

# 2023 BELTRAMI ELECTRIC ANNUAL REPORT

*A year of commitment, community and service*



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**Northern Lights, August 2024**

# REPORT TO THE MEMBERS



**John Lund**, Board Chair (left)

**Jared Echternach**, President and CEO (right)

We are pleased to provide you with an update on your cooperative.

## ANNUAL MEETING

We will conduct our annual meeting in conjunction with the Beltrami County Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds. The annual business meeting will be held at the Marilyn Shutter Stage beginning at 5 p.m. We will have food vouchers for members, provide a safety demonstration, offer bucket rides for kids and host the grandstand musical entertainment. We hope you can join us.

## SAFE AND RELIABLE

Safety is our number one priority and we continue to strengthen our safety culture. We're proud to report we experienced zero lost-time injuries in 2023, and our employees and directors have a strong commitment to safety. We also have excellent reliability. On average, our members experience about one outage per year and our average response time was 80 minutes – excellent considering we maintain more than 3,500 miles of line within a 3,000-square-mile service area. We did not experience a major storm in 2023 and we continue to be leaders in underground line construction with more than 75% of our system underground. We are extremely proud of our employees for their commitment to safety and for providing excellent service to our members.

## RATES

It has been more than six years since our members experienced a rate increase. That's remarkable considering the inflationary pressures of the last four years. Everything from your grocery bill, to the gasoline you buy, to the services you use, has seen double digit percentage increases over the last six years. We continue to see increases in material costs and longer lead times, and we are certainly not immune to the inflation of raw materials, fuel and equipment.

Our wholesale power rates remained flat in 2023 and 2024. Approximately 70% of every dollar you pay on your electric bill goes toward the cost of wholesale power. We expect wholesale power costs to increase in 2025 and a rate change is likely. We've experienced decreasing residential sales with our average residential member using less in 2023 than in the 10 previous years. While electric use has decreased for residential members, we've seen increases in demand placed on the system, resulting in increased demand charges from our wholesale power supplier. As a result, our independent cost-of-service study indicates a demand change component is needed. Your board of directors has been diligently evaluating rate structures to provide fair and reasonable rates to our members, and they will likely approve a rate change this fall with implementation in 2025.

## GROWTH SLOWS

While 2023 was another busy year for your cooperative with work plan projects designed to improve your distribution system, we saw a dip in residential and small commercial services. Crews constructed 260 new services and performed more than 80 service improvements for our membership. This is a decrease of approximately 40 services from our five-year average. We are fortunate to live in an area that continues to grow. This growth rate is manageable and appears it will be so for the foreseeable future.



## THINNING MARGINS

In 2023, we realized an operating margin of more than \$500,000 and a total margin of \$2.1 million, of which more than \$1 million was allocated and distributed patronage capital from other cooperatives of which we are members. We returned more than \$1.7 million in capital credits to current and former members. With continued system growth and managing operating expenses, we ended the year with a positive, but thinning, margin, meeting all of our loan covenants.

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER

In closing, we would like to thank you for being a member and for your continued support. We would also like to thank our team of dedicated employees and directors, whom you have entrusted to care for your cooperative.

– John Lund, *Board Chair*  
Jared Echternach, *President and CEO*

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – Aug. 9, 2023

The annual meeting of the members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc. was held at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds in Bemidji, Minn., on Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, commencing at 5 p.m. John Lund presided as Chair.

The following directors were present:

Murl Nord	Charlie Perkins	Mike Monsrud
Craig Gaasvig	Bob Wallner	Rick Coe
John Lund	Sue Kringen	Sharon Lembke

Chair Lund called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Chair Lund asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

Director Sharon Lembke gave the invocation and sang the national anthem.

Chair Lund announced a quorum with 600 registered voting members. Attorney Gerad Paul was appointed as Parliamentarian.

The reading of the official Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Mailing was dispensed without objection.

The minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were approved without objection.

Chair Lund introduced current directors and recognized members who previously served as directors.

Attorney Gerad Paul introduced the candidates for District 2, Charlie Perkins; District 4, Craig Gaasvig; and District 6, Rick Coe.

Attorney Gerad Paul called for a motion by voice vote to declare all three uncontested candidates elected to serve their respective districts. A motion was made by voice vote and seconded. Motion carried.

Attorney Gerad Paul then announced Charlie Perkins, Craig Gaasvig and Rick Coe as directors of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

Communications Specialist Angela Lyseng presented a report on Operation Round Up to the membership.

Elena Harmsen, Youth Tour delegate, reported on her recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Director of Finance and Corporate Services Arlene Hogquist presented the annual financial report.

President and CEO Jared Echternach introduced and recognized special guests Shelley Spears and Clayton Gubbels from North Star Electric and Kermit Jenson from Roseau Electric.

President and CEO Jared Echternach addressed the membership, reporting on the past year's performance, commitment to safety, strategic plan, cost-of-service study, Project Tundra, service reliability, and the importance of baseload generation and transmission.

Chair Lund called for any unfinished business. There was none. Chair Lund called for any new business. There was none. Chair Lund called for any questions. There were none.

Chair Lund declared the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**John Lund**  
Chair  
District 7



**Sue Kringen**  
Vice Chair  
District 8



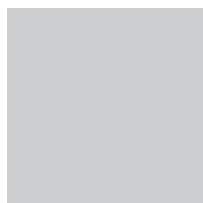
**Murl Nord**  
Secretary  
District 1  
*Square Butte Director*



**Sharon Lembke**  
Treasurer  
District 9



**Charlie Perkins**  
Director  
District 2



**Vacant**  
Director  
District 3



**Craig Gaasvig**  
Director  
District 4



**Robert Wallner**  
Director  
District 5



**Rick Coe**  
Director  
District 6  
*Minnkota Director*

## The Mission of Beltrami Electric Cooperative

*"To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices."*

## SEVEN CO-OP PRINCIPLES: THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Cooperatives are special because they are owned by the members they serve and because they are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of those consumers. Beltrami Electric Cooperative proudly adheres to these seven guiding principles:



# YOUR CO-OP BY THE NUMBERS

Average times a member experienced an outage in 2023



**1.1**

(Average restoration time over our 3,000-square-mile service area was 80.1 minutes)

Capital credits returned to members in 2023

**\$1.7M**

and \$13.7M over the last 10 years



New services connected in 2023



**260**

2023 kWh sold

**553.1M**



## Member Services

Incoming calls in 2023 33,542

Service transfers in 2023 1,509

New members welcomed in 2023 748

Paperless billing accounts in 2023 4,089

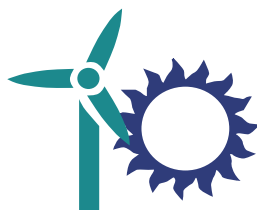


**18,342**

Total members served

Beltrami Electric employees

**64**

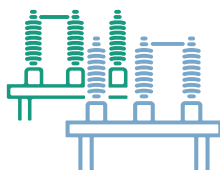


Minnkota electric generation capacity from wind and hydro energy

**42%**

(Minnkota Power Cooperative is a national leader in wind energy)

Total substations in Beltrami Electric's service area



**24**

Outages caused by animals/squirrels:

**320**



Outages caused by weather/trees:

**55**



Meters served in Beltrami Electric's service area (including off-peak)

**29,709**



Total poles in Beltrami Electric's service area

**18,831**



Total transformers in Beltrami Electric's service area

**16,941**

Beltrami Electric Cooperative operates **3,592** miles of line (75% underground; 25% overhead)

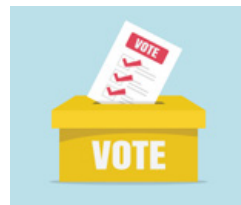
**6.6** members per mile



# 2024 DIRECTOR CANDIDATE VOTING OPTIONS

Cooperatives are democratic entities, owned by those we serve and governed by elected representatives from the membership. In fact, one of the seven cooperative principles is Democratic Member Control. This year, members are voting for candidates in Districts 3, 7 and 9.

- *Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS), an independent election service, will administer the director election for Beltrami Electric Cooperative.*



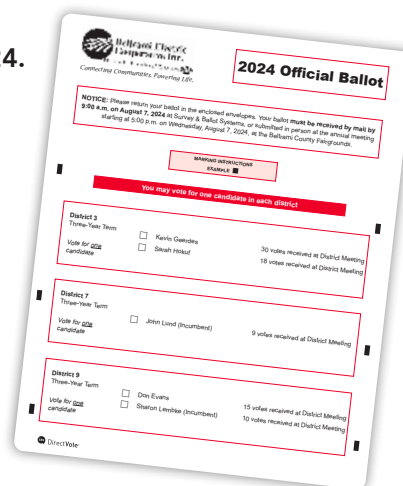
## WE OFFER MULTIPLE WAYS TO CAST YOUR VOTE!

### 1 VOTE BY MAIL:

**Your mailed ballot must be received by Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024.**

Election ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all Beltrami Electric Cooperative members on July 18. The ballots will look like the sample to the right. The candidates will be listed by district, then alphabetically.

To vote by mail, complete your ballot, place the ballot in the white, secrecy envelope and seal. Place the secrecy envelope in the blue, pre-addressed, postage-paid return envelope and mail. The ballots will be mailed directly to our election company, SBS, to tabulate.

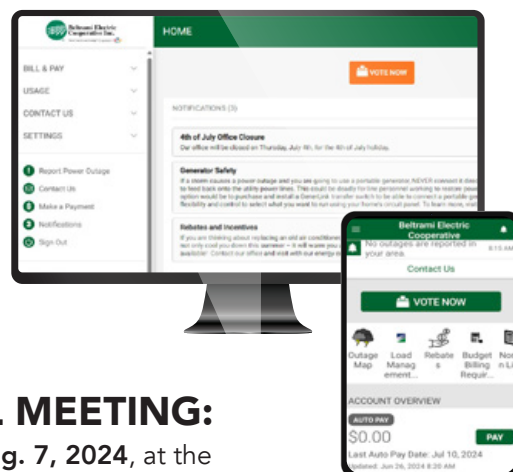


### 2 VOTE ONLINE:

**Online voting must be completed by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024.**

To vote online, scan the QR code on the back of the blue return envelope to visit our election page at **directvote.net/Beltrami** or login with your member number and election passcode located on the back tab of the blue return envelope mailed with your ballot.

**OR** if you're a registered user on SmartHub, you will also receive an email with a link to vote online. Access your online ballot by logging into SmartHub at **beltramielectric.smarthub.coop** and click the **VOTE NOW** button or open the SmartHub app and vote there.



### 3 VOTE IN PERSON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

Vote in person at the annual meeting on **Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024**, at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds. The voting tent will be located next to the Marilyn Shutter Stage. Registration opens at 4 p.m. and ballots will be accepted until 5 p.m., when the annual meeting begins.

***Election results will be announced at the annual meeting and will be printed in the September Northern Lights.***



# MEET THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

## DISTRICT 3, Kevin Geerdes



I graduated from Blackduck High School and hold a BS in Business Administration from Bemidji State University. After serving four years in the U.S. Navy, I have spent 31 years with AgCountry Farm Credit Services, providing credit and financial services to rural communities and farmers. I feel privileged to have worked for a farmer-owned co-op. I have experience in short-term and long-term planning and finance. My wife, Shelly, and I have two sons and two grandchildren. I enjoy reading, hunting, golfing, fishing and spending time on the lake with family. I have served on the Wilton City Council and the Bemidji Town & Country Club board. I believe we need to find a sustainable and cost-efficient balance between fossil fuels and renewable energy. I am eager to learn more about various energy generation methods, including wind, solar, water, nuclear and coal, as I think all have roles to play in maintaining affordable energy for homes and businesses. I am a strong supporter of the cooperative business model and am dedicated to assisting Beltrami Electric in its continued success.

## DISTRICT 3, Sarah Hokuf



My husband and I moved to Bemidji in 2011 and have two children. I cherish this community and plan to be a lifelong resident. Beltrami Electric plays a significant role in our area, inspiring me to be an active member and contribute to the co-op. I founded Evolve Creative in 2004 and have 25 years of experience in marketing and web design. Currently, I am the marketing manager at our family business, AirCorps Aviation. My board experience includes serving with the United Way of Bemidji Area, Evolve Creative and AirCorps Aviation. Additionally, I have been involved in several church committees and was a founding leader of the Entrepreneurs Meetup at the LaunchPad through Greater Bemidji. I enjoy trail and mountain biking, volleyball and daily walks with my Goldendoodle. I believe I can offer creative and strategic thinking and enjoy brainstorming solutions to challenges. Increasing regulations and policies from the U.S. government, along with issues related to permitting, land use and energy innovation, are growing challenges in this industry that I am eager to address.

## DISTRICT 7, John Lund (Incumbent)



I am a lifelong resident of the Bemidji area with a BS in Industrial Technology from Bemidji State University. Staying active physically, mentally and spiritually is important to me. Over the years, I have served on church boards and councils, completed two terms on the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners and have been on Beltrami Electric's board of directors for 12 years, currently as the board chair. I have completed three NRECA training programs: the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate and the Director Gold Certificate. These programs cover the evolving electric industry and the responsibilities of being an effective board member. My primary focus is to ensure we continue providing affordable and reliable electricity to our members while keeping our balance sheet strong. As we integrate new technologies like solar, wind, battery storage and electric vehicles (EVs), it is crucial to maintain coal-fired baseload generation and incorporate carbon capture to ensure reliability. I am committed to balancing innovation with stability, ensuring our cooperative can meet future energy demands while maintaining excellent service for our members.

## DISTRICT 9, Don Evans



I have a deep connection to this area. My wife and I have been year-round residents since 2007. I hold a BA from Macalester College and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. I worked as an air traffic control specialist in Princeton, Minn., until my retirement. I have served on the boards of the Kabekona Lake Foundation and the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation (now the Northern Waters Land Trust). I'm deeply concerned about the effects of climate change. The burning of fossil fuels has created a serious danger for future generations. Beltrami Electric is doing a good job of transitioning to clean energy with 42% generated by wind and hydro. However, 56% is still generated by burning coal. I'm realistic enough to realize that we can't just stop burning coal, especially if we want to keep electric rates low. As a director, I will work with others to continue the transition to clean energy. By taking advantage of government programs, we should be able to achieve this goal while maintaining affordable electric energy.

## DISTRICT 9, Sharon Lembke (Incumbent)



I have been a cooperative member for 45 years and live in the Laporte area. I hold a BS in Elementary Education, a MS in School Administration with minors in English and Psychology, and a Specialist/6th-Year Degree in School Administration. My career includes roles as a teacher, elementary school principal, school administrator and interim superintendent. I enjoy music and play bass guitar with a couple groups and acoustic guitar in church. I am passionate about volunteering, serving at my church, the Laporte Food Shelf, Legion Auxiliary, Bone Builders, and serving as an election judge for Hart Lake Township. Prior to serving on the BEC board, I volunteered on the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board for Operation Round Up®, where I served as president for five years. I have also served on the Riverview Hospital board in Crookston, Minn., and volunteered on two church boards. I believe preserving our environment in the lakes area and beyond is crucial. Additionally, I am committed to improving our energy usage and ensuring that electricity remains affordable and reliable for the members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, POWERING LIFE, MINIMIZING DEMAND: IT'S WHAT CO-OPS DO



**Mike Birkeland**  
VP – Electrification and  
Member Engagement

"Can't shake the small-town boy in me. There's solid ground beneath my feet ... built a home with a girl who shares my name."

Those words, penned by a local songwriter you've never heard of (unless you look at this byline), lead into a story about values that many small-town boys (and girls) appreciate. Values like family, faith, community and service to others.

## RESPONSIVE

As a cooperative owned by the members we serve and built by the communities we serve, we belong to the communities we serve. These are values, principles and perspectives that resonate and carry weight in all that we do at Beltrami Electric.

This thinking provides the foundation for off-peak programs that deliver heating and cooling programs, service, rebates and options that keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We call this "The Power of Off-Peak."

More than 7,000 members agree. And these members benefit by participating in off-peak programs that help save money on electric bills and lower overall energy bills every day, every month and every year.

## RESOURCEFUL

The emphasis on providing service, support and solutions also drives us to offer products that provide comfort, safety and value for members.



Products like Steffes thermal storage furnaces, Marathon water heaters and Generlink adapters that provide a safe and economical way to connect a generator behind the meter during power outages.

Whether delivering peace of mind, enhancing reliability, or ensuring comfort during life's storms – these systems are intended to help keep your home and family comfortable, regardless of the season.

## RESPONSIBLE

These initiatives also enable BEC to lower system demand for electricity, while minimizing "demand charges" for wholesale power. That means off-peak programs are not only good for participants, but also good for the cooperative as well as the electric grid.

A massive energy transition is underway with power supply (think wind, solar and utility-scale batteries). And keeping a lid on electrical "demand" will be even more important in the future.

## Why?

Because the more appliances, lights, fans and compressors you run at the same time, the more our collective demand for power increases – and the more the cost of power increases for the cooperative – especially if the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

BEC off-peak programs are a smart way to minimize system demand during the day while keeping your home comfortable and limiting the amount of electrical demand during peak hours of the day when the price for power is also at its peak.

## RELIABLE

We work hard to keep your lights on, your coffee hot and your batteries charged. If you'd like to add heating and cooling to the equation, give us a call at **218-444-2540** or check out our website at **beltramielectric.com**, and we'll let you know how you can benefit from "The Power of Off-Peak."

Stay comfortable. Feel good. And join the movement! When you do, remember that "The Power of Off-Peak" is not only good for you, but also for the co-op, and the grid, too!





# OPERATIONS UPDATE



**Lee Pemberton**  
Manager of Operations

Hello to all our members from the operations team here at Beltrami Electric Cooperative. We hope you're enjoying a fantastic summer. Here's a comprehensive update on the projects completed during the 2023 construction season, our plans for 2024 and an overview of our right-of-way program.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: 2023 SEASON

Our team completed several major projects in 2023, focusing on enhancing the reliability and safety of our electric services. Key projects included:

1. **Moose Lake Area:** Conversion of 5.25 miles of overhead lines to underground.
2. **Adams Avenue:** Conversion of 3.5 miles of overhead lines to underground.
3. **Kabekona Bay Area:** Conversion of 2.7 miles of overhead lines to underground.

In addition to these major projects, we built 260 new services and completed 84 service improvements. Most importantly, all this work was completed safely.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: 2024 SEASON

We are gearing up for an exciting 2024 construction season with these significant projects lined up:

1. **Redby Area:** Conversion of 1.5 miles of three-phase overhead lines to underground.

2. **West Windigo Drive:** Conversion of 3.25 miles of three-phase overhead lines to underground.

These projects will further enhance the reliability and efficiency of our electric distribution network, ensuring continued high-quality service for our members.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM UPDATE

Your cooperative has also been busy working on right-of-way clearing across several townships, including Third River, Birch, Summit, Moose Lake and Ten Lake. In total, we've cleared approximately 950 spans of overhead lines. Regular trimming of trees and brush is crucial as they can conduct electricity and can cause outages or safety hazards. Maintaining these rights of way is vital to ensuring the safety and reliability of your electric service.



## COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Our line crews are always ready to respond to outages and work tirelessly to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these times.

Thank you for your continued membership and support. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

# 2023 COOPERATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



Eight high school seniors received scholarships from BEC.



BEC recognized Let's Go Fishing with Seniors of Bemidji as the winner of our annual Touchstone Energy Community Award.



BEC employees and events contributed \$31,805 to the United Way of Bemidji Area in 2023.



BEC sponsored one student on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June 2023.

In 2023, BEC paid out

**\$475,309**

to members toward energy efficiency and electric heating. Check out the rebates that BEC offers by visiting [www.beltramielectric.com/rebates-and-incentives](http://www.beltramielectric.com/rebates-and-incentives).

## NO RATE INCREASE FOR SIX YEARS



Your cooperative is focused on keeping rates low while maintaining and operating a reliable electric system. Because of that mission, we have successfully kept rates stable for the last six years!

# CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2023 & 2022

## ASSETS

2023

2022

### WHAT WE OWN:

Electric plant	\$110,383,050	\$108,488,627
Total other property and investments	13,717,829	12,608,419
Total cash and investments	3,294,303	6,666,032
Accounts receivable, less allowance for uncollectible accounts	7,254,249	7,786,146
Materials and supplies	2,257,555	1,748,260
Other current assets	416,225	365,263
Deferred debits	138,967	495,483
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$137,462,178</b>	<b>\$138,158,230</b>

## EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

### WHAT WE OWE:

Total equities	52,173,594	51,624,151
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	73,886,641	74,715,424
Other non-current liabilities	315,285	425,938

### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Current maturities of long-term debt	3,144,009	3,156,447
Accounts payable	4,848,894	4,956,299
Other current liabilities	1,804,517	2,088,964
Deferred credits	1,289,238	1,191,007
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$137,462,178</b>	<b>\$138,158,230</b>

%

## EQUITY

*Equity is the amount of the cooperative assets the members own.*

- Member equity is 37.95%, up from 37.37% in 2022.



## ELECTRIC PLANT ADDED

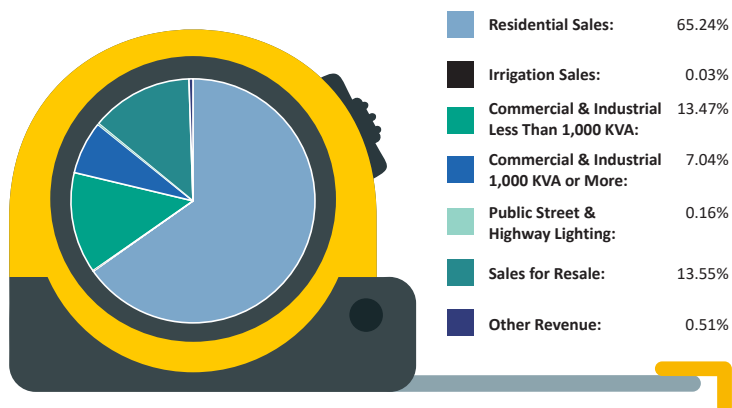
*Three large projects converting 18 miles of overhead to underground were completed in 2023.*

- An additional 13 miles of underground was added, bringing the system to just over 75% underground.
- In 2023, \$5.4 million of plant was added, with an additional \$134,000 under construction at the end of the year. Over the last five years, \$21.2 million has been added in plant.

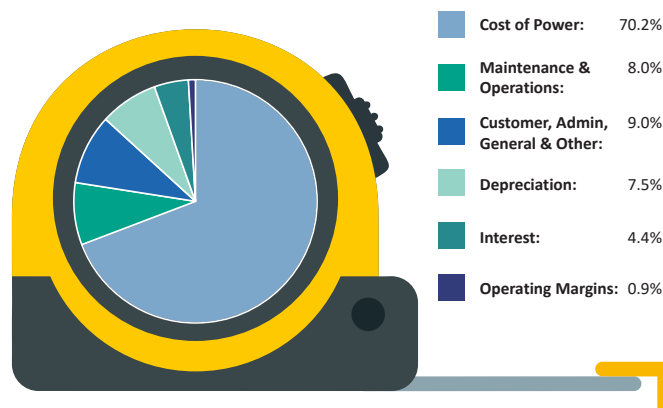
# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2023	2022
<b>WHERE IT CAME FROM</b>		
Total operating revenue	\$ 60,760,185	\$ 58,068,424
<b>WHERE IT WENT</b>		
Cost of power	\$ 42,643,748	\$ 39,575,955
Distribution – operation	3,055,724	3,002,832
Distribution – maintenance	1,785,120	1,698,576
Customer accounts	1,481,187	1,442,631
Customer service and information	1,275,306	1,237,001
Sales	176,409	140,683
Administrative and general	2,436,344	2,242,241
Depreciation	4,555,265	4,378,206
Taxes	1,830	1,820
Interest on long-term debt	2,691,445	2,734,338
Other	108,344	66,293
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$60,210,722</b>	<b>\$56,520,576</b>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGIN</b>	<b>\$ 549,463</b>	<b>\$ 1,547,848</b>
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGINS (LOSSES):</b>		
Other cooperative capital credits	\$ 1,093,909	\$ 1,157,966
Merchandising, jobbing and contract work, net of cost	19,448	15,735
Rent of headquarters second floor, net of costs	(10,019)	10,712
Loss on disposition of property	6,641	1,987
Investment income	264,013	145,983
Cooperative Development LLC (net of income taxes)	186,589	(287,309)
Income tax benefit (expense)	6,008	(129,823)
Miscellaneous lease & maintenance income	1,864	1,827
Beltrami Electric Solar, LLC	(381)	(5,243)
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING MARGIN</b>	<b>\$ 1,568,072</b>	<b>\$ 911,835</b>
<b>NET MARGIN</b>	<b>\$ 2,117,535</b>	<b>\$ 2,459,683</b>

## 2023 SOURCES OF REVENUE



## 2023 USES OF REVENUE

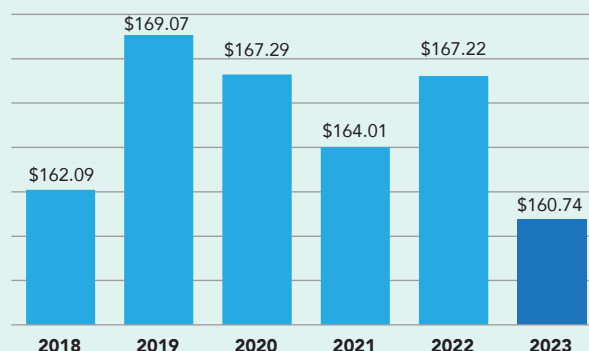




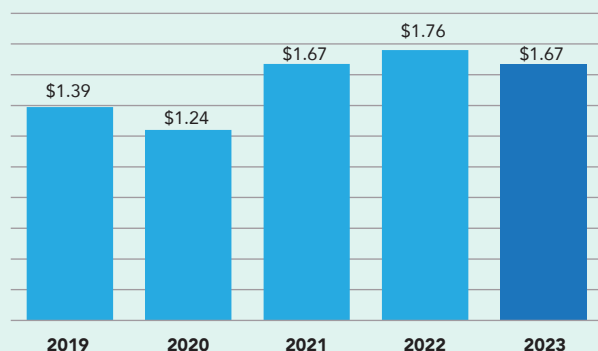
**AVERAGE MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL  
ELECTRIC USE (kWh)**



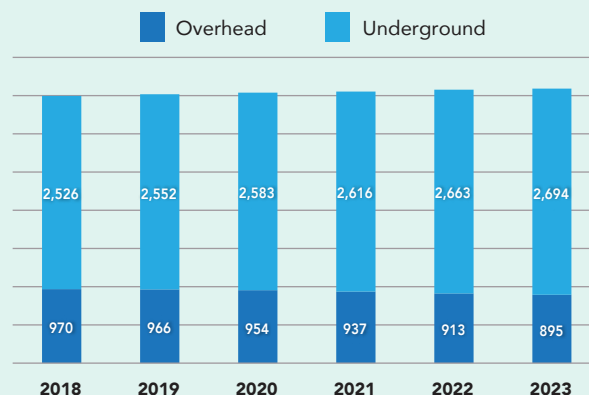
**AVERAGE MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL  
ELECTRIC BILL**



**CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS  
(In Millions of Dollars)**



**MILES OF LINE**



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors  
Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary, Bemidji, Minnesota

### Report on the Consolidated Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Brady Martz & Associates, P.C.**



# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS.

Did you know you're a business owner? When we say you're a member-owner of Beltrami Electric, that's exactly what we mean. You have a stake in everything we do. You're the co-owner of a business that provides your community with one of the world's most essential products – electricity.

Pretty great, right? Because this is your business.

**You get a say  
in the decisions  
we make.**

**You get money  
back as capital  
credits.**

**You have an  
expansive network  
of co-owners.**

It's your business. It's your power. It's your cooperative.

## Operation Round Up® – Beltrami Electric Co-op Trust



Operation Round Up® is a charitable program designed to give co-op members a means of working together to use their small change to make a big impact in their local communities. Participating members' monthly electric bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar amount, and that change is put into a trust account for Operation Round Up. The Operation Round Up board consists of five co-op members who meet twice per year to review applications received since the previous meeting. Funds are awarded based on how well the application fits into these funding categories: 1) Community Service; 2) Economic Development; 3) Education & Youth; and 4) Environment.

- Contributions are tax deductible and will be shown on your billing statement.
- 100% of member donations go directly to local community nonprofit groups and organizations to improve the quality of life in our region.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program and members may opt out or opt back into the program by contacting our office. Since Beltrami Electric launched this program in 2016, \$689,984 has been distributed to nonprofit groups and organizations in our communities.

### Grants awarded since program inception in 2016: \$689,984

#### 2023 BELTRAMI ELECTRIC TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

KAY MACK MIRIAM OSBORN-DOUGHERTY SHARON HADRAVA LEA PERKINS BARB SILER  
(President) (Vice President) (Secretary/Treasurer)

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT  
THE OPERATION ROUND UP PROGRAM...**

**YOU are making a**  
*big difference in our communities!*

#### 2023 REPORT



**Average member contribution: \$5.85/yr**



**Member participation: 76%**



**Applications reviewed: 71**

**Applications approved: 51**



**Total funds requested: \$230,684**



**Grants awarded: \$82,583**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the following dates:
  - **SEPTEMBER ISSUE:** Submit by Aug. 9.
  - **OCTOBER ISSUE:** Submit between Aug. 10 and Sept. 9.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com). (preferred)
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- 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.
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.

## For Sale:

Chrome rims and tires off Dodge Ram 2011, good condition, 275/55R20. \$800/obo. Swisher Big Mow lawn mower, exc. cond. – like new. 40 hours on mower, 66" deck. Reason for selling is health problems. \$10,500. 218-210-3371.

Oak firewood seasoned and split, 12" to 22." Eight plus cords. \$300/cord. Call 218-368-6522.

Grey New Vision aluminum topper, 58" x 58." Like new. Purchased new 2003 for Nissan Frontier for \$509. Removed from pickup and stored indoors from 2004 to present. Sale price \$250. 218-443-6326.

Camp Chef Monterey propane fire table. New-in-box. (\$480 retail) \$300/obo. Bowflex TC100 TreadClimber in good working order. \$400/obo. 218-209-1985

2013 Harley-Davidson FLSTFB103 \$16,000. 4,100 miles, matte black, Screamin' Eagle

intake, saddle bags, Vance & Hines exhaust, windshield. 218-760-0193.

2 Trout Unlimited inflatable pontoon boats. LOA 7', 350# weight capacity. Good for stream or small lake fishing. Many extras. \$485 for the pair. SMOKE HOLLOW propane grill, 20"x14"x13" good for camping, travel trailer, RV use, \$40. Everything in excellent condition. Photos available, text or voicemail, 970-390-8431.

2004 Chrysler Concorde 3.5-V-6 runs good, clean title have in hand asking \$1,600/obo. 700-watt microwave – only used 3 months \$40. 218-444-9422, leave a message.

WOW (Walks On Water) boat lift, model CD 4000, weight max 3,000 lbs., with canopy cover. Excellent condition. Wilkinson area. \$2,750, ph. 507-458-9714.

Wood shavings, in 4-cu.-ft. tub, \$8. Screened softwood or hardwood sawdust. 3-cu.-ft. tub, \$6, or 28-cu.-ft. bag – refill or refund. Have a sawmill, will cut to your preference, my logs, or yours. Oak, ash, birch, pine, poplar. 218-751-7146 or 218-686-6448.

Cabbage Patch dolls (2) and irons. (1) Vintage highly sought-after red head "Hilda Jeanetta" 1985 signed by Xavier. (1) Vintage blue-eyed, curly brown hair, dimples, and freckled "Ryan Gerald," smiling showing off his two front teeth. (2) very old (over 100 years) irons. Call 218-536-0102, leave message. Can send pictures.

Pro-built doghouse, 3ft. x 4ft. insulated. peaked roof. Shingled, insulated, will fit 100-lb. dog. 218-444-4767.

1984 Ski-Doo snowmobile, 1994 Arctic Cat Prowler 2 up (good condition – no spark) \$100 each/obo. Whirlpool electric stove/oven \$45. 218-854-7453.

Antique oak drop leaf desk, 40" H X 30"L x 14" D, \$75. Antique-looking metal floor lamp, \$20. Collectible table lamp, porcelain and beads with figure of Indian woman, \$20. Please call 218-835-7484.

1957 Chevy Bel Air 2-door sedan, rock solid, disassembled, no motor, \$6,500. 1973 Ford F100 XLT, not running, nice front clip and trim, \$1,300. Call 218-368-4923.

Portable bandsaw lumbermill. Hudson HFE-36, like new. Able to saw 36" logs. 16 hp, electric start motor. 19' track. Comes with many new/used blades, blade sharpener w/ premium stone and extra parts. Used very little. \$7,600 or trade (side by side 4x4 or other). Text or leave message: 928-503-1806.

ShoreStation vertical boat lift, 3,600# capacity. Drip line system for garden watering, call for details, \$20. New AeroPilates 5 cord Performer delivers a total body workout to meet fitness goals without trip to the gym, best offer. SodaStream bottles and 48 oz. + flavor concentrate, \$45. 320-583-0471.

4-ft. high-back recliner, dark brown weave, nice swing, \$70. 4-ft. wrought-iron bench, black, \$45. 12-ton hydraulic jack, \$30. Steel car ramps, \$20. 4-ft. wood loading ramps, \$20. Black leather boots, size 11, new, \$15. 218-444-9650.

Backpack leaf blower, Husqvarna model 165 BT, \$100. Remington electric pole saw, like new, \$45. Simer submersible well pump was used for two months as a lake pump, \$85. Standing drill press, heavy duty ¾ hp, \$75. Two-5-shelf black plastic storage units, \$30/both. 218-839-4641.

Moving: NordicTrack ACT I-FIT compatible, fan, drink, holder for iPad, etc. \$275; Antique full cream, brass head, foot bed frame, \$125; white distressed credenza 30" H x 63" L, 2 doors, shelves, \$225; all excellent condition. Craftsman riding mower, Briggs & Stratton Gold+ engine series 19.0 gross hp, 540cc. \$300, well maintained. 218-760-9943.

Mathews Outback left-handed compound bow, includes quiver, wrist release, sight, hard case, soft case, draw weight from 70 lbs to 54 lbs, 35 carbon arrows, 24 arrows never shot, includes broadheads, excellent shape. \$450/obo. 218-766-6376.

## Wanted:

2 tall school lockers, drywall lift, 4-16" 6-hole Al wheels, AM/FM/CD radio factory GM for 2005 Silverado, also a good rear bumper. 218-368-2369.

Used steel fence posts for horse pasture. Must be 6" minimum, relatively straight and in decent shape. Please call or text 218-280-7447 with details (including post height and quantity available) and pricing; if no answer, leave message.

Help needed cutting dead trees for firewood. Must have own chainsaw and truck. 218-751-7693.

15 hp Johnson motor, short shaft, late 80's/90's model in good working condition. Call 218-766-5805.

## Free:

Kimball organ. You haul. 218-760-4122.

## Board Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Friday, June 28, 2024. A quorum of directors was present.

### The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echternach presented his monthly report, including May financials, district meetings, interconnected systems, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lease, employee updates, Greater Bemidji, economic development and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program.
- Jolene Kallroos, manager of member services, presented the Red Flag report and reviewed the identity theft prevention process at the cooperative.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the May financial report.
- Mike Birkeland and Angela Lyseng updated the board on the upcoming annual meeting and presented the election ballot.
- Chair Lund appointed election tellers for the annual meeting.
- Auditor service bids were reviewed.
- President and CEO Echternach presented a rate analysis and scenarios.
- Directors and the president and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings, educational classes and conferences.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved the 2024 official ballot.
- Approved the inclusion of demand information on member bills.
- Accepted revisions to BEC Policy 310 AMI Opt-Out.
- Approved the auditor services and accepted a five-year contract from Brady Martz.
- Appointed RESCO voting delegate and alternate.
- Appointed NRECA voting delegate and alternate.
- Approved director expenses.

**The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.**

**FOR JUST THE CHANGE  
IN YOUR POCKET,  
YOU CAN RUN YOUR  
AIR FRYER FOR  
45 MINUTES USING  
ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.**



**PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR  
KILOWATTS – THAT'S THE  
VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.**





# BRING THIS COUPON TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Win a Milwaukee M12™ 5-Tool Combo Kit!

Present this coupon by 6:30 p.m. at the registration table under the Beltrami Electric tent (with pre-printed address on reverse side) during Beltrami Electric Cooperative's annual meeting **Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024**, Beltrami County Fairgrounds, to be eligible to win!

No substitute coupons will be accepted. Members need not be present to win.



## BEC'S NIGHT AT THE FAIR EVENTS!



4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
**MEET TOUCHSTONE ENERGY  
MASCOT LED LUCY** – Kick off  
your night at the fair and make sure  
to meet LED Lucy.



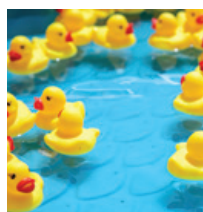
4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**REGISTER FOR THE MEETING**  
– Receive BEC Food Bucks to use  
at participating food vendors (valid  
Wednesday only).



4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**BUCKET TRUCK RIDES** –  
Beltrami's lineworkers will bring  
kids up in the bucket of a line truck  
(weather permitting)!



4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**LIVE HIGH-VOLTAGE  
DEMO** – Watch our trained  
professionals give a safety  
presentation with high  
voltage (weather permitting)  
– see the EXPLODING hotdog!



4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**DUCK POND WITH  
PRIZES** – Stop by the  
duck pond where kids can  
pick a duck from the pool  
for a prize! (Please limit 1  
pick per child.)



4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
**VISIT THE BEC BOOTH  
IN THE COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING** –  
Say hello, learn more about  
your co-op and check out the  
fun photo booth.



6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
**FREE CONCERT IN THE  
GRANDSTAND** – Featuring  
Figuring It Out, the Abello  
Family Acoustics Band, a  
dynamic musical group that  
embraces many genres.

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### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Chair** ..... John Lund, *DISTRICT 7*

**Vice Chair** ..... Sue Kringen, *DISTRICT 8*

**Secretary** ..... Murl Nord, *DISTRICT 1*

**Treasurer** ..... Sharon Lembke, *DISTRICT 9*

**Directors:** Charlie Perkins, *DISTRICT 2*;

Vacant, *DISTRICT 3*; Craig Gaasvig,

*DISTRICT 4*; Robert Wallner,

*DISTRICT 5*; Rick Coe, *DISTRICT 6*

**President and CEO** ..... Jared Echternach

**Editor** ..... Angela Lyseng

**Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday – Friday

**Telephone:** 218-444-2540 or

1-800-955-6083

**Website:** [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com)

**Email:** [info@beltramielectric.com](mailto:info@beltramielectric.com)

### MN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.dli.mn.org](http://www.dli.mn.org) for more information. Inspectors can be reached weekday morning between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

#### BELTRAMI COUNTY:

Wade Koons | 218-580-8589

[wade.koons@state.mn.us](mailto:wade.koons@state.mn.us)

#### CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Tony Kohrs | 218-616-1554

[kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kohrsinspection@paulbunyan.net)

### GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166 or 811

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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 electric lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Connecting Communities. Powering Life.

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024**

Beltrami County Fairgrounds

Marilyn Shutter Stage | Bemidji, Minn.

Make sure to bring your registration prize drawing slip from this issue to enter into a drawing for a Milwaukee M12™ 5-Tool Combo Kit.

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

### 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- Registration for meeting
- Turn in registration prize drawing slip

### 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

#### Business Meeting

- Welcome
- Pledge of Allegiance & invocation
- National anthem
- Call meeting to order
- Approve minutes from 2023 annual meeting
- Introduction of directors

- Election process
  - Introduce director candidates
  - Election results
- Operation Round Up® report, Kay Mack, president, Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust board
- 2024 Youth Tour delegate, Hunter Wright
- Financial report, Arlene Hogquist, director of Finance and Corporate Services, Beltrami Electric
- CEO report, Jared Echternach, president and CEO, Beltrami Electric
- Adjournment of meeting

*Thank you for attending your cooperative's annual meeting.  
Our mission is to serve. Our priority is you!*

