

NORTHERN

L I G H T S



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

August 2018



United Way
of Bemidji Area

United
Way



- Tournament format is a five-person team scramble
- 12:30 p.m. shotgun start
- Early bird entry fee is **\$70** per person before Friday, Aug. 10
(In order to qualify, entry fee must be paid and registration form filled out.)
- Includes golf, dinner, door prizes and a fantastic time!
- After Aug. 10, entry fee is **\$80** per person
- **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA**

(For more information or to register, call Cammie Vogel or Rich Riewer at 218-444-2540.)

Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open

Friday, Aug. 17, 2018

Castle Highlands Golf Course

*Be part of the 14th annual
Beltrami Electric Touchstone
Energy® Open to raise funds for
the United Way of Bemidji Area!*

Beltrami Electric



Touchstone Energy®
OPEN

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Monday – Friday

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

www.beltramelectric.com

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CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Ron Ditsch

218-779-6758 - rjditsch@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 lines, television cables, pipelines, utility electrical lines, and municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

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Commitment to Zero

Jared Echternach, *CEO*

Commitment to Zero

There is a disturbing trend nationwide of serious injuries and fatalities due to electrical contact. Many of these are public contacts – meaning outside the scope of electrical work being performed by qualified personnel. While injuries within our industry are declining, serious injuries and fatalities have not declined. This trend of public electrical contacts is gravely concerning.

So this month at Beltrami Electric we made our Commitment to Zero.

This means that we are committed to actions that support zero electrical contacts. This is not simply lip service or fancy lingo; it is our dedication

to continually improve our safety culture, a culture committed to each of our employees going home safely every night, and a culture committed to keeping our membership and the general public safe.

I'm proud your cooperative has an excellent safety record. But it's important we do not become complacent. Safety must be on our minds 24/7, and our behaviors must reflect that. Through this, we make that commitment to our members and the general public to work safely and to promote safety through education.

Over the next year, you will see a renewed and expanded Commitment to Zero through direct actions. We will expand our work within the community to educate the general public on electrical safety. This can take many forms, but one that seems

to resonate well is our electrical safety demonstrations. These presentations can be made to schools, civic organizations, community groups, first responders or employee safety and wellness events. If you are interested in scheduling a safety demonstration, please contact us. We would be glad to work with you.

We will also ask our employees to personally make the Commitment to Zero. We have implemented new job briefing procedures so that each employee knows and understands a job before beginning. Technology will help us with this process through an app on our mobile devices that details the procedures necessary to complete the job safely and ensures employees are on the same page while completing the job.

We will ask our board to make a Commitment to Zero and support employees as they work to improve our safety culture.

Finally, we will ask our members and the general public to join us in our Commitment to Zero. Members can make that commitment through our website and social media, where they will have access to safety articles and have the ability to share information freely with their friends, family, fellow members and the general public. They can also share their safety success stories.

Please stay tuned for more information, and I thank you in advance for taking this journey with us and for making a Commitment to Zero.



Operation Round Up® awards \$21,989 to local programs

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board for Operation Round Up® recently awarded grants to 21 area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$21,989. Grant applications were received indicating a total need of more than \$55,723 for community projects. Because of the limited amount of funding, all requests could not be granted. The Operation Round Up program is unique to electric cooperatives and provides financial assistance to nonprofit and community-based organizations. Applications may be submitted year-round, and the next application deadline is **Sept. 30, 2018**. To obtain an official grant application form, contact our office or download it at www.beltramielc.com.



The following organizations were awarded Operation Round Up grants in July:

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
American Legion, Ralph Gracie Post 14	Help Humbolt Heal Bring Pee Wee Team to Bemidji for Paul Bunyan Tournament	\$ 1,175
Backwoods Bash	Backwoods Bash in Blackduck	\$ 1,500
Bemidji Area Community Band	Guest Conductor Col. Arnald Gabriel, Ret. - Bemidji Band Camp Hall of Fame Inductee	\$ 500
Bemidji Community Theater	Bemidji Caroliers Start-up Project	\$ 600
Bemidji Senior Activity Center	Generations Read	\$ 1,175
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra	November 2018 Concert, "Romantic"	\$ 500
Birchmound Community Center	New Metal Roof	\$ 500
Blackduck Elementary School	Reading Curriculum Enrichment	\$ 693
Boys and Girls Club - Leech Lake Area	We Are the Future - Nation Building - Database Management	\$ 1,500
City of Kelliher	Paul Bunyan Park Rehab	\$ 1,500
Deeper Life Bible Camp	Camper/Staff Dormitory Remodel	\$ 1,500
Headwaters School of Music & Arts	Headwaters Music Camps	\$ 1,500
Headwaters Science Center	Student Group Scholarship and Transportation Fund	\$ 1,500
Laporte School	Smile, You're on Camera!	\$ 1,200
Muscular Dystrophy Association	MDA Youth Summer Camp	\$ 500
Northwest Indian Community Development Center	Anokiiwin (Good Work) Education Initiative	\$ 500
Red Lake Nation College	Oshki Manidoo, RLNC Success-Oriented Students	\$ 2,000
Ruby's Pantry	Ruby's Pantry	\$ 1,000
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Hope in Bemidji	\$ 500
Solway Elementary Library	New Books for Early Readers	\$ 1,000
Voyageur's Area Council	Support for Boy Scouts of America Program	\$ 1,146

Thank you, Beltrami Electric Cooperative members!



Seated: Julia Simons, Solway Elementary School; Joann Gardner, St. Vincent de Paul; Kristine Cannon, Bemidji Community Theater; Annie Butler Ricks, Headwaters Science Center; Michelle Crow, Bemidji Senior Center

Standing: Nancy Haugen, Bemidji Symphony Orchestra; Sharon Lembke, ORU board member; Michelle Sand, ORU board member; Jessica Westlund, Headwaters School of Music & Arts; Eva Jourdan, City of Kelliher; Jim Haskell, American Legion, Ralph Gracie Post #14; Steve Inkel, Boy Scouts of America; Lonnie Wernberg, Deeper Life Bible Camp; Steph Rockensock, Blackduck Backwoods Bash; Michelle Walton, Northwest Indian Community Development Center; David Lindmark, Birchmound Community Center; Jim Dahedl, Blackduck Elementary School, Nokomis Paiz, Red Lake Nation College

SAFETY FIRST!

Watch for hidden hazards after a storm

Storms with high-speed winds, heavy rains and lightning can be frightening events. After a storm, your first instinct might be to return to life as usual, but safety is as important after the storm as it is during the storm. As you can see from the storms that hit our area this summer, they can take down power lines and create a dangerous situation for entire communities, including the line crew working hard to get power turned back on.

The most common question we receive after an event leaves members without power is, “How long until my power is back on?” This is a difficult question to answer. How long it takes to get power restored depends on the extent of the storm’s destruction, the number of outages and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas.



Weather plays a big part in restoration efforts. If there is lightning, it is not safe for crews to be working on lines or in a bucket. They will need to wait until the lightning stops before they can begin repairs.

To stay safe, it is important to take safety precautions after a storm and be on the lookout for hidden hazards, such as downed power lines. When there are trees down, lines can be hidden amongst the debris.

Angela Lyseng, marketing/communications specialist at Beltrami Electric, witnessed the danger of storm damage firsthand as she drove by a tree that had fallen on an overhead line. The tree had broken the neutral line, which was lying on the ground, across a member’s driveway. The primary line was still up, the tree on it was smoking and occasionally you would see a flame. There was no indication to our office that anything was wrong, because the member still had power. Luckily, a nearby resident had called in to report the tree on the line. Knowing the danger that

this situation posed, Angela called into the office to notify them that she would remain at the scene until line personnel arrived.

“I wanted to ensure that no one approached the line or tried to enter or exit the driveway with the line across it. After the line crew arrived, I decided to stay and watch them work on removing the tree and repairing the broken line. It was about 85 degrees, around 80 percent humidity, with numerous deer flies buzzing around us. Definitely not my idea of fun. However, until you have seen what it takes to restore power after a storm, you don’t fully comprehend it,” Lyseng said.

The crew arrived and held a “tailgate meeting” to discuss the plan for restoration and make sure everyone was on the same page. They then verified that the line was still energized. Next, the line foreman drove down the road to the nearest breaker to de-energize the line before they could safely work on it. Meanwhile, the crew put on their safety gear, which includes safety chaps to run the chainsaw, safety eyewear, hard hats and gloves. They waited for confirmation that the line was de-energized before they proceeded to remove the tree from the line. “Electricity always wants to find a path to ground, and on this day, that path would have been that Popple tree,” Lyseng said.

Once the tree was removed, the crew located both ends of the neutral line that was laying on the ground and began the process to splice it back together. They crimped a six-foot section of wire to one end and then



used a ratchet to grab the other end and cinch it tight enough that would allow them to complete the splice. They then repositioned the bucket truck and prepared

to go up in the bucket to complete the repair. Once the splice had been completed, they moved the bucket away from the line and notified the line foreman that

Remember these safety precautions after a summer storm:

- Do not venture out on roads after a storm unless you have to. If you are driving and see a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact 911 or your utility company to address the downed power line. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.
- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Downed power lines, stray wires and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay away, and instruct others to do the same.

it was safe to re-energize it.

“It is extremely important to always stay at least 30 feet away from a downed power line. You may not see it. You may not hear it. But if you see a downed line, assume it’s hot and stay very far away from it,” says Lyseng.

After a storm, when thousands of members are out of power, and reports start to come in to BEC’s dispatch center about downed lines or trees on lines, things can get stressful in a hurry. Working to determine where to go first when you have more outages than crews is challenging. When you are out of power, it may seem like it takes longer than expected to get it restored. However, safety is our first priority for our employees, members and the community. Nights, holidays, weekends, rain or shine, we work hard to get the power turned back on.

When a crew responds to an outage and discovers a power pole is broken, it takes considerably more time to complete repairs and restore power. If there are multiple poles broken in a row, this also will extend restoration times. These are the steps that go into replacing a pole:

- First, the crew will conduct what is called a “tailgate meeting” before work starts. This is to get all crew members on the same page for the job to be done safely. These are conducted before every job they do and allow all on the job to discuss any hazards associated with the job.
- They will then verify if the line is de-energized and turn the line off from both ends to ensure that the line is safe to work on. They will also install grounds on both ends of the line for their protection. They will need to determine the type and size of pole that is needed for replacement and contact another crew to load it on a trailer and deliver it to the site.
- By law, a call needs to be placed to Gopher State One Call to locate utilities such as cable, fiber, water, gas, etc., which may run in the utility right of way corridor. Gopher State One will contact other utilities, who then send someone to locate each of their facilities. This all needs to be complete before we can dig a hole for a new pole, no matter how close you try to set the new pole to where the old pole was.
- Next, crews will need to clear the debris, wire, broken pole, etc. Equipment such as brackets, insulators, cross arms, transformers and more will need to be removed from the broken pole and attached to the new pole.
- Spotting, or determining the best placement for the digger truck and the bucket truck needed for repairs, takes time as well, as some terrain isn’t level or easy to access.
- Crews will then dig a new hole, attach the equipment to the new pole and set the pole in place. Then they will shovel the dirt back in to fill in around the pole and tamp the dirt to compact it. They will repeat these steps until the hole is full.
- Next, if the line also needs repair, they will need to splice it before it can be reattached to the pole. The time needed here also depends on if the line is a three-phase line or not, which means it will have three wires and a neutral wire, not just one primary wire and one neutral wire.
- After crews reattach the line, and if no other poles in the same span are broken, they will call into BEC’s dispatch coordinator for a safety check. This is to confirm that it is safe to re-energize this line and that no other crews are working down from it that could be injured when the line comes back on. Once they are given the all-clear, they will re-energize the line at the nearest breaker or switch.



Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
 - o Ads submitted by August 5 will be published in September issue.
 - o Ads submitted between August 6 and September 5 will be published in October 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:

2000 Buick Lesabre, 147K miles, new tires and battery, \$2,200. Portable band saw mill, \$1,500. (4) 33x12.5x15 tires on 5-hole Ford/Dodge/Jeep rims, ¾ tread, \$600. 14' Alumacraft w/15 hp Evinrude on Spartan roller trailer, depth finder, oars, spare tire, water ready, \$1,400. 766-0915.

Craftsman table saw, \$125. 854-7374 or 556-5454.

"The Big Green Egg," large size with custom table and accessories. Like new. \$650. 586-2612.

Massey Ferguson 3-pt rear blade, 8-ft. excellent condition. \$750/obo. 335-0144.

Three portable deer stands, all are ladder style that strap to a tree. Call 760-8266.

Troy-Bilt 12 hp wood chipper, excellent condition, \$600. Honda water pump WB20X, 2" hose 4 hp 50 feet of 2" flexible hose included. 760-4288.

Hay, 4x5 round bales. Alfalfa/grass mix-organic. Excellent quality. Reasonably priced. Call 407-2052.

American Drew solid oak, oval table, 2 leaves, 2 captain's chairs, 4 side chairs, excellent condition, \$500; antique metal crib \$40; kids' bed w/mattress \$30; Medela Pump in Style Advanced with On-the-Go Tote, mint cond. \$50. 444-9137.

Bike rack to hold two bikes for 2-inch hitch. \$75. 444-9137.

2004 Chevy Aveo. Body is in great shape, no

rust, brand new tires, less than 500 miles on them. Gets great gas mileage. Needs a new engine. As-is \$1,000. Call 760-0753.

2005 Craftsman LT1000 riding mower, 42" cut. \$150. 1984 14ft Alumacraft boat and trailer w/oars. \$600. NordicTrack XC ski machine \$50. Call George at 368-9913.

Coleman trailer house furnace, used 2 months. Asking \$700. Call 679-3681.

6-foot cultivator, \$325. 751-2593.

Pickup topper, Safari fiberglass, victory red, fits 2007 to 2012 GM crew cab 5' 8" short box, can be painted. Side windows open out. \$475. Good condition. Call 766-2491.

Propane refrigerator, propane freezer. Electric 1 hp lake irrigation pump, medium size dog "crate." 556-9440.

Antique Monarch wood or coal cook stove. Good shape, black and white, lots of ornate nickel. For use or beautiful display piece. Warming ovens, oval to round pipe adapter. \$500. Debs area. Easy access, on first floor, no steps, buyer must move it. 556-4106, 556-6592, 243-2253.

AKC registered lab puppies. They come with their dewclaws removed, vet check and shots, dewormed, registration paperwork and a limited health guarantee. \$750 for Yellows/Black and \$850 for Fox-Reds, limited registration, additional \$200 for full registration rights. For more information text or call 244-7605.

Treadmill by I-fit, \$175/obo. Ladies folding bicycle, never used, color red, \$75. Ladies XC Anaconda bicycle, used very little, \$35. Men's

bicycle used a little but very good condition, \$35. 444-7000.

Homemade quilts: 4-5-6 inch Block, Crazy, Star. Twin, \$35; Full, \$40; Queen, \$55; King, \$60. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

1987 Ford Ranger 4x4 SuperCab pickup. 204K miles, runs well, newer tires, topper and three piece hard tonneau cover. Faded paint, body in typical condition for a vehicle of this age. \$1,088 and can be seen in the Bemidji area. Call Randy at 701-741-9225.

1984 24-ft Float-boat pontoon, 70 hp Johnson motor, no trailer. Runs well. \$2,500. 218-791-6298.

Wanted:

Gas fridge for cabin. 766-0915.

Grill/brush guard for 1990 Ford F-150. 766-1758.

Youth baseball catcher's gear. Please call/text 368-9492.

We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for Steven L. Johnson, Sr. (Blackduck, Minn.). Please call 218-444-2540 if you have any information.



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GET STARTED TODAY!

Visit mymeter.beltramelectric.com



Come visit us at the Beltrami County Fair!

Visit our booth in the commercial exhibits building at the fair, where we will have our Chevy Bolt, electric vehicle (EV) on display.

THURSDAY, AUG. 9 - SUNDAY, AUG. 12.



Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, June 27, 2018. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including discussion on the May financials and updates on the new meter system and electric vehicle charging stations. He also discussed local and legislative issues affecting the electric industry.
- Arlene Hogquist gave the financial report and an update on Cooperative Response Center.
- Jolene Kallroos presented the Red Flags report and reviewed our identity theft prevention processes.
- 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.
- Appointed Rick Coe as the RESCO delegate with John Lund as alternate.
- Appointed Charlie Parson as the NRECA delegate with John Lund as alternate.

The next regular board meeting will be Aug. 29, 2018.

Annual pole top inspection

Beltrami Electric Cooperative takes pride in the reliability of the electric service that we provide to our members. A portion of this achievement can be attributed to a system-wide maintenance program that includes an annual pole inspection. For 2018, BEC has contracted with RAM Utilities, LLC to complete this task. They are a respected company within the industry who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the BEC electric distribution system.

The process of pole inspection requires that a representative from RAM Utilities physically tests every pole within the designated area. Members may notice the crew digging around poles or riding side by sides and pickups along power lines. Crews will have Beltrami Electric Cooperative Contractor magnets on the pickups and ATVs. The inspection program detects poles with potential faults and prevents future unplanned outages or damages.

Our members', the general public, and employees' safety is a priority at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, which can only be achieved through hazard recognition. Identifying poles in need of replacement is the purpose of this inspection process. Those deemed inadequate will be replaced in a timely manner to insure both electric service reliability and safety.

This year's pole inspections will include areas in the following townships: Bemidji, Eckles, Northern, Liberty, Lammers, Buzzle, Maple Ridge and Roosevelt.

If you have questions or concerns in regards to pole testing, please contact our office at 1-800-955-6083.



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Are you a winter "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 up a recurring forwarding address 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.



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4111 Technology DR NW
PO Box 488
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488
218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083
www.beltramielctric.com

In his own words: Zach Stute

2018 YOUTH TOUR

WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 9-14, 2018



"JUNIORS, THE YOUTH TOUR IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!"

First, I would like to thank you, dear reader. You are most likely a co-op member and therefore directly responsible for sending me on the NRECA Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

The tour was a wonderful and educational experience. Two experiences that stuck out were the time we spent at Arlington National Cemetery and the Iwo Jima Memorial. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we witnessed a changing of the guard. The rigidity and ritual of the changing was a fascinating look at American martial culture.

One evening, we watched Mike Pence's limousine as he pulled into a party at Ford's Theatre while waiting for our bus, and he waved at our group.

We also had the chance to visit the Capitol Building and meet with our congressional representatives. We had District 8 (that's us) Rep. Rick Nolan meet with our group, and he told us his opinions on our political problems. We were invited by Sen. Tina Smith to watch a session of the Senate from a gallery. Incidentally, that day, a senator from Connecticut was reminding the Senate about the prevalence of gun violence and presenting statistics.

There were approximately 1,800 other high school kids from different states' co-ops in Washington around the same time. One of them was a guy named Bryce from Mississippi. I, several other

Minnesota delegates and a couple of delegates from other states were all playing cards on the floor. Bryce joined us, and after talking for just a few moments, and a few exchanges of ridiculous jokes, I realized that I met myself in an alternate universe where I lived in Mississippi.

Juniors, the Youth Tour is an amazing opportunity, and I would recommend you at least try to get in next year's group. The cost of

entry is so low – only an application and an essay. You're making a bad choice in not at least trying. Believe it or not, some co-ops have trouble finding people to actually send on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., so you individually have a really good shot of making it. At least go

on your cooperative's website and look. I would finally like to thank Beltrami Electric Cooperative and its members for providing this opportunity not just for me, but also for future and past delegates.

