


NORTHERN

L I G H T S

January 2019



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

♥ Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji ♥

Named Beltrami Electric's 2018 Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner



Accepting the local 2018 Touchstone Energy® Community Award for Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji are Ruby's Pantry-Bemidji volunteers and board members along with Sanford Center staff. Seated from left: Joel Britt, Susan Hudson, Gary Brooks and Tom Keeler. Standing from left: Rick Weinert, Roy Grandbois, Dennis Parish and Dave Larson, Bobby Anderson, Director of Operations, Sanford Center; Tiffany Vickaryous-Hubbard, Associate Executive Director, Sanford Center.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative has selected Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji as the winner of the local 2018 Touchstone Energy® Community Award from a pool of excellent and worthy nominations. The recognition comes with a \$500 cash award and an engraved Touchstone Energy® Community Award plaque.

Ruby's Pantry is a faith-based organization, hosted by groups of volunteers from a local church which hold pop-up pantries in a number of locations across Minnesota and Wisconsin each month. Mt. Zion Church in Bemidji discovered Ruby's Pantry, a unique, nonprofit organization specializing in food distribution, while looking for something they could do in our community. Gary Brooks called Ruby's Pantry's headquarters office in

Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji article continued on page 3

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

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

www.beltramielc.com

Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Minnkota Director)
Vice President	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (Square Butte Director)
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
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CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@kooninspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

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

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

Gopher State One Call

1-800-252-1166 or 811

www.gopherstateonecall.org

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

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

STAY CONNECTED!



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on Facebook



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channel



The year in review

Jared Echternach, CEO

2018 in review

2018 was a good year for your cooperative. We completed the second year of our four-year construction work plan. This included projects along State Highway 371 north of Walker, Laporte, and Cass County Road 61. We also completed the installation of our electric vehicle charging stations at our headquarters facility, at the Blackduck City Park and at the Big Bog State Park in Waskish.

Crews constructed nearly 300 new services and performed nearly 100 service improvements for our membership as our communities continue to grow. We experienced modest service growth in 2018 and increased energy sales due to a colder winter compared to 2016 and 2017. This helps spread our costs over more kilowatt-hours sold.

We experienced one major storm in 2018 as high winds in July caused sustained outages in the northern portion of our service area. Crews



did a great job restoring power safely and quickly. The cost to repair your system as a result of this storm was approximately \$200,000. We have applied for FEMA funding, but we will not know how much will be approved for reimbursement until early 2019.

I'm very proud of our employees for all they accomplished in 2018 in terms of our construction work plan and for their continued dedication to

our members. Most importantly, our employees operated safely, with zero lost-time injuries in 2018.

Budget approved – rates to remain stable

I'm pleased to announce that your board of directors approved the 2019 budget last month with no rate increase planned for 2019. This year will be another busy year for your cooperative, including projects to Minnesota Island, along North Plantagenet Road and near Pennington. We expect to build another 250-300 new services and perform 100 system improvements. These projects will keep our employees busy throughout the year.

Touchstone Energy® Community Award recipient

Congratulations to Ruby's Pantry-Bemidji on winning our local Touchstone Energy® Community Award. Their dedication to making our community great is remarkable, and we're pleased to recognize them in a small way for all the big things they do.

Congratulations, Matt

Shop Foreman Matt Dockendorf retired from Beltrami Electric last month, and I'd like to personally thank him for his 35 years of dedicated service to our cooperative members. Matt kept our fleet and equipment running in top shape. I don't know if there are many people out there with Matt's skill as a mechanic and fabricator, and, quite honestly, with the creative ingenuity it sometimes takes to manage a diverse fleet such as ours. Thank you, Matt, for your dedication to our members and for keeping us running day in and day out for the last 35 years. I wish you a long and healthy retirement.



Ruby's Pantry of Bemidji

Named Beltrami Electric's 2018 Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner

(article continued from page 1)

Ruby's PANTRY

Every
3rd Wednesday
of Every Month
Doors Open at 4:00pm

Bemidji, MN - Distribution Site

Located at

Sponsored by



1111 Event Center Dr NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

North Branch, Minn., to find out how Mt. Zion Church could get involved, and in August 2017, they held their first monthly distribution.

Thanks to many local businesses, churches and individuals, they received donations such as grocery carts, pallet jacks, food-safe bags and more. The project, which is currently the largest of all the pop-up pantry sites and serves nearly 400 households each month, quickly outgrew the space at the church. Fortunately, they secured a spot at the Sanford Center in time for the December 2017 distribution. "The Sanford Center staff has been so accommodating and helpful," Brooks said. "We would not have been able to continue with distributions without the use of a space like this."

Ruby's Pantry-Bemidji currently has more than 270 vetted volunteers of all ages. "We really need a minimum of 90

volunteers throughout the day to make the distribution run smoothly," said Joel Britt, one of the many event coordinators. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks including setup/takedown, registration, unloading and unpacking

supplies, distribution line, carrying boxes to guests' vehicles, flattening boxes for recycling and parking and safety. It's a great opportunity for groups looking for volunteer hours as there are many different shifts available.

There are no income or resident limits/requirements to receive food from Ruby's Pantry. If you eat, you are welcome.



The only restriction is one share per household so that they can reach as many households as possible. Guests are asked to pay a \$20 cash donation per share, and in return, they receive two large boxes or baskets containing items that vary monthly, such as meat, dairy, frozen vegetables, bread,

paper products and more. "This program is designed as a hand-up, not a hand-out," said Steve Thompson, pastor of Mt. Zion Church. "It helps families stretch their grocery dollar."

The majority of the donations collected go toward purchasing new items each month, as well as the trucking/shipping costs to get the supplies to each destination. Each distribution center keeps a small portion of the funds, which they in turn use to cover facility use/rental and supplies.

If there are any items left over at the end of the day, they are donated to organizations like the Bemidji Food Shelf, Community Table, Servants of Shelter (SOS) or churches with special events involving meals.



Kylie Donat volunteers alongside her dad, Mitch. "It's fun to see people in our community come together like this," she said. Kylie and Mitch moved pallets and assisted guests with getting their items to their vehicles.

To better serve Bemidji and the surrounding areas, Ruby's Pantry has opened up new distribution sites this year in Clearbrook and Laporte.

The Ruby's Pantry-Bemidji 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 2019 during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul. The Touchstone Energy Community Award recognizes organizations for outstanding contributions to their community.

For a complete list of previous year's winners, please see our website: www.beltramelectric.com/content/touchstone-energy-community-award.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"To activate people in being alert to the needs of others and to be proactive in encouraging faith, showing friendship and meeting tangible needs of neighbors, friends and strangers regardless of race, religion or ethnicity."

Beltrami Electric Cooperative scholarships

Once again, it is time for high school seniors to apply for Beltrami Electric's college scholarships. Beltrami Electric Cooperative funds college scholarships with unclaimed capital credit dollars that, per Minnesota state law for unclaimed property, would otherwise be forfeited to the state.

As we all know, a college education can be expensive. Beltrami Electric and its board of directors are pleased to offer \$1,000 in scholarship money to deserving students of BEC members attending seven area high schools to help with this ever-growing expense. To be eligible to be awarded scholarship money this spring, the parents and/or guardians of the students must be members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative. If you are a high school senior who attends one of the schools listed below and are interested in applying for a scholarship from BEC, please contact your high school's designated guidance office or scholarship committee for additional information and applications. The scholarship selection process is handled through each school's designated career guidance offices or scholarship committees.

Bemidji High School, Blackduck High School, Cass Lake High School, Kelliher High School, Laporte High School, Red Lake High School, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS! Apply today for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 15-20, 2019



Beltrami Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-20, 2019.

Each year the cooperative sponsors one high school junior (will be a senior in the fall of 2019) whose parent or guardian is a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will have the opportunity to meet with elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, discuss the process of government and increase their overall knowledge of electric cooperatives and U.S. history. They will also spend time touring many historic sites, monuments and some of the most famous museums in the world while in Washington, D.C. Students have said that they made friends that will last a lifetime and that the Youth Tour was the best week of their entire summer!

To qualify, candidates must submit an application, write a 500-word essay from a list of selected topics, submit two

letters of reference from teachers, group or community leaders and have a parent or guardian who is a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

Applications must be received by **Friday, Feb. 1, 2019**, and are available at your high school counselor's office or via download at Beltrami Electric's website at www.beltramielco.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc. Those interested should mail their applications, letters of recommendation and essays to Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Youth Tour, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619-0488. They can also be dropped off at the office located at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji.

For more information, contact Angela Lyseng at Beltrami Electric, 218-444-3689, or visit our website www.beltramielco.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc, or visit www.mrea.org/youth-tour and www.youthtour.coop for exciting highlights of past Electric Cooperative Youth Tours.

This summer, go on a Power Trip!

TRACK AND ACCESS YOUR ENERGY USAGE



Beltrami Electric Cooperative offers a free resource for members to use to help them track their energy usage called MyMeter™. As a member of BEC, you can create a free account on MyMeter and track your annual, monthly, weekly, daily and even hourly kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage!

You can access your meter data across all of your devices and use the alert system to keep you up to date even when you are out of town. Simply log in using your computer or download the free app to your Android or Apple mobile device. With MyMeter, you can track things like vacations, remodels, LED light installs, heating upgrades, etc.

How to get started with MyMeter

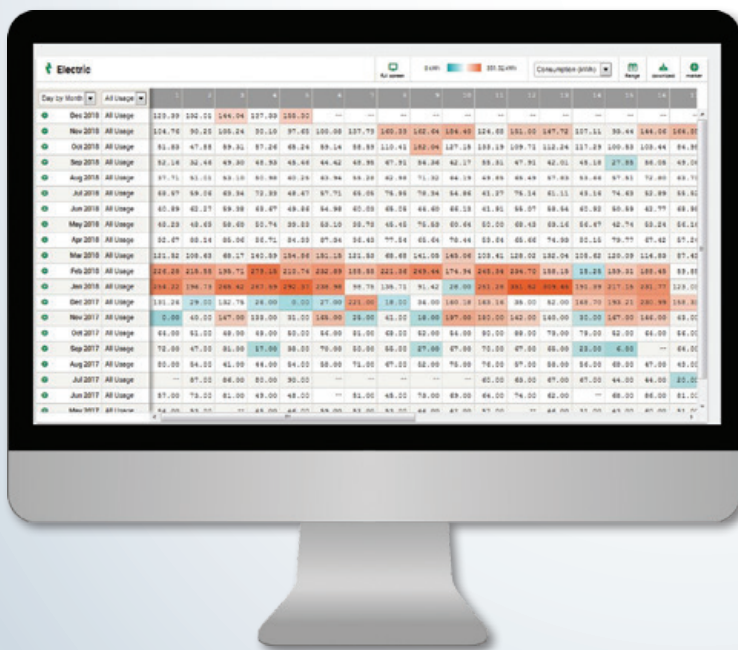
Setting up a MyMeter account is quick and easy. Follow the steps below, and you will be ready to take control of managing your energy use.

Create your account

Go to mymeter.beltramielectric.com and select “create an account.” Be sure to use your correct account number and account name as they appear on your monthly utility bill.

View and manage your usage data

After you have successfully created your MyMeter account, you will be able to spot trends, track your usage and even receive energy-related alerts and challenges.



Need assistance or have questions? Contact member services at 444-2540 or 800-955-6083.

MyMeter offers several customizing features to view specific kWh information. One feature is a bar chart that allows you to select a date range, view main and off-peak meter usage together or separately, and set up markers to track behavior or changes to the home.

In addition, there are four comparison menus where you can choose from a range of options to compare against your usage data, such as low, average and high temperature, your usage last year or usage two or three years ago.

Another feature is a data sheet that displays your usage similar to a spreadsheet and can also be customized. The data sheet features a color gradient key, where low usage readings are blue and high usage readings are orange.

GET STARTED TODAY!
Visit mymeter.beltramielectric.com

Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
 - o Ads submitted by Jan. 1 will be published in the February issue.
 - o Ads submitted between Jan. 2 and Feb. 1 will be published in the March issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.com (preferred).
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be **50 words or less** and typed or printed clearly.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a first-received, first-printed basis, **with no guarantee your ad will appear.**
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for **three consecutive months** and must be resubmitted each month.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619.

For Sale:

"Elite Billiards" solid oak 4'x8' pool table, wine colored cloth, excellent condition, asking \$1,300/obo. Call 760-8266 to view on face time or we can text or email photos.

Like new fishing boat: 2016 black 16-foot Lund with 25 horsepower 4-stroke Mercury motor on a 2017 Yacht Club trailer. \$9,000 firm. Ryobi 740R 31cc 16" gas powered trimmer, used. Electric 5500 SKIL saw, almost new. Call 444-8210.

Husky Weatherbeater custom fit floor mat/liner. Fits Dodge Durango and Jeep Cherokee 2011-

2014. Very good condition. 3-piece set. Similar to WeatherTech. \$50. 556-5171

H International tractor with loader and snow bucket, good tires, runs good, new battery. \$550. 766-2853.

1998 Polaris XC 700, 3,500 miles, reverse, cover, studded track. Well taken care of. \$1,300. 547-3900.

Richardson Bros. solid oak dining table w/8 chairs. 68"x40". Four 11" leaves equals 112" long. Also matching china hutch. All perfect condition. \$500/obo. 751-2067.

Diamond "Nuclear Ice" youth bow, 3-pin fiber-optic sight, 4-arrow slotted quiver, 3 arrows, PLANO hard case, \$300. Vintage Kodak XL33 movie camera with 9mm f/1.2 lens, original box and 24-page instruction manual, neck strap, \$35. Three children's ITECH hockey helmets/ITECH RBE III Junior face protectors, \$30/set. All excellent cond. 368-4834.

Red Golden pheasants, \$20/each. Lady Amherst pheasants, \$25/each. Reeves pheasants, \$25/each, 2018 hatch, call 586-2839.

Homelite chainsaw \$75; bench top drill press \$50; new Canon printer, no ink \$20. Two new 185-60-R-14 tires \$60 for the pair. 766-0915.

Strike Master 10" ice auger. Tecumseh gas engine, excellent condition, with auger extension. \$200. 694-6261.

Two NIPCO fuel oil heaters, 80,000 Btu, also a 10-inch Ryobi miter box saw. 791-8414.

Wall mirror, high quality, brushed gold finish, approximately 35" x 23", must see to appreciate, can send photo via text. \$240 new, sell for \$95. Call or text Kathy at 952-451-6835, Bemidji area.

Jiffy model Pro 4 10" propane ice drill. Jiffy 10" gas ice drill. Both like new. 407-0293.

Block, Crazy or Star homemade quilts. Twin: \$35, Full: \$40, Queen: \$50, King: \$60. Sewing machines, \$15 each, works. 243-2702.

1991 Buick Riviera, 102K miles, excellent condition, runs great, solid car, \$4,000/obo. 2004 Chevy Silverado Z71, 140K miles, good condition (clean interior, rust on exterior), newer tires, well-kept, all maintenance records kept, runs great, \$6,900/obo. 243-3029, leave message.

Twin bed over full bed, staircase bunk bed unit with 3-drawer under-bed storage and 4-drawer under-stair storage by Discovery World Furniture, model #2914-Full-2992. Color: Espresso. New in original, unopened packaging. Dimensions: 98.5"x57"x 64". \$800 firm. Call 224-2224, leave message if no answer.

Wanted:

Rabbits, prefer white, but interested in any. Not for eating. 766-2853.

Anvil appx. 3/4 size older blacksmith version. Not interested in a full size. Call Bill at 766-8410.

I will deep clean your home after all your holiday activities have ended. I'm thorough and efficient with references from businesses and private homeowners. There's room for only three more clients so call 355-0806 ASAP to reserve your spot!

Nuisance beaver? Professional trapper will remove problem beaver. More than 30 years of experience. References available. Reasonable rates. 586-2071.

A team of two ladies looking for housecleaning jobs. Years of experience. Call 835-6434

House cleaning. Will clean house, cabin or office. Dependable with good references. 320-248-5795.

Cash for military items: Vietnam, WWII, WWI, Korea and earlier. Also German and Japanese items; any and all items. 371-6259.

100-plus gallon propane tank. 791-8414.

Lost:

Fish spear between Benedict and Cass Lake. \$50 reward. Lost on 11/28/18. Please call 335-6778.



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
I HAVE A DREAM

**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative will be closed
Monday, Jan. 21, 2019,
in observance of Martin
Luther King Jr. Day.**

Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Monday, Nov. 26, 2018. A quorum of directors was present.

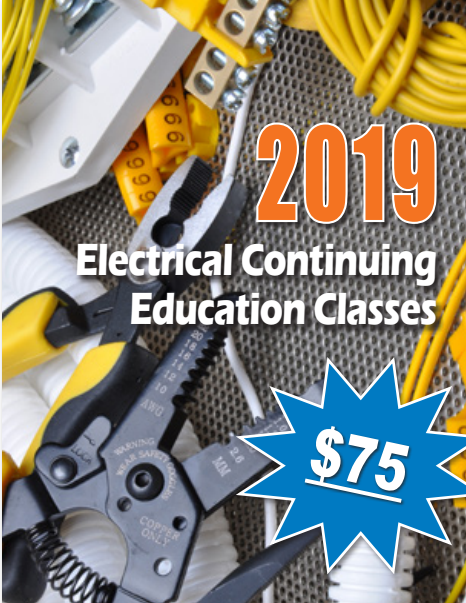
The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on the recent elections and legislative issues affecting the cooperative.
- Arlene Hogquist reviewed the October financial report and reviewed the work order closeouts.
- Jeremy Seibel reported on technology and security.
- Sam Mason reported on the load management program.
- CEO Echternach and Management Team members reviewed the preliminary 2019 budget and general plant purchases.
- Member representatives from Northern Paving addressed the board.
- CEO Echternach presented unclaimed capital credits to be donated as scholarships to area schools.
- President Coe appointed Judy Honer as the NRECA voting delegate and John Lund as the alternate.
- Directors and the CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved distribution of unclaimed capital credit funds.
- Approved an employee year-end bonus.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019.



**2019
Electrical Continuing
Education Classes**

\$75

Dates and Locations

West Fargo - Tuesday, Jan. 22 DoubleTree Inn, 701.551.0120 825 E Beaton Dr West Fargo, ND 58078	Bemidji - Friday, Feb. 1 Eagles Club, 218.751.9985 1270 Neilson Ave SE Bemidji, MN 56601
West Fargo - Wednesday, Jan. 23 DoubleTree Inn, 701.551.0120 825 E Beaton Dr West Fargo, ND 58078	Grand Forks - Tuesday, Feb. 5 Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292 5301 32nd Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201
Fergus Falls - Thursday, Jan. 31 Bigwood Event Center, 218.739.2211 925 Western Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537	Grand Forks - Wednesday, Feb. 6 Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292 5301 32nd Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201

Class Schedule

7:15 - 8 a.m. - Sign-in
8 a.m. - noon - Workshop

Noon - 1 p.m. - Lunch provided
1 - 5 p.m. - Workshop

For more information contact:

contractortraining@minnkota.com
Minnkota Power Cooperative • 701.795.4292
Website: www.minnkota.com

Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- **Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?** YES NO
Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- **Are any outlets or switches discolored?** YES NO
Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- **Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?** YES NO
Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

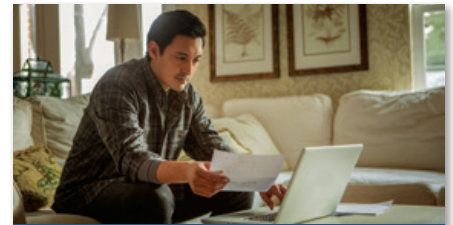
CORDS

- **Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?** YES NO
Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?** YES NO
Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?** YES NO
Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

ELECTRIC PANEL

- **Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?** YES NO
If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- **Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?** YES NO
AFCIs provide greater fire protection.
Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.

Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist. Visit ESFI.org for more information. Source: ESFI



Need help paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

Bi-CAP Energy Assistance

6603 Bemidji Ave N
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-4631

Mahube Energy Assistance

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

Leech Lake Energy Assistance

115 6th St NW, Suite E
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3783

Red Lake Energy Assistance

15533 Main Ave
Red Lake, MN 56671
218-679-1880

Kootasca Energy Assistance

201 NW 4th St., Suite 130
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-0800



*Congratulations,
Matt Dockendorf!*



Shop Foreman Matt Dockendorf retired Dec. 28, 2018, after 35 years of working at Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Matt started as a mechanic at BEC June 1983. Thank you, Matt, for your dedicated service to the cooperative and our members. We wish you a happy retirement!



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Beltrami Electric Cooperative collects and delivers items for 19th 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 19th straight year.

This season, nearly 900 items were collected and distributed to more than 720 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 employees, members and friends continues to be very generous. As we have seen enrollment numbers grow each year, so has the number of items donated.

As some of you might know, cooperatives around the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions – from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that seems especially important. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped with a donation to the Mitten Tree this year! Whether you dropped off your items or shipped them to us, we were so excited to see the items that were selected or made with love for our area children. By working together, we are able to make a big impact in our local communities, keeping children warm for yet another winter season.

