766-8676 eves.

ShoreStation alum. boatlift, model SSV1288 vertical w/canopy and tan vinyl top in very good cond., about four years old. Paid \$5,079 + tax. This was used on a 17-ft boat with a 50 hp 4-stroke motor. Located north of Walker, will deliver within 25 miles with help loading. Price \$2,350 firm. Call or text Bruce 612-868-3807.

Year 2000 Hot tub. \$1,500. Works great! Comes w/extras including pump, two new filters, spa cleaners and chemicals worth approx. \$500. New cost was \$6,177! Includes cover and redwood steps. Has small leak. Includes all receipts and owner's manual. Has been used inside only but is insulated for outside operation. Call 243-3089.

"Step N' Rest" rolling walker for handicapped person. Used one month. Braking system. Padded seat. \$55 firm. 759-7730.

Rough sawn pine lumber in 8' lengths, including 1x4, 1x6, 1x8, 1x10, 2x4, and 2x6. All have been stored inside since cut. Call 760-8266.

8' Boss V-Plow, Ford mounts, \$2,250. 3 PT pull snowblower, \$350. 835-6449.

Set of 4 tires, 265/70 x 17, 10-ply, \$120. Exercise ski machine, \$50. 444-0649.

Savage model 111 Remington Mag, 3x9x40 scope, American walnut, sling, Monte Carlo Stock, \$325. Vexilar FL-18, new in box, DVD, includes lens magnifier, Vexi-Light and battery charge indicator, \$400. 701-317-5011.

4-5-6-inch block and star crazy quilts, Twin \$35, Full \$40, Queen \$45, King \$55. Antique oak rocker \$65. Parlor table \$70, sq. dining room table, 44x44, \$100. Six matching oak

chairs \$120. Refinished. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

Beautiful mahogany stereo phonograph and radio, \$100. Upright piano, \$100/obo. 335-6501.

Wanted:

Pet sitting your home or mine and house checks. 766-6510, leave message.

Good set of matching 10x24 tractor tires, evenings. 751-5763.

Hay: 50-100 good quality, small bales for horses. 759-7730.

Treadle sewing machine, vintage bedroom set, any vintage furniture. 835-6591.

Honda Trail 90 or Honda CT110. Please call 209-7741 or 586-2060.

For recycling: E scrap, pianos, etc. If you answered an ad last fall, and didn't get a response... numerous voice mails were lost due to an electronic malfunction. Please phone again. 712-369-3291.

Small travel trailer, 14' to 20', in good condition. Also, portable sewing machine in good condition. 605-290-2369.

Logan Mystic joins Beltrami Electric



Logan Mystic, son of Mark and Susan Mystic of Bemidji, recently joined Beltrami Electric in the line department as an apprentice line worker. Logan is a graduate of Bemidji High School and Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena, Minn, where he completed the electrical line worker program. He has worked for Aevenia

Electrical Construction in Moorhead, as well as working seasonally with Beltrami Electric. He enjoys both hunting and fishing. Welcome Logan!

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC'S INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Beltrami Electric's indoor garage sale to benefit the United Way of the Bemidji Area is coming

May 6, 2017!

VENDOR SPACES FILL UP FAST!

Booth reservations will be open on Tuesday, March 21, and will be accepted until all 91 booths have been filled. If interested, come in to our office at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji and sign up or contact Cammie at 444-3675 or cvogel@beltramielc.com.

United Way
of Bemidji Area



Beltrami Electric scholarships available

Once again, it is time for high school seniors to apply for college scholarships. As we all know, a college education can be expensive. Beltrami Electric Cooperative and its board of directors are pleased to be able to offer \$1,500 in scholarship money to deserving students in our area school districts.

For years, Beltrami Electric has been able to fund college scholarships with unclaimed capital credit dollars. Following Minnesota state laws for unclaimed property, we publish the unclaimed capital credits list on our website and in our newsletter in an attempt to find the rightful owner of the money. We continue to publish and carry unclaimed capital credit amounts on our books for seven years. If, after seven years, we still have not located the owner, the law requires us to either turn the money over to the state or donate it, so your cooperative funds scholarships.

To be eligible to be awarded scholarship money this spring, the parents and/or guardians of the students must be members of Beltrami Electric. Criteria and applications are available at each high school's career guidance departments. For more information, you can also visit www.beltramielectric.com. The scholarship selection process is handled through each school's designated career guidance offices or scholarship committees. Please contact your high school for more information.



Dream Big!

Systemwide meter upgrade – installing new meters to help serve you better



Work continues on our systemwide meter upgrade, and to date we have installed more than 2,370 new meters. Our existing metering system was installed in the mid-1990s and has

reached its end-of-life, and the manufacturer is no longer supporting this old equipment. The new meters will improve reliability, outage management and will give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy.

BEC has contracted with a third party metering company, Sooner Meter, that will start in April to assist in completing the remaining meter exchanges. Their vehicles will have signage designating them as a BEC contractor so that our membership will know they are acting on behalf of BEC.

The impact of the installation is minimal. Co-op members can expect to lose power for a few minutes on the day of installation. You may need to reset your electronic devices, such as digital clocks. In addition, the next bill will show two meter readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter. We will not need access to your home or business, nor will you need to be on-site when crews perform this work.

Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Monday, Jan. 30, 2017. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- Dan Edens, operations manager, and Rich Riewer, engineering manager, reviewed member issues of concern from the December board meeting and a recent outage.
- CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including updates on the new meter system, the Northern Solar project and legislative issues. He also reported on Cooperative Network, unclaimed capital credits, a new employee hire and reviewed electronic voting procedures for director elections.
- Sid Stetten gave the financial report for December, including review of work orders. He also presented an updated Revenue Deferral Plan and Resolution and reviewed a refinancing plan for long-term debt.
- Appointed all directors as delegates to Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electric Cooperative annual meetings.
- Directors and the CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Approved the Resolution for the Revenue Deferral Plan.
- Approved changing the April regular board meeting to Friday, April 28, 2017.
- Approved Murl Nord to attend the 2017 Director Conference.
- Authorized electronic voting in 2017 for director elections.
- Approved scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 to eight area schools, with remaining funds distributed to Operation Round Up.

The March board meeting will be March 29, 2017.

Statement of Operations Year-to-date: December 2016

	December 2015	December 2016
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 49,256,323	\$ 52,010,349
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 34,438,506	\$ 36,405,749
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 14,054,452	\$ 14,724,463
Total Cost.....	\$ 48,492,958	\$ 51,130,212
Operating Margin.....	\$ 763,365	\$ 880,137
Interest Income.....	\$ 220,642	\$ 257,091
Other Margins.....	\$ 1,084,116	\$ 373,988
Total Margins.....	\$ 2,068,123	\$ 1,511,216
kWh Purchased.....	483,671,463	486,896,269
kWh Sold.....	453,819,667	465,406,311
Meters Billed.....	20,697	20,887



Grant Application Deadline March 31, 2017

To be considered at the April 2017 meeting, grant applications must be received by March 31, 2017.

Community organizations and groups may apply for an Operation Round Up grant by completing and returning an application form.

Grant applications are available at the BEC office or by visiting our website at www.beltramielectric.com.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Bemidji, MN 56619-0488
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Cooperative board of director nominations accepted at district meetings in March

Nominations are now being accepted for director positions at district meetings scheduled in March. Beltrami Electric Cooperative is divided into nine districts, each represented by a director. This year, director positions are open for Districts 2, 4 and 6. The top two candidates as determined by popular vote will have their names on the general election ballot in April.

Persons eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative shall be a member in good standing of the cooperative and receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district where nominated. If you have any questions regarding qualifications or responsibilities of board members, please contact Beltrami Electric CEO Jared Echternach at 444-2540.

District 2: Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Red Lake Nation College (in the Boardroom)
15480 Migizi Drive, Red Lake, Minn.

This will be a vacant position due to term limits held by Lea Perkins.

District 2 includes: Beltrami Electric Cooperative service areas within the Red Lake Reservation

District 4: Monday, March 6, 7 p.m.
Blackduck Senior Citizen Center
24 1st Street SE, Blackduck, Minn.

Jerry Larson is the incumbent.

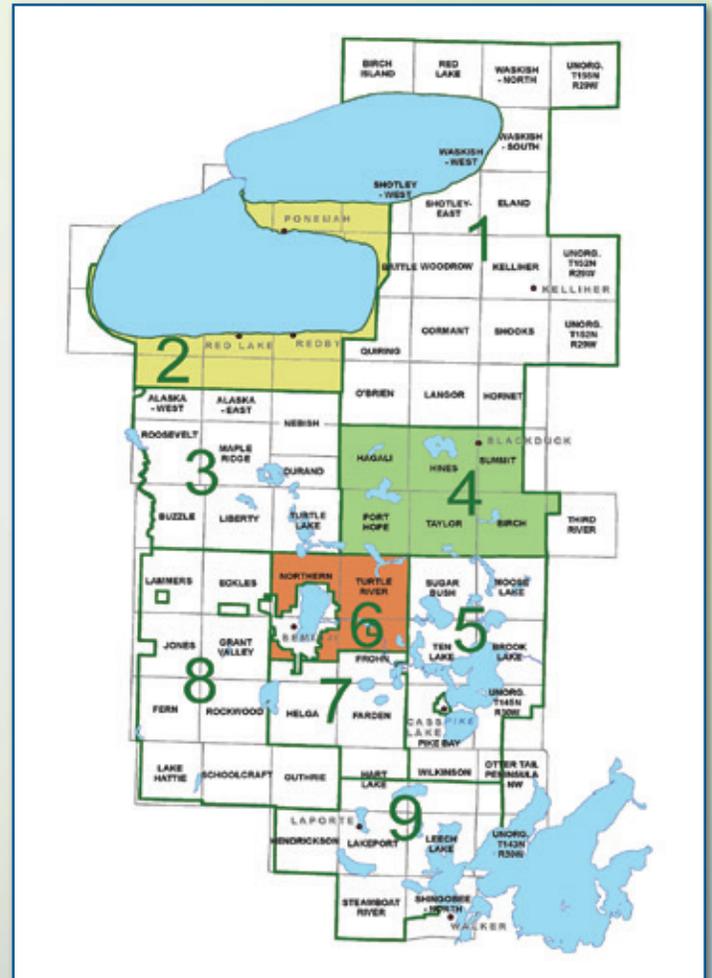
Townships in Beltrami County: Summit, Hines, Hagali, Port Hope, Taylor and Birch

Townships in Itasca County: Third River

District 6: Friday, March 10, 7 p.m.
Beltrami Electric Cooperative (in the Community Room)
4111 Technology Drive NW, Bemidji, Minn.

Rick Coe is the incumbent.

Townships in Beltrami County: Bemidji (Sections 1-24), Northern, Turtle River and Frohn (Sections 1-18)



District meetings are held each year in accordance with your cooperative's bylaws presenting the opportunity to place names on the ballot for director positions. The meetings also serve as a prelude to the upcoming annual meeting Thursday, April 20, at Bemidji High School.