

# NORTHERN

## L I G H T S

January 2015



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner – page 4**  
**Traditional and technological payment options – page 8**



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

**Customer Service:** 218-444-2540  
or 1-800-955-6083  
[www.beltramielcric.com](http://www.beltramielcric.com)

### Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Square Butte Director)
Vice President	Jeff Nelson, DISTRICT 3
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Lea Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Jerry Larson Sr., DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; John Lund, DISTRICT 7; Terry Diffley, DISTRICT 8, (Minnkota Director)
General Manager	Lynette Nieuwsma
Editor	Mitch Raile

### Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

*Beltrami and Clearwater Counties*

**Davis Smid**

507-227-2772 - [mntristate@gmail.com](mailto:mntristate@gmail.com)

*Cass and Hubbard Counties*

**Steve Schauland**

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

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

### Gopher State One Call

1-800-252-1166 or 811

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

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

**ON THE COVER:** Mitch Raile, Beltrami Electric Marketing Communications Specialist, presents a plaque and a \$500 check to representatives from the Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC) for winning the Touchstone Energy® Community Award on Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Bemidji Boys and Girls Club.



## Across the MANAGER'S DESK

Lynette Nieuwsma, General Manager

### Happy New Year!

No, it can't be 2015 already. Where does time fly? I hope you had a great holiday season and I wish you a happy and healthy new year ahead. Of course, it's not Christmas at BEC without the mitten tree. I am so proud of our many members, groups and co-op friends who donate their time to make and/or purchase mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for so many of our community Head Start students who really need and appreciate these gifts. For anyone who has visited our lobby, they made great tree decorations. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the mitten tree and the number of items we are able to give out each holiday season continues to impress. Since the program's inception in 2000, the total number of items donated and distributed is more than 5,800. Thank you so much for your generosity!

### Budget and rates

During the month of December we have been preparing the 2015 budget. We will work hard through the budgeting process to minimize any rate impacts. Any changes in rates will not be reflected until April 1. In each of the last several years, we have reduced the access charge credit by 50 cents. We are expecting that again this year, which would eliminate the credit, while retaining the access charge at \$29.50. Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC) has announced a wholesale rate increase of 3.8 percent effective April 1, 2015. As wholesale power represents about 70 percent of our total costs, this will translate into approximately a 3 percent increase, which will show up in the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA). We'll communicate any changes we may see to the plan as we get closer to April 1. The good news is that after 2015 only very moderate increases in wholesale

power are projected for several years. We also encourage you to take a look at our energy conservation, rebate and load management programs, as these may help offset the increases.

### Touchstone Energy® Community Award garners great applicants

I want to thank all of the people who took the time to nominate an organization or individual for the 2014 Touchstone Energy® Community Award. We are very lucky to live in an area where so many people do such great things to make our communities a better place to live. It was a very difficult decision this year as every nomination was extremely impressive. However, we can only choose one each year and with that, I would like to congratulate Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC) on its selection. The BARC program impacts so many young people each year and provides a great service. I invite you to read the story and look at the photos on page 4 for more information.

### Electric heat story

Finally, I'd like to make a mention of the electric heat story on page 5 featuring the home of Beltrami Electric employee and member Chris Kelsey. We all know that our members have numerous options in how they heat their homes. When Chris was looking to heat his basement, he knew that an off-peak option would be a great choice. By choosing an ETS unit, he was able to not only enjoy Beltrami Electric's off-peak heating rate, but he also received rebates from the cooperative for installing the unit. I encourage you to take a look at Chris's story, along with the rebate information on this page, to see if you could also enjoy the benefits of heating your home with electric heat.

Until next month,

*Lynette*

# Beltrami Electric collects and delivers record 710 items for 15<sup>th</sup> annual mitten tree



Beltrami Electric Cooperative recently delivered donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to area children as part of its annual mitten tree campaign for the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year.

This season, a record 710 items were collected and distributed to students enrolled in seven Head Start and Early Child Family Education programs throughout the cooperative's service area. The number of items the cooperative receives from members and friends continues to be very generous. This is the second straight year that a record-number of items has been donated, besting last year's total of 645 items. Special thanks to Beltrami Electric member Esther Homister-Kingbird from Blackduck, who hand-knitted 250 scarves again this year.

As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, Beltrami Electric is held to a strict code of conduct and must uphold the four core Touchstone Energy® values – accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.



## Electric heat rebates available



**B**eltrami Electric is now offering Powerful Value rebates in addition to the PowerSavers Conservation rebate program. These rebates are for the installation of new off-peak electric heating equipment. This is a part of Minnkota Power's Powerful Value campaign.

Members can receive a rebate of \$20 per kW of electric heat or \$100/\$200 per ton of heat pump equipment installed. The Powerful Value rebates are limited to \$600

total. Please note that the Powerful Value rebates can be paired with the PowerSavers incentives to create an even larger rebate total.

The Powerful Value rebates are designed to assist members adding more off-peak electric heating equipment to our system. The qualifying equipment includes items such as plenum heaters, baseboards, cove heaters, ETS heaters and air-source/ground-source heat pumps. This, in turn, will increase the system utilization or load factor, which is a measure of the efficiency of

the electrical system required to meet peak demand. The higher our load factor, the lower the average cost per kWh delivered or sold by the system. Minnkota Power Cooperative, our power supplier, pays out these rebates. The PowerSavers incentives are designed to meet Minnesota Legislative mandates to encourage residential and commercial members to save kWh by installing energy efficient electrical equipment. These rebates/incentives are paid out by Beltrami Electric. As a member of Beltrami Electric, you can benefit from both of these programs, which can offset a portion of the equipment cost.

For more information, please contact Beltrami Electric's Energy Services Department at 218-444-2540. The rebate form is available on our website at [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com) or at our office.



**Incentives available for installation of an off-peak electric heating system**



**Homeowners adding new off-peak heating systems qualify for these rebates.**

**Contact our Energy Services Department for details at 218-444-2540.**



## Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC) named Beltrami Electric's Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner

**B**eltrami Electric Cooperative has selected Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC) as the winner of the local 2014 Touchstone Energy® Community Award from a great pool of worthy nominations. The recognition comes with a \$500 cash award donated to a community service organization/project of their choice and an engraved Touchstone Energy® Community Award plaque signifying the organization's commitment to community.

The Bemidji Area Reading Canines program was created to help school-aged children feel comfortable reading aloud to a nonjudgmental audience, which in this case are well-trained therapy dogs. The students are encouraged to read to the dogs, while they lay next to them and provide comfort and companionship, in what could be an otherwise nervous atmosphere for some children. There are currently 20 teams, six feature leaders who are former teachers who volunteer their time to visit local schools, libraries and youth clubs with the goal of promoting reading. The program started in 2007, impacting thousands of students around the area since its inception.

Here's a great story from the group's application:

### Bemidji Boys and Girls Club

A boy brought over a Dr. Seuss book and started reading "Are You My Mother?" to the dog. He was about a quarter through the book when someone told him his ride was there for him. He turned to the handler over the still opened book and said, "I have to leave. Will you please finish reading the story to the dog so he can find out what happens?" Of course, the handler said, "Yes," and thanked him for reading to the dog.



In its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Touchstone Energy® Community Award recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to their community. Past winners include Blackduck Area Toys for Kids, Bemidji Area Take a Kid Fishing, Kelliher Resource Center Committee, Bemidji Skate & Bike Association, Northwoods Garden Club of the Bemidji Area (formally Bemidji Garden Club), Paul Bunyan Broadcasting's "Radiothon to End Child Abuse," Healthy Community Healthy Kids, Blackduck Tri Sigma General Federated Women's Club, Sexual Assault Program of the Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties and the Bemidji Area Task Force on Underage Drinking, Illegal Drug Use and Gang Activity.

Bemidji Area Reading Canines' application will be submitted for consideration to the statewide Minnesota Touchstone Energy® Community Award committee. The statewide award recipient will be selected from numerous local award winners throughout Minnesota and the overall winner will receive \$1,000 toward a community cause of choice. It will be presented in February 2015 during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul.







## KELSEY FAMILY

### *Chooses Steffes Room Unit for Additional Comfort*

When Chris Kelsey was researching supplemental heating options for his home, he didn't have to look too far. As the Information Systems Specialist at Beltrami Electric, he knew that the co-op had the expertise and experience to steer him in the right direction. That is why Chris chose a Steffes electric thermal storage (ETS) room unit for his family's home.

The Kelsey family lives in a 3,500-square-foot home, built in 1998 just south of Bemidji. This unique, split-level constructed house had utilized a plenum heater and air-source heat pump, along with the automatic backup of a propane furnace. However, due to the home's design, there was still an issue with the basement's comfort.

"During the winter months, we wanted our basement to be a more comfortable, livable space," said Kelsey. "That is why I turned to my co-workers to get their opinions on what would work best in our situation."

Knowing that there would be

some options available, Chris turned to his co-workers Bob Gregg, energy conservation specialist, and Dan Dudgeon, master electrician, at Beltrami Electric. After learning more about the home, the current heating equipment and his budget, Bob and Dan were able to recommend the best option for his situation. In this case, it was a Steffes ETS heater, purchased directly from the co-op. The Steffes unit heats bricks, which store the energy inside the unit using Beltrami Electric's off-peak rate.

The energy is then utilized when load management is in effect or when needed. This option has made for a very comfortable basement in the Kelsey home. In fact, with the addition of this equipment along with the previously installed air-source heat pump and plenum heater, it has made the entire home quite cozy. Chris and his family not only save on their heating bill each month, but the Powerful Value rebate he received accelerated the investment's payback further.

"With Beltrami Electric's rebates, I was able to cover a portion of the cost of installation by a licensed electrician," he added. "The level of comfort in the room has definitely made our basement a place where we like to spend time as a family."

For more information about Steffes ETS heaters, other electric heating options and the rebates in which you may qualify, contact Beltrami Electric at 218-444-2540.





# Northern Lights CLASSIFIEDS

## For Sale:

P275/55R20 Perelli all-terrain tires, 20" chrome clad wheels, very limited use, \$450, 243-2238.

Sleeper fish house, 8'x16' on wheels, 8 holes, 4 bunks, 30,000 Btu thermostatically controlled furnace, asking \$2,800; also have two 4'x6' spearing/angling houses, \$350 each, 224-2836.

Weider Pro 9635 home gym, multi-station, 2 weight stacks, 2 upright benches, low pulley leg lever, butterfly arms, military press, lat bar, 76" h, 89" w, 64" l approximately, \$500; dip machine and speed bag, upright, \$300, 368-8781.

Snow blower, 24", 5 hp, 2 stage, old but built like a tank and works fine, 854-7444.

1992 Rollahome mobile home, 16'x70', 2 bedroom, 1 bath, very clean and move-in ready, spacious living room, large kitchen, newer flooring and roof, available immediately on premium lot in Hillcrest Manor, 556-0116.

4" jointer, Homcraft by Delta/Rockwell, 27" table, adjustable fence from negative 45 to positive 45 degrees with auto stops at negative 45, 90 and positive 45 degrees, 1/3 hp, 1725 rpm, 120V motor, all mounted on portable stand, \$95, 236-5283, [carolynmhd@aol.com](mailto:carolynmhd@aol.com).

2003 Polaris 700 SKS, bought new in 2005, excellent condition, 5,015 miles, comes with extra belt and extra carbides, \$3,250, 444-7260.

Two heifer calves, Black Angus/Limousine mix, approximately 600 lbs., 224-2633.

2000 Freightliner FLD120 semi and 1970 Monn trailer with 1996 Prentice loader, \$30,000/obo; 1995 Transcraft flatbed trailer, \$15,000/obo, 556-3215.

Roll-a-way mattress and frame, excellent condition, \$45, 835-7484.

Everlast punching bag, good condition, best offer; action and western VHS tape, excellent condition, 987-2932.

Two Ford F150 tailgates, new, never used in boxes, \$150 each, 209-6759.

2005 Chrysler Town and Country minivan, extremely clean, fold away seats, front and rear A/C, loaded, low miles, 7 passenger seating, \$3,000/obo, 308-3233.

Remington 20-gauge shotgun, Wingmaster Model 870, pump-action, \$450, 586-2009.

Two glass display cabinets, \$30/each; round wood table, \$25; TV stand, \$10; vintage end table, \$10; Teddy Ruxpin doll, \$20; tan love seat, \$30; Kenmore cabinet sewing machine, 4-drawer, \$40; charcoal grills, \$10/\$15, Herend figurine, \$50; Amager girl, \$50, 751-9311 or 368-9034.

2009 Ford F150 XLT 2WD crew cab with 35,000 miles, chrome box rails, running boards, bed liner, hitch and tow package, very clean and excellent condition, one elderly owner, \$18,500 (book is \$19,700), 766-2634.

Eskimo 6-person pop-up fish house, new in box, \$300, 467-3457.

12' aluminum snowmobile trailer, includes spare tire, tie downs, tongue jack and pull out loading ramp, \$1,500, 467-3457.

1999 Honda Accord EX, black 4-door sedan, 240,000 miles, one owner, local purchase, minor body damage left front, four new all-weather tires, moon roof, everything works, NADA \$3,700, asking \$2,900, 766-7052.

Homemade quilts; oak chairs; rockers; parlor table; dining room table; portable and cabinet sewing machines; new pink king-size bedspread; portable white sewing machine; press back chairs; pine round coffee table; Navy desk chair; Carhart women's coat; Original Five Brothers by Sapko Int. Inc.; General Super all grip 700-15 tire; oak washstand; 100 plastic red Christmas ribbons, 243-2702.

Brand-new 2014 Ford auto-start, \$200, 760-8889.

2001 4x4 GMC Sonoma K pickup, extended cab, great tires, V6, 155,000 miles, some rust, good runner, \$2,500/obo, 835-4331.

## Wanted:

Jenn-Air electric stove, 766-4000.

1990s ¼ ton four-wheel drive pickup, standard cab;

gas-powered log splitter, 987-2932.

Old 350 Honda 4-wheeler, does not need to run, doesn't even need engine, 760-8889.

Fish house, 5'x7' Mankato canvas suitcase style, '97 or newer, 586-3791.


Old pop-up camper, 556-1982.

## Classified ads rules

For sale and wanted items only. 50 words or 300 characters, maximum length. No rental, business, service, real estate or personal ads. Ads are published on a first-come, first-serve basis and are free to Beltrami Electric members. Due to space constraints, there is no guarantee your ad will appear. Limited to one "for sale" and one "wanted" ad per issue.

Repeat ads are only allowed for three consecutive months. The ad deadline is the first of the month to be included in the next issue. For example, an ad received January 1 would be included in the February issue due out the end of January. An ad received January 2 would be included in the March issue due out the end of February. Ads are preferred to be submitted via the web at [www.beltramielco.com](http://www.beltramielco.com) or via email at [info@beltramielco.com](mailto:info@beltramielco.com), but may be submitted by mail, phone or in person at the cooperative. All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.

*Office Closed!*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative**

*Will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.*



**mymeter**

[www.beltramielco.com](http://www.beltramielco.com)

## Beltrami Electric 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration scheduled for June 24

Mark your calendars, as Beltrami Electric will be hosting a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Wednesday, June 24, at the cooperative headquarters in Bemidji. We will serve food and beverages, offer building tours, showcase our equipment, provide activities for the kids, give away prizes and much more. The co-op will also hold a short business meeting, which will replace our traditional annual meeting usually held at the end of April. More details of the event will be available in the coming months.

In addition to the celebration, we

are looking for members who may have old cooperative photos, memorabilia and stories to share for projects we are creating in honor of our 75 years of existence. We are particularly seeking members who remember when their lights were turned on for the first time or who have unique stories about how electricity changed their lives. We plan to use this information/items to create displays, publish articles and film videos. Please note that any old photos and memorabilia submitted to the cooperative will be returned to their owners soon after the event is complete.



If you do have anything you would like to share with us, please call **218-444-2540** or email [info@beltramielco.com](mailto:info@beltramielco.com) using the subject line "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information." We look forward to seeing/hearing what you have to share with us!

# Board Meeting Highlights

## 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – your recipes are needed!



Beltrami Electric will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, culminating at an Open House on June 24 at Cooperative headquarters in Bemidji. As part of the event, we are asking our members to submit their favorite recipes for a cookbook we will compile and distribute at our celebration. Please submit your favorite recipe in one of the following categories:

- *Appetizers*
- *Salads*
- *Side dishes*
- *Desserts*
- *Soups*
- *Breads*
- *Main dishes*
- *Miscellaneous*

**Please send your submission to:**

- Recipes, c/o Beltrami Electric Cooperative, PO Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619
- [info@beltramielctric.com](mailto:info@beltramielctric.com) (include "Recipe" in subject line)
- In person at 4111 Technology Dr. NW, Bemidji

With your recipe, include the key ingredients, along with your name and city for recognition. Thanks for your participation in this project, and we look forward to offering this gift to our members!

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014. All directors except Lea Perkins were present. Also present were General Manager Lynette Nieuwsma, Director of Finance and Member Services Sid Sletten and Executive Secretary Kay Olson.

**The following reports were given:**

- The manager made her monthly report, including an update on current operations and capital credits.
- Dan Edens, Rich Riewer, Sam Mason, Casey Norden and Sid Sletten reviewed the 2015 capital expenditures for their departments.
- Manager Nieuwsma and Murl Nord reported on the Cooperative Development LLC meeting.
- Manager Nieuwsma, Arlene Hogquist and Sid Sletten updated the board on the Strategic Focus of the cooperative.
- The manager and Sam Mason discussed forming a Grassroots member group for the purpose of advocacy and education.
- Terry Diftley reported on the Minnkota board meeting.
- John Lund reported on the Certified Credentialed Director classes he attended recently.
- Jeff Nelson, Rick Coe and Murl Nord reported on the CFC Financial Workshop for directors they attended recently.
- Discussed attorney representation for the cooperative.

**The following actions were taken:**

- Appointed Judy Honer, Lea Perkins and Murl Nord to attend the MREA annual meeting.
- Appointed Judy Honer as the MREA voting delegate and Murl Nord as alternate.
- Authorized Murl Nord to attend NRECA Board Leadership Certificate class 914.1 Cooperative Communications & Public Opinion.
- Agreed to continuation of current attorney representation by Minnkota Power Legal Department.

*The next board meeting will be Dec. 31, 2014, beginning at 9 a.m.*

## ATTENTION BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



Minnkota and the associated systems will host contractor continuing education workshops again in 2015. This program is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information in building and electrical practices. Dates for the 2015 sessions are:

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Wed., Jan. 28</b><br>Doublewood Inn<br>Fargo, N.D. | <b>Thurs., Jan. 29</b><br>Bigwood Event Center<br>Fergus Falls, Minn. | <b>Wed., Feb. 4</b><br>Alerus Center<br>Grand Forks, N.D. | <b>Thurs., Feb. 5</b><br>Hampton Inn<br>Bemidji, Minn. |
|---|---|---|--|

For more information about the program, contact Sue Black, Minnkota communications/member services specialist, at (701) 795-4292 or email questions to [sblack@minnkota.com](mailto:sblack@minnkota.com).



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# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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# PAYnow



## *Another new payment option available for members*

Members now have another way to pay their cooperative bill each month with the recent addition of **PAYnow** to the ever-growing list of payment options at Beltrami Electric.

With **PAYnow**, you can make a quick, one-time payment without logging into your SmartHub account. All you need is an account number and the first five letters of the primary member's last name. If you choose to allow another person to make a payment on your account by this method, please be advised they will only be able to see your current or past due balance. You can access this new payment method by visiting our website [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com) and clicking "Pay My Bill" on the left side of the homepage.

Along with **PAYnow**, Beltrami Electric offers numerous traditional and technological ways to pay your bill.

Did you know that more than 50 percent of our members have chosen to make payments through **Auto-Pay** (where the amount is automatically withdrawn from a bank account or credit card each month) or via SmartHub.

SmartHub is a great option, allowing you to pay your bill with an app on your smartphone or via a Web page. You can get there by visiting our website and clicking on the SmartHub icon. This service not only allows members to pay their bills online (whether it is one-time or recurring), they can also do maintenance to their electric account.

In addition to being convenient for our members who choose these methods, it also saves your cooperative money on printing and postage costs, not to mention the "green" factor for those who want to reduce paper waste.

We also offer our members the **Pay by Phone (24/7)** option through our secure, automated system. Because we value your security, our employees cannot accept payments over the phone. To access this service, please call **1-855-356-6345**.

Beltrami Electric has partnered with **MoneyGram**, which is an easy, guaranteed method to pay your electric bill. For a small fee, members pay cash toward their bill and then those funds are transferred electronically to the

co-op. **MoneyGram** is available nationwide at more than 39,000 locations, including Wal-Mart in Bemidji and Teal's Market in Cass Lake. More information about this service will be provided in the upcoming months.

In addition to the aforementioned payment methods, we do continue to accept payments in the traditional sense. This includes paying in person at our office located at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji. You can choose to **pay our cashier**, or use one of our **two-drop boxes** (in the parking lot or in the entryway of the building). Of course, you can always send your payment in the mail (no cash please). Our mailing address is PO Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619.

For your convenience, we accept cash, check, VISA, Mastercard and Discover. For more information on ways to pay your Beltrami Electric bill, please contact us **218-444-2540** or visit our website at <http://www.beltramielectric.com/PaymentOptions.aspx>.

