

NORTHERN

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September 2017



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**Seeking nominations for 2017 Touchstone
Energy® Community Award – page 8**

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Monday – Friday

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

www.beltramielc.com

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Editor	Angela Lyseng

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

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 Cooperative's employees completed construction of the community solar array in August.



Energy Issues Summit, Northern Solar and school safety

Jared Echtermach, CEO

Your board of directors and I recently attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA) Energy Issues Summit. This annual event takes a deep dive into energy issues in the state of Minnesota and nationally and serves as a provocative and engaging platform.

Many topics were covered at the summit and I'd like to share a few of those with our members. We heard from Sen. David Osmeck and Rep. Marion O'Neill regarding the state of energy in Minnesota. Sen. Osmeck, Chair of the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee, opined that Minnesota needs a true, all-of-the-above energy policy for baseload generation that includes coal, natural gas and nuclear. He also indicated renewable energy is an important part of the mix, including hydro, solar and wind. Rep. O'Neill, Assistant Majority Leader, stressed the importance of taking a practical and cost-effective approach to meeting our energy needs and discussed opportunities to improve the Conservation Improvement Program and the Public Utilities Commission appointment process. Both legislators articulated the importance of a true, market-based approach to generation resources as opposed to government subsidies.

Also discussed at the conference was an item I've discussed here and at our annual meeting last spring. And that is the concept of Beneficial Electrification. While we have always tried to help our members use energy more efficiently, that does not mean that we must stop selling kilowatt-hours. The term Beneficial Electrification is rooted in the notion that our membership, and society, can benefit from using electricity. For example, electrifying our transportation sector using Electric Vehicles (EVs) increases electricity sales while reducing carbon emissions. As the electric grid becomes greener, EVs can increase kilowatt-hour sales and provide a societal benefit by reducing tailpipe emissions.

Another example can be found in

water heating and space heating. For years we have witnessed the development of intermittent renewable resources, and in our wholesale power provider's case, those resources are predominantly wind. We have learned wind blows the strongest at night when average electric loads are lowest. This lends itself well to integration with our existing storage water and storage space heating programs that charge during the overnight hours. In addition, highly efficient heating and cooling systems such as air-source heat pumps and ground-source heat pumps can provide tremendous benefit to our members and to society over their fossil fuel counterparts.

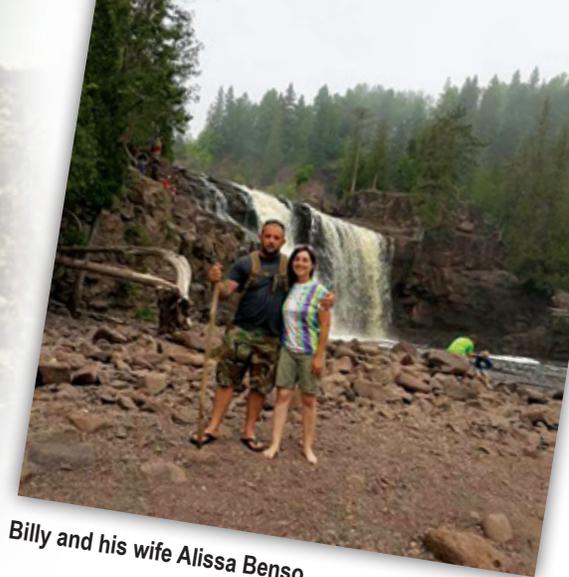
We also learned of innovative demand response, solar and EV programs currently being offered by cooperatives around the country. This collaboration among cooperatives is one of the very best features of the rural electric program, and we are better for it.

Northern Solar

At the time of this writing, construction of our community solar project was nearly complete and we will soon be going through the commissioning process. The 80-kilowatt (kW) array is located in front of our headquarters facility and is scheduled to come online in August.

School safety

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again. Where did the summer go? As kids head back to school this month, please keep safety at the top of your mind. Our youngsters are precious and while your cooperative frequently talks about electrical safety, it's important we not stop there. Please be aware of your surroundings when driving. Be mindful of school buses carrying that special cargo. Be aware of school crossings and crossing guards. And to all of our young members heading back to school ...have a great year!



Billy and his wife Alissa Benso

“No Barriers” Program for Service-Disabled Veterans

Beltrami Electric member William Benso selected for the CoBank “No Barriers” program

CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations through the United States, launched a new program this year for veterans from America’s rural communities with disabilities. Cooperatives and other eligible CoBank borrowers were able to nominate veterans from their local communities to participate in the No Barriers Warriors program, with CoBank covering the full cost for each veteran, including travel expenses.

“Every American owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces and protect our country,” said Bob Engel, CoBank’s chief executive officer. “Those who are wounded or injured in the course of duty are even more deserving of our thanks. At CoBank, we want to do our part to honor veterans and repay them for their service to the nation.”



Beltrami Electric Cooperative board member Sue Kringen was instantly excited about this program when she heard about it. She quickly reached out to the local Disabled Veterans Services group to see if there was a veteran who would be interested in the opportunity. She was able to nominate a cooperative member and veteran William (Billy) Benso and was delighted to hear that he was selected to participate in the program.

Billy is a veteran of the Marine Corps. While in the Marine Corps, he spent time in Bosnia, Kosovo and helped out in South Africa after the U.S. Embassy bombings. After his service in the Marines, he began to search for his purpose, pride and service. He decided to go to school and become a registered nurse and later received his Bachelor’s Degree in nursing. He lives in Bemidji with his wife, Alissa, also a nurse, and his two daughters, Kylee and Amelia.

Billy participated in the No Barriers Warriors expedition in July. The expedition, which included hiking, rock climbing and white-water rafting, was designed to push veterans mentally and

physically in some of nature’s most incredible wilderness settings. No Barriers allows for veterans to reflect on their past, recognize where they are in the present and then look with positivity to the future. They do so in a spirit of camaraderie; where veterans with a shared background come together to encourage and inspire each other. The No Barriers experience serves as both an opportunity for growth and a catalyst for change as the veterans stretch their boundaries, innovate through adversity and step up to serve others.

“This experience really helped to reaffirm my belief that I can keep moving forward,” said Billy. “It was an important reminder that as veterans, we have to take time to take care of ourselves. It’s easy to forget that. I’m very fortunate to have a great support system in my family.”

Billy actively advocates for veterans and organized a veterans’ support group. He is a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion. He has also

worked to organize the 22-A-Day March around Lake Bemidji, that will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at 7 a.m. to bring awareness to the 22 veterans a day who are lost to suicide.

“The No Barriers Warriors’ expedition is a great program for veterans and I hope it continues,” said Billy.

“There are many service-disabled veterans who could benefit from this experience. I’m very thankful that Beltrami Electric Cooperative took an interest in this program and nominated me to participate.”



Beltrami Electric Cooperative's 2017 POWER PLANT TOUR



Milton R. Young Station



Fort Mandan



Mac McLennan speaking to group at Minnkota headquarters.



Minnkota's control center in Grand Forks, N.D.

Beltrami Electric's 2017 Power Plant Tour took place July 18-20. Our group met at BEC to board the charter bus and departed promptly at 6:30 a.m. The first stop of the tour was at Minnkota Power Cooperative in Grand Forks, N.D., where Minnkota CEO Mac McLennan spoke to our group and answered questions. We then had the opportunity to tour Minnkota's control center and print shop.

The afternoon featured a stop in Casselton, N.D., for lunch and an opportunity to stretch our legs. We then continued west to Valley City, N.D., where Minnkota area line worker Mark Hoar met us at Minnkota Power Cooperative's Infinity Wind tower. With the wind tower being down for maintenance that day, it gave us the opportunity to go inside the base of the turbine. We arrived at our hotel in Mandan, N.D., that evening and concluded the first day with a banquet dinner and presentation by Minnkota employee Mary Schneider from the Milton R. Young Station.

Day 2 began early as well, with our group heading to the Milton R. Young Station at 7 a.m. Thunderstorms rolled through that morning, providing some much-needed rain to the drought stricken area. Unfortunately, the rain prevented our group from being able to visit the BNI coal mine to see the Liberty dragline up close. If only I could control the weather! After lunch we headed to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan. We were able to tour the many exhibits at both locations as well as listen to a presentation on how fly ash from an area coal mine was used in construction of the Fort Mandan



Garrison Dam

visitor center and how it is utilized in products like ceramic tiles, cultured stone, carpet, paint, ceiling and flooring tiles, shingles and roofing materials, bricks and masonry and more.

Our third day began with a tour of the Garrison Dam on the Missouri River, where our hydropower comes from. After the tour, we began the trek back to Beltrami Electric, with a brief stop for lunch in Carrington, N.D.

I would like to thank our members for taking the time to learn more about where our electricity comes from and what it takes to be able to flip that switch when we need it. We hope everyone had a fun and educational experience. Look for information in the *Northern Lights* for our 2018 Power Plant Tour. We will begin taking registrations for next year's trip in June 2018. – Angela Lyseng

REPORTING POWER OUTAGES



You are at home going about your normal routine, and suddenly, your power goes off. Now what? Here are some tips on what to check before you call us, to be sure you have an outage and the problem isn't on your side of the meter.

1. Check your breakers or fuses.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they are also out of power.
3. Then call and provide any other information that may help us locate the cause of the outage, such as a downed tree, lightning strike, branch across a wire, etc.

How our outage system works

A power outage reported to BEC is automatically matched to our computer database using the phone number you call from. If you're not calling from the phone number in our system, you can enter the number tied to your BEC account or you can enter your BEC account number and still be automatically matched.

The location of the outage then lights up on a map. This is why it is beneficial to have on file the phone number you are most likely to call from when reporting a power outage.

If we do not have your phone number, the outage line will tell you that your call does not match our records. Please know that these calls are still processed – it is just done manually, which may slow the process and our response

To update your contact information, give us a call at 218-444-2540, 1-800-955-6083 or submit your updated information through our website under Your Account/ Update My Account.

time. We can store up to three numbers in our system, if you have a seasonal number or cellphone, please let us know. The current number we have on file is located on your monthly billing statement; please verify that that number is correct.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC) does everything possible to keep the lights on and to restore service as soon as possible. By being prepared and informed, you can assist us in restoring power in the timeliest manner possible. BEC crews work hard to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during these times.

If it is not, please call the BEC office at **218-444-2540** or toll free at **800-955-6083** and we will update that information for you.

Did you know?

You can report your power outage quickly and easily through the SmartHub app. Sign up for SmartHub today by visiting our website www.beltramielectric.com

and click on the SmartHub button.



You can report your power outage via TEXT MESSAGE

Now it's faster and easier than ever to report your power outage to Beltrami Electric Cooperative. We launched this service enabling members to report power outages to BEC via text messaging. The service was developed to be another convenient way to communicate with us!

- To utilize our new texting service, you will need to complete a short registration process.
- Your cellphone number must also be on file at BEC for the registration process to be completed successfully.
- If you have not provided your cellphone number to BEC in the past, please contact us at **800-955-6083** to do so. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!** Simply texting our two main phone numbers **WILL NOT** work.



Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - Ads submitted by Sept. 5 – will be published in October issue.
 - Ads submitted between Sept. 6 and Oct. 5 – will be published in November issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.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 each month.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.

For Sale:

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

Cut, split and dried oak firewood. \$125 per pickup load. You haul. 224-3240.

9'x7' metal garage door, including railing hardware, looking for a good home. 651-270-5815.

Motorized hospital bed: adjustable bed frame height; motorized body positioning; used three months. \$400. 759-7730.

Retiring and down-sizing. Used Boston Grand Piano-156. Ebony polish, 5'1", beautiful condition. \$12,000. Includes comprehensive piano music library. 444-7938.

Australian Oil Skin "Outback Fitter Cowboy Duster," XL, dark brown, worn once. \$120. Cash. 759-4734.

14' aluminum fishing boats, Alumacraft, Loweline and Crestliner, \$195-\$475/each. Call 760-8266.

Twin size bunk beds, includes: frames, ladder, mattresses, mattress pads, sheets and blankets - \$100; 1/2 hp shallow well pump with pressure tank - \$100; Men's 10-speed bike - \$60; Women's 3-speed bike - \$50; 13" color stereo TV - \$40; microwave - \$40; 751-7254.

18' Hornet by Damo travel trailer, nice condition. \$5,200 cash. 760-1845.

New Goodman propane/natural gas furnace, 40,000 Btu, \$1,200 new, asking \$800; Coleman trailer house oil furnace down draft, asking \$700. Text/call 766-0299.

Top half of china hutch. Dark pine with 3 glass fronted doors. 53"W x 46"H x 13"D. Would make unique display option for retail store. \$25. 759-2322.

Mixed firewood, cut and split, \$45 standard pickup load, you haul. Kelliher area. 647-9003 or 320-256-7255.

Deer stand, hanger type \$40. Electric meat grinder \$65. Tent heater \$20. Two-room tent w/screen porch NIB \$125. Kerosene heater w/new wick in package. \$45. Vintage Coleman cook stove \$45. Green Box fish Lo-Kor tent \$65. Set of Midland walkie-talkies, OMC 6-gal tank w/hose, suitcase style fish house 4x8 \$130. 224-2394.

Roughneck Gas Caddy, 15-gal capacity, used once, US and Canada DOT approved, \$175, 586-2009.

DAKA model 311 wood stove w/autofan and damper, 12-ft metalbestos chimney and cap, 5 feet of 6 inch inside chimney and damper, roof cap and chimney adapter to go through roof and bracing to support chimney. Used very little. \$900. 18-ft sailboat w/Cuddy cab, rigging and sails in great shape. 1973 Venture. \$1,500. Call 760-2604 or 987-2187.

Truck topper, A.R.E. Olympic white. Fits Chevy 150 long box. Wiring intact for lights. \$800/obo. Admiral side-by-side refrigerator/freezer. \$75/obo. 586-2876 or 760-4506.

Tupperware: Vintage collection; dozen + items including deviled egg carrier, JellNServe jello mold w/lid, Pick-A-Deli pickle keeper, Suzette tray and lid, grater set, yellow measuring cup set, SnackNStore keeper w/lid, yellow strainer, Servalier canisters, etc. \$50 for all. 766-1289.

Border Collie puppies. Males \$200 and females \$225. 760-5020.

China hutch w/wrought iron detail. 2 glass shelves on top w/plate rail, 2 glass doors. Lighted interior. 2 drawers. Bottom has 2 doors w/full-length shelf inside. 76 1/4 inches high, 16 1/4 inches deep, 48 inches wide. Excellent condition, \$300. 467-3553 after 5 p.m.

12" western saddle w/pad \$100. 13" Simco saddle \$250. 14" Simco barrel saddle \$350. Grazing muzzle 1 horse, 1 pony \$10 ea. Tail bag, \$5. Child's paddock boots size 3, \$10. English hunt boots, size 4, \$20. Leather belts \$4 ea. Tessa. 556-2048.

12" culvert, 12" single wall \$30; Agri-fab HD broadcast spreader \$30; Garden hose reel stand w/100' hose. \$30; LifeGear stair stepper \$30. 586-2534.

Firewood: cut, split, dried. Each pile mixed wood equals a heaping full-size pickup load. Made up of popple, birch, some oak. Located in NE Bemidji. You load and haul: \$50/load. (\$40 for short box pickup) Cash only. Will deliver within 10 miles of Bemidji: \$75 load. 759-2836.

Looking to sell two complete and running Yamaha Warriors 350x, electric start and reverse, extra parts/rims and tires. Many new parts. Perfect seats. Great to perfect condition seats. No mods, no issues, call or text 209-1506.

2007 Honda CR-V EX-L AWD, silver. Leather interior, heated seats, 6-disc CD player, remote start, WeatherTech mats. Towing pkg, roof rack. New brakes, rotors and bearings. Great condition. One owner, all maintenance records available, accident free. 240,000 miles. Book: \$5,700. Sell for \$5,450. Call 368-8823.

Bruno SRE 3000 Indoor Electric Stairlift, 300lb capacity, 8' length for 5 steps, length can be modified. 2 remotes. Bruno SRE 2010E Outdoor Electric Stairlift, 400lb capacity 9' length used for 7 steps, can be modified. 2 remotes \$1,500 each. 556-1616.

Beautiful flowers! Local organic flower farmer wants to deliver 4 weekly bouquets at one monthly price of \$85. Includes annuals, perennials, wild seasonals and herbs. Every bouquet will surprise you. Call 556-0586. (DIYers for special events, call too! We'll work something out.)

Pre-finished, solid wood, American Walnut flooring. 5" wide x 0.75" thick, 475 square feet. New and in the box. \$5 per square foot. Call 770-500-5057.

Kayak - 2008 Wilderness Tsunami 14' sea kayak with paddle. Excellent used condition. Call or text 320-420-3094.

Pontoon, 25' Premier, 50 hp Honda motor, includes

trailer, lift w/metal roof, pontoon cover, new trolling motor, XL pontoons. Like new! \$24,000. Crestliner fishing boats (3), 14'. \$400/each. Call 224-2483 mornings.

Dining room table, 4 chairs, 3 leaves. Walnut in color-solid base. \$125. L-shaped computer desk, 3-drawer cabinet to match. \$100. Ladies' golf clubs, brand new, \$100. Beginner golf clubs, \$20. Call 224-2141 mornings.

2 generators, \$260 each; 3 trailer tires, 235/80R-16, \$20; 1 car tire 215/60R-60, \$20. 586-2990.

1999 Chevy Venture, 150K miles, good condition. 751-4286.

1948 Browning 12ga auto (light twelve) engraved \$450; Browning Bar 30-06 Weaver 1.5-4 Belgium \$995; Grade II Winchester model 94 PRE-1964 \$895; H & R 10ga 36" single shot \$165; some other guns. 586-3570.

Gas storage tank, 125-gallon, red steel 1/2 round, w/hand pump (\$160 new) sits flat, no stand needed. \$200. Sturdy wire carrier for large dog, solid metal floor, like new. \$40. 586-2884.

Front-mount thatcher to fit older model 300 series John Deere lawn tractor, used only once. 218-587-5571.

Browning BPS Investor 12 gauge, 28" barrel, 3" or 2 3/4" field model, vent rib barrel, 3 choke, tubes, magazine cutoff system, in good shape. Includes case and shells. \$275 firm. Cash. 751-1179.

Yamaha E flat Alto saxophone with case, both in excellent condition. \$350/obo. Pro-Form Crosswalk 400e treadmill in great condition, incline, multi-speed, folds up. \$175. 759-1476 (No Saturdays).

1st crop and 2nd crop large round hay bales. Small square straw bales. Call 751-0408, leave message.

Lil' Tykes kitchen, includes shopping cart and groceries. 766-8781.

Winchester 22 auto - tube feed. Model 190. \$175. 751-5667.

23' Award travel trailer, 1995 model in good condition, includes hitching equipment, \$3,000. Mark 5 Shopsmith with attachments, \$300. 586-2294.

Book: "These Old Boots" by James Lowmaster, covering his life raised on a dairy farm in Michigan, during the Great Depression and WWII, his Marine Corps service and adventures as a professional forester on three Indian Reservations, including Red Lake. Two volumes, 802 pages, \$45 (mailed \$52). Call 586-2492.

Washer, Kenmore electric, dryer is gas, pair for \$400. Fire pit, never used, \$80. Christmas light assortment, round table - 2 extra boards and 4 chairs, \$400. Porcelain doll collection, \$300. 3-man tent on wheels, clean. Smaller tents. 368-3819, leave message if not home. (Aug - Nov).

4-5-6 inch Block, Crazy, Star quilts, twin \$35, full \$40, queen \$50, king \$60. Antique oak rocker \$65, sewing machines \$15 each. 243-2702.

Stiits for sheet rocking, \$50. 835-7484.

Wanted:

People who want free firewood, Pine, Aspen and other hardwood on timber sale landing areas 2'-7' lengths. Call 760-8266.

ISO portable dishwasher excellent condition. 766-6510.

Older lawn tractor that will cut 5" - 6" high. Call 647-9003 or 320-256-7255.

Free:

Upright piano 751-7254.

Pool table, free to good home, tournament grade 4x8 includes balls, cues, rack. 647-8560.



Grant Application Deadline Sept. 30, 2017

To be considered at the October 2017 meeting, grant applications must be received by Sept. 30, 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.beltramelectric.com.

ARE YOU A "SNOWBIRD"?

Do you close your home or cabin for the season and head to warmer regions? Do you have the post office forward your mail? Did you know that the USPS will forward your electric bills to your new location, but they will not forward your monthly *Northern Lights* newsletter? They send them back to the cooperative every month, and in turn, charge us a return fee for each issue.

A great solution for both you and your cooperative is to notify our member service department of your new address, so they can set up a seasonal address for you. You can choose the date to start and stop forwarding, and you can even set a recurring forwarding address up to start and stop the same time each year.

By notifying us, you can ensure that you receive your member newsletter and also help the cooperative save by alleviating return postage fees every month. Contact our office at **218-444-2540** or toll free at **800-955-6083**.

You also have the option to not receive a paper copy of the newsletter if you prefer to view it on our website at www.beltramelectric.com.

Buena Vista Fall Colors Festival



Buena Vista Ski Area & Logging Village
(along with the Go & Whoa Harness Club)

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Family fun, food, horses, wagon rides and more!

Music, crafts, square dancing, wood carving, kids' activities, historic display paintings in train car, walking tours, chain saw carvings and blacksmith demonstrations!

Rates: \$6 (13 and over) • \$3 (5-12) • Under 5 (free)

www.bvskiarea.com • 218-766-9919

(12 miles north of Bemidji on County Road 15)



Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, July 26, 2017. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Echnernach presented a resolution adopting the Authority of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Minnesota Statute Section 216b.164, and the Cogeneration Rules Implementing 216b.164. He also presented revisions to the Distributed Generation/Net-Metering policy.
- CEO Echnernach made his monthly report, including discussion on the June financials and updates on the new meter system and Northern Solar. He also discussed the Operation Round Up program and legislative issues affecting the electric industry.
- Sid Stletten gave the Financial and Statistical report for June, including review of work orders. He also reviewed the second quarter budget and the draft 2016 Form 990.
- Rich Riewer presented the updated 2017-2020 construction work plan.
- Directors 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.
- Adopted a resolution adopting the authority of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in Minnesota Statute Section 216b.164, and Cogeneration Rules Implementing 216b.164.
- Approved updated 2017-2020 construction work plan.
- Approved revisions to BEC policies 308 and 103.
- Approved moving the August board meeting to Aug. 29, 2017.
- Appointed Jared Echnernach as the CoBank voting delegate.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017.

Statement of Operations Year-to-date: June 2017

	June 2016	June 2017
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 26,962,990	\$ 26,717,976
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 18,594,846	\$ 19,028,985
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 7,474,160	\$ 7,828,435
Total Cost.....	\$ 26,069,006	\$ 26,857,420
Operating Margin.....	\$ 893,984	\$ (139,444)
Interest Income.....	\$ 121,871	\$ 179,455
Other Margins.....	\$ 70,817	\$ 77,320
Total Margins.....	\$ 1,086,672	\$ 117,331
kWh Purchased.....	256,712,547	256,432,179
kWh Sold.....	255,934,384	257,453,090
Meters Billed.....	20,690	20,842

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 14,000 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 older equipment.



In April, BEC contracted with a third party metering group, Allegiant Utility Services, to assist in completing the remaining meter exchanges. Allegiant Utility Services' vehicles have its logo, as well as signage designating that they are a contractor for Beltrami Electric. The contractors from Allegiant

Utility Services also wear an ID badge with their name and photo.

The new meters will improve reliability and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy. 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 to access your home or business, nor will you need to be on-site when this work is performed.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.beltramielectric.com

Seeking nominations for the 2017 Touchstone Energy® Community Award



Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to our local community?

Beltrami Electric is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy® Community Award, which recognizes businesses, nonprofit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to our community. Any organization that has helped make their community within the areas served by Beltrami Electric a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing the Touchstone Energy Community Award application form, available at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji or online at www.beltramielectric.com. Questions may be directed to Angela Lyseng at 444-3689. The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at Beltrami Electric's office by Oct. 31.

"As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement," CEO of Beltrami Electric Jared Echternach said. *"This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to our community."*

The award recipient will be announced Nov. 3, 2017, and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in March 2018.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 700 rural electric cooperatives that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

For information and to download an application, please visit our website at www.beltramielectric.com.



2016 award winner: Northland Composite Squadron-Civil Air Patrol

Past years' winners

- 2004 - Blackduck Tri Sigma General Federated Women's Club
- 2005 - Bemidji Area Task Force on Underage Drinking, Drugs and Gang Activity
- 2006 - Healthy Community Healthy Kids
- 2007 - The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties
- 2008 - The Radiothon to End Child Abuse
- 2009 - Bemidji Garden Club (Formerly Northwoods Garden Club of the Bemidji Area)
- 2010 - Bemidji Skate and Bike Association
- 2011 - Kelliher Resource Center Committee
- 2012 - Bemidji Area Take a Kid Fishing* **(*Awarded statewide award)**
- 2013 - Blackduck Area Toys for Kids
- 2014 - Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC)*
- 2015 - Jack Pine Stables
- 2016 - Northland Composite Squadron - Civil Air Patrol