

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S November 2023

*The power of the*



## PLENUM

Who doesn't like options? Especially when you can save money on your energy bills.

That's the power of a Plenum heater – it provides a comfortable electric heating alternative to keep your home warm and comfortable on a cold winter day. It also means when prices for heating fuels fluctuate, you can save on monthly heating costs and energy bills by switching your forced air heating source from electric to gas or oil or propane.

If you've never heard of an electric plenum heater, you're not alone. Plenums are the unsung hero of electric technology, creating a dual-fuel heating solution that offers the benefits of Beltrami Electric's low-cost off-peak heating program. If you have a fuel oil or propane heating system, a plenum will help lower your heating bills and protect you from the volatility of fuel prices.

### HOW DO THEY WORK?

"A dual-fuel electric plenum heater is one of the most common off-peak electric heating systems available", said Bob Gregg, business development manager at Beltrami Electric. "They can be easily adapted to an existing fuel oil or gas/propane forced-air system, and the plenum heater uses your existing furnace fan to move air across the plenum heater elements to heat your home. Both your fossil fuel furnace and the electric plenum heater use the same thermostat and ductwork."

In most cases, a plenum heater can be installed in conjunction with a central air conditioning system or an air-source heat pump.

### HOW DO I SAVE MONEY?

- Receive a **co-op rebate of \$25/kW** when installed on the off-peak program.\*
- Receive the **reduced off-peak program rate**, nearly 50% lower than the standard rate. (*Check with your utility on program restrictions and additional rebates.*)
- Electric heat can't be beat. To learn more about the right heating option for your home, visit [ValueofElectricity.com](http://ValueofElectricity.com).



BEC's Bob Gregg with a plenum heater.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

#### 1 They're easy

A plenum heater is one of the easiest ways to convert your propane or oil furnace into a dual-fuel heating system, especially during a remodel or new construction.

#### 2 They're cost-effective

The plenum is a cost-effective way to integrate reduced-rate off-peak electricity into your heating system. The equipment itself is also low-cost, and it helps lengthen the lifespan of your gas furnace.

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The plenum is a cost-effective way to integrate reduced-rate off-peak electricity into your heating system. The equipment itself is also low-cost, and it helps lengthen the lifespan of your gas furnace.



# Serving up savings

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking, and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be a good time to remind Beltrami Electric members of a few programs and efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

## Programs designed to help you save

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows can make a positive impact on energy bills.

We also offer a low off-peak electric rate, which can help you achieve greater savings by controlling when you use the most energy at home.

Our team is available to help assist you with decisions about home energy improvements, such as new heating or cooling equipment, weatherization or new appliances. I encourage you to give us a call if you'd like to learn more about specific programs or services that can help lower your bills. Check out our Member Resource Center the next time you stop by the co-op for energy-saving brochures, rebate forms, information on electric heating systems, and more!

## Be festive without breaking the bank

With holiday lights adorning homes for several months, making the switch to LEDs saves energy. LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically

increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers. Timers can also be used with a block heater for your vehicle in the winter months.

## Cook up energy savings in the kitchen



If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stovetop's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*Beltrami Electric Cooperative's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023. A quorum of directors was in attendance.*

### **The following reports were given at the meeting:**

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes, observations and viewed a safety video.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including financials, employee updates, EV car show and CEO conference.
- No Barriers program participant Jaclyn Wizner presented a report on the program.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the August financial report.
- Arlene Hogquist reviewed IRS Form 990.
- President and CEO Echternach and the directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and events.

### **The following actions were taken at the meeting:**

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved IRS Form 990.
- Approved director fees and expenses.

*The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023.*

**HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICES:**

Beltrami Electric will be closed on:

**Friday, Nov. 10,**  
in honor of Veterans Day  
– and on –  
**Thursday, Nov. 23,**  
as we celebrate  
Thanksgiving

# FIVE ELECTRIC *Ways to Warm*

The cold has finally slipped into the region, so you've likely had a chance to try out your heating system for the season. Now is a good opportunity to ask yourself these questions:

- Am I warm enough?
- Am I worried about volatile propane/fuel oil prices?
- Are there ways I can save money on heating?
- Could I be more energy efficient?
- Is it time for smarter technology?

*If you wavered for a moment on any of these questions, it may be time to start researching off-peak electric heating options. Beltrami Electric has put together a list of our most popular electric heating options to make that search a little easier. Visit [ValueOfElectricity.com](http://ValueOfElectricity.com) to learn more!*

ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY	HOW IT WORKS	SAVINGS INCENTIVES
<b>Air-source heat pump</b>	Unlike a furnace, an air-source heat pump (ASHP) doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It simply uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. A standard ASHP is a self-contained system that uses existing ductwork. The system is composed of an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit.	Rebate of <b>up to \$650/ton</b> Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Mini-split heat pump</b>	Similar to an ASHP, a mini-split heat pump is run by a compressor unit placed outside of your home - but it doesn't need ductwork. The unit is connected to an indoor unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted in the room that is being heated.	Rebate of <b>up to \$650/ton</b> Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Thermal storage heater</b>	Electric thermal storage heaters convert off-peak electricity to heat and store this low-cost heat to keep a home comfortable all day. The system contains electric heating elements that lie within specially designed, high-density ceramic bricks. When the room thermostat calls for heat, it is extracted from the unit's storage core and distributed evenly in the home.	Rebate of <b>\$75/kW</b> Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Underfloor storage heating</b>	Underfloor heating has quickly become a favorite for those seeking ease and comfort on chilly days. The system can be installed at construction or during renovation. Warmth rises from the floor and spreads evenly through a room, garage or shop building.	Rebate of <b>\$25-75/kW</b> (dependent on radiant or slab) Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>
<b>Electric plenum heater</b>	Easily adapted to an existing fuel oil or gas/propane forced-air system, a plenum heater uses your existing furnace fan to move air across the plenum heater elements to heat your home. Both your fossil fuel furnace and the electric plenum heater use the same thermostat and ductwork. In most cases, a plenum heater can be installed in conjunction with an air-source heat pump.	Rebate of <b>\$25/kW</b> Eligible for <b>low off-peak rate</b>

**Please contact us to learn more about program restrictions and additional rebates!**





# BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## BEMIDJI SPORTS CENTRE



Brandon Mattfeld, sales manager and Shane Teigland, general manager are a dynamic duo.



Ayla Kranz, business development coordinator (pictured below left), recently visited Bemidji Sports Centre, located at 1826 Anne St NW in Bemidji. Owners Eugene and Sue Teigland bought the Honda-Yamaha business south of Bemidji in 2004 and opened Bemidji Sports Centre. They later moved the business to its current location at the intersection of Anne Street and Highway 71 North in October 2010. Son Triston

works with the shop and warehouse, while son Shane oversees the entire operation as general manager. The welcoming staff greets you as soon as you enter the building. Their expansive showroom showcases a variety of outdoor recreation equipment, including ATVs, side-by-sides, on- and off-road motorcycles, snowmobiles, personal watercraft, pontoons, ice houses, deer stands, and apparel and gear for all your outdoor fun! They are a power sports dealer for Honda, Yamaha, Polaris, and CanAm. They also

handle Ferris lawnmowers, Muddy deer stands, Aluma Lite ice houses, Triton and Trophy trailers. With a full-service shop and parts department, they handle OEM and aftermarket parts. They also offer storage for personal watercraft. Electrify your outdoor fun with Onewheel boards, QuietKat e-bikes, and the new Polaris Ranger Kinetic! Get serious about fun at Bemidji Sports Centre.



### BEMIDJI SPORTS CENTRE CO-OP CONNECTIONS BUSINESS OFFER:

5% off all apparel



## DAILY CYCLING OF ELECTRIC STORAGE HEAT COULD BEGIN IN NOVEMBER

Members heating with electric thermal storage on the off-peak program, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces, or slab/in-floor heating, should turn on their heating system prior to Nov. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date daily cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.







# Wizner reaches new heights through No Barriers Warriors program



**“No matter where you are in life, you can do this because of the people with you.”**

*Jaclyn Wizner, No Barriers Warriors program*

America’s rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have served in our armed forces, many of whom face challenges due to service-related disabilities. As a result, CoBank, a co-op lender, has partnered with No Barriers USA to honor and support these veterans by sponsoring rural vets with disabilities to experience the No Barriers Warriors program.

The program provides an opportunity for veterans with disabilities to tackle personal challenges, stretch physical and emotional boundaries, and overcome barriers to create positive change. As a sponsor, CoBank covers all costs for each participant, allowing them to challenge their own limitations, both real and perceived, physical and mental. By sharing the experience with other veterans with disabilities, they build a network of support that can last a lifetime.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative’s board vice chair Sue Kringen nominated BEC member and Air Force veteran Jaclyn Wizner for the No Barriers Warriors program. Wizner was one of 50 rural veterans selected to participate in the program this year.

Jaclyn and her husband, Jordan, are Air Force veterans and have a 4-year-old daughter. Jaclyn is a rep for the State of Minnesota’s Disabled Veteran Outreach Program, which provides career guidance and assists disabled veterans in finding meaningful jobs.

As a veteran, Jaclyn was excited for the opportunity but wasn’t sure she would

be able to meet the physical demands of the hike after recuperating from an accident that put her in a wheelchair for a year. However, after receiving clearance from her doctor, she was able to attend the July 2023 expedition. She started by completing the online portion of the program, where she was introduced to 13 others from around the U.S. who would be in her group and set expectations for the experience.

During the five-day hiking expedition through the Rocky Mountains, they were challenged to overcome serious challenges in the wilderness. Jaclyn knew from experience that being with other veterans, they wouldn’t let her fail. “If your mind is strong enough, your body will follow,” she said. “This was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done, but at the same time, the most rewarding.”

The No Barriers Warriors program is a life-changing experience for veterans, where they once again can find the camaraderie and relationships they experienced in the military. Jaclyn has developed relationships with the others from her group that will last a lifetime. She remains in contact with her group online. They gather remotely to encourage and inspire one another and work toward accomplishing the pledge they set for themselves during their experience.

The No Barriers Warriors program is saving the lives of our veterans and likely saved the life of at least one in Jaclyn’s group. “If you are a veteran nominated and given the opportunity to do this program, don’t think about it, just do it!” said Jaclyn.



**NO BARRIERS**



# Classifieds

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
  - Ads submitted by Nov. 10 will be published in December issue.
  - Ads submitted between Nov. 11 and Dec. 10 will be published in January issue.
- Submit ads via our website at [www.beltramielc.com/submit-ad](http://www.beltramielc.com/submit-ad).
- 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:

Dickinson Plantation 410 Ga. Excellent condition. 30-inch barrel side by side with factory case, 5 chokes. \$1,600. Call Tim 218-444-6680 leave message if not home.

Mixed firewood: high % ash. Cut, split and seasoned. \$70 standard pickup load. You haul. Kelliher area. 320-557-8080.

Firewood, cut and split. Soft wood, \$60 per standard pickup load. You haul. 218-586-2839.

Firewood, 16"-20" length and some 100" length. Approximately 4 cords. Available for \$50/cord, you haul. Call 218-760-8266.

Makita self-propelled cordless lawnmower. New with 4 batteries and a double charger. \$650. Call 218-368-9320.

1989 Cadillac Sedan Deville, 175k miles. Well taken care of, very clean and no rust, tires have lots of life. Runs great. \$3,600. Text 218-368-8683.

Schluter Kerdi-Board-SC 48" x 6" x 4.5" shower curb, new in box. \$45. 218-586-2686.

2000 Polaris Touring 550 snowmobile. 2-up with reverse and pull start. Hand warmers. 4,970 miles on it. Runs great. Two spare belts. Asking \$1,775. 218-368-0737.

270 Browning Safari Auto, Bushnell 3x9, \$700. 308 Winchester model 100, auto Weaver scope, \$650. 7m Magnet Mouser Vostava set tripper Vortex 4x16, \$850. 218-835-6420.

Electro Industries electric boiler EB-18, was back up unit rarely used, \$500. Moveable basketball goal great shape needs net, \$50. Big Valley self-catching headgate, \$350. Horse corral pole bending set, 10/\$100. Snow Joe electric snow blower, 12 amp, 18" new in box, \$115. 20 min north of Bemidji. 815-725-7493.

7-ft pine antique harvest table with 6 chairs, \$1,000/obo. Sliding patio door and screen w/nail flange, white bars between glass, \$450. New: Kohler sliding glass door for above bathtub in box, \$200. AB Lounger w/workout tape, \$50. 319-239-3632.

Western uni-mount plow mount for a 2005 Ford F-150. Max fit 06-07 and up. \$400. Call 218-255-7612.

2010 Honda Odyssey. Runs but needs work. Could also be for parts. \$1,000/obo. 218-766-4486.

1991 Chevy Camaro, runs, restorable. \$600. 218-444-8200.

Snowmobile helmets, \$20. Ski equipment (make an offer). 20-lb propane tanks, \$20. Jigs and winter fishing gear, cold weather clothes and boots. Clean 5-gal pails, \$1.50. Jerky dryer (new), \$30. Brass for reloading, 5 cents each. Wooden rifle stocks, \$20, asst components (new). Totes and backpacks, \$3-\$5. 218-586-2884.

250-3000 Savage hunting rifle. Gander Mountain appraised it at \$800-\$1,000. Asking \$600, with 80 rifle cartridges. RV water softener, use only table salt, \$100. 2.75 hp Shop Vac, 10# Wet & Dry. New in box, \$100. 702-496-6437.

Open Trail snowplow, KFI 6', fits full size Polaris Ranger. \$550. 218-214-2582.

2001 thunder-gray automatic transmission Toyota Tundra 4.7L V8 with newer frame and components. 274,536 miles-\$15,000. 2001 black manual transmission Honda Civic LX with many new components. 130,095 miles - \$6,000. Yes, the vehicles

show some wear and tear and rust due to aging and MN's weather. Both drive great! Serious inquiries only, PLEASE. 218-553-1110.

Red wool coat, was \$215 asking \$60. Boys jacket, was \$85 asking \$35. Men's Levi's jacket, \$160 asking \$55. Emu boots, \$199 asking \$90. Rough Hewn down coat, \$35. Coach boots, \$267 asking \$100. 218-368-4973.

Gas Echo CSV-8S self-propelled lawn and garden vacuum/blower/chipper w/rare flowerbed vacuum attachment, 8 hp BS, \$575. Desk, bedside table, stackable 3 shelf unit w/storage drawer. White with solid wood handles, excellent shape from Room & Board, \$185. 320-583-0471.

Acoustasonic 90 (watt) Fender amp for acoustic guitar. Seldom used; half price at \$150. 218-556-9693 or 218-556-9603.

Shure PGA48 Dynamic microphone, new in box \$25. 218-835-7484.

Amish made Mission Oak 48" table w/4 leaves and 8 high-back Mission Oak chairs \$5,000. Serious offers only. 319-239-3632.

New tire. P205/75R14. You pick up, you haul. Phone calls only, \$100. Vintage antique well pump. Make a reasonable offer. Must pick up. 1998 Honda Aspencade 1500 rear-end differential, Dunlop K177 belted tire with a rear drive shaft. One shock, complete brakes, back frame. All the hardware, side/taillights, chrome bars. Tires are 160/80-16-75H. Make a reasonable offer. 218-766-2126. NO TEXTS.

## Wanted:

Looking to buy old electric brass bladed fans, advertising clocks, and advertising signs. Call or text 218-553-0184.

Looking to buy a trailer. Something I can pull a side-by-side or ATV on. Call or text Matt 218-368-0737.

Kevlar canoe in decent condition. 218-766-3475.

Wanting to buy: used tandem axle scissor lift pontoon trailer. Call 218-760-8266.

Do you have an old chair that needs to be recaned? Call Nate at 218-407-0168.

Looking for soap molds, silicone molds. 218-556-2743.

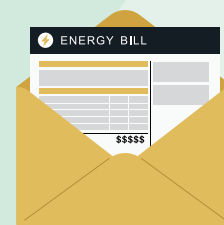
## Free:

Model Railroad equipment, HO scale, cars and track. Bob 218-443-0426.

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

### Energy assistance may be available!

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid. (Eligibility is based on energy costs, household size and the three most recent months of income.)



**BI-CAP IN BEMIDJI**  
6603 Bemidji Ave N  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-751-4631

**BI-CAP IN WALKER**  
8245 Industrial Park Rd NW  
Walker, MN 56484  
218-547-3438

**KOOTASCA**  
201 4th Street NW, Suite 130  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-0824

**LEECH LAKE**  
115 6th St  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-3783

**MAHUBE-OTWA**  
120 North Central Ave  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-732-7204

**RED LAKE**  
15809 High School Dr  
Red Lake, MN 56671  
218-679-3350



### OR APPLY ONLINE

Visit [energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us](http://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us) for EAP income guidelines and program information.

## Professional office space available for lease

**923-square-foot office suite** – reception area plus three separate office suites. Will modify to suit. Second floor location, elevator, adjacent conference/meeting room, safe, clean, quiet, low-traffic area of well-maintained professional building. For further details contact Mike Birkeland, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, **218-444-3672**.



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative's headquarters**

# Operation Round Up® helps local organizations



The Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board met in October to review Operation Round Up® grant applications. They received 33 grant requests totaling \$112,371. The Trust had \$41,424.92 in funds available, so it was not easy to select which groups would receive funding and what amount they would receive. The board was diligent in their review process of all grant applications and there were many worthy projects in the group. The board awarded grants to 26 area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$41,388.

Here are some important details to know about Operation Round Up:

- All funds for Operation Round Up are placed into a separate trust fund, which is not linked to electric accounts.
- The program is run by a board of directors made up of five co-op member volunteers.
- 100% of member donations are used to support local community

organizations and improve the quality of life in our region.

- The average monthly contribution from participating members is \$0.50, or \$6 per year. The maximum annual contribution is \$11.88.
- Contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible and will be reflected on your billing statement.
- Participation is voluntary, and members can opt out or back in at any time by contacting our office.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary, member-driven fundraising program of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, designed to give members a means of working together to use their small change to make a big impact in our local communities. The next application deadline is **MARCH 15, 2024**.

## The following organizations were awarded Operation Round Up grants in October:

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
Beltrami County Historical Society	Museum electrical improvements	\$ 1,660
Bemidji Area Schools	Early childhood screening	\$ 350
Bemidji Figure Skating Club	BFSC Fall / Early Winter Programming 2023	\$ 3,500
Bemidji Senior Center	2023 Fall Art Class supplies	\$ 500
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra	Live streaming of three Bemidji Symphony Orchestra concerts	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Veterans Memorial Board	Bemidji Veteran Memorial Monument	\$ 4,000
Blackduck Area Toys for Kids	Toys for Blackduck-area kids	\$ 2,000
Blackduck Public School	Weight room refurbishment	\$ 2,005
City of Blackduck	Historic Blackduck renovation and repair	\$ 1,000
Gene Dillon Elementary	Touch Down for Attendance	\$ 500
Headwaters Science Center	Headwaters Science Center: "Critter Corner" remodeled habitats	\$ 3,500
Kelliher Library & Information Center	Signs of the Seasons program	\$ 624
Kingdom Builders Christian School	Service projects in the Bemidji community	\$ 900
Laporte School	Staying Active & Independent for Life exercise class (S.A.I.L.)	\$ 241
Leech Lake Legacy	Supplies for reservation dogs and cats	\$ 1,500
Lincoln Elementary School	Forest History Center Grade 3 field trip	\$ 608
LSS of MN-Senior Nutrition Program	Health-sustaining meals for low-income seniors in Bemidji, Blackduck and Kelliher areas	\$ 3,500
North County First Responders	First responder rapid response support	\$ 1,500
Red Lake Middle School Library Program	One School One Book	\$ 2,500
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Philip's Conference	Hope in Bemidji	\$ 3,000
Tailwinds Bemidji	Substance use assessments	\$ 2,500
First City Singers - Headwaters School of Music & the Arts	Purchase of copyrighted music	\$ 500
The Nature Connection	Revitalization of the Nature Connection Raptor programs	\$ 500
United Way of Bemidji Area	Holiday gifts for kids in Laporte	\$ 500
United Way of Bemidji Area	Child abuse prevention in Beltrami County	\$ 2,000
Voyageurs Area Council - Boy Scouts of America	Support for local BSA programs	\$ 1,000

**SMALL CHANGE** *makes a Big Difference!*

## Member privacy – Red Flags Rule

Millions of Americans have their identities stolen each year. As a result of that startling statistic, the Federal Trade Commission has developed a regulation called the "Red Flags Rule." The Red Flags Rule requires businesses to develop a program to detect, prevent and minimize the damage that could result from identity theft.

The data privacy of our members is important to us, and as a Beltrami Electric member, you may be asked to provide additional information and identification when you make inquiries on your account, such as verifying the last four digits of your social security number. A member may complete an Authorized Contact Agreement form to allow us to give account information to others you want to have access to your account. This permits an Authorized Contact to make inquiries on the account to which they are authorized. The Authorized Contact must provide their name, date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number in order to receive account information. While these practices may seem intrusive, please understand that these procedures are in place to protect your member data and prevent the occurrence of identity theft.



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L I G H T S

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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*; Michael Monsrud, *DISTRICT 3*; Craig Gaasvig, *DISTRICT 4*; Robert Wallner, *DISTRICT 5*; Rick Coe, *DISTRICT 6*

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

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

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**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 | 218-255-3011  
[wade@koonsinspections.com](mailto:wade@koonsinspections.com)

#### 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 to 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.

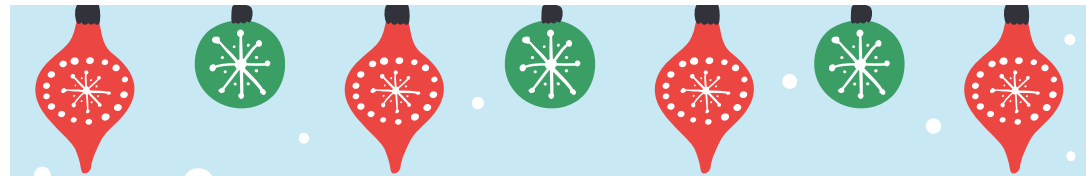
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Connecting Communities.  
Powering Life.



## Now accepting donations for *Beltrami Electric's Mitten Tree!*

We are looking for donations of **NEW** or **HOMEMADE** mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for children ages infant to five years old. Beltrami Electric will deliver items to our seven area Head Start and Early Child Family Education (ECFE) programs, as well as St. Mary's Mission School, in December.



As the number of children has grown each year, we would love to ensure that each child gets one item.

Donations will be accepted through **Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023**, and can be dropped off in the collection bin in the lobby at Beltrami Electric's office at 4111 Technology Drive NW in Bemidji.

If you'd like to help keep our area children warm and cozy this winter, please consider joining BEC in collecting these items: **NEW** or **HOMEMADE** mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks.

