

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

May 2022

SHE DID EVERYTHING RIGHT



Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house when a storm turned from average to angry.

The storm was not a problem during the first part of her drive, and she assumed it would stay that way during the half-hour ride home. "I've never really been afraid to drive in storms; I'm pretty good with them," she explained. "I've always been fascinated with thunder and lightning."

Unbeknownst to Mary, a stronger, more violent storm was about to erupt, and conditions grew worse than anyone had anticipated. The typically familiar and uneventful drive was neither of those things that June night.

Strong rotations formed and their Herculean strength folded several metal transmission towers in half. Around 15 to 20 minutes into the drive, Mary's knuckles gripped the wheel as she struggled to see in front of her. During lightning flashes, she saw little white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines

were across the road, in her path, and that they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

What happened next was life-changing — but in a good way. Mary picked up her phone and called her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, not get out of the car, and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related equipment:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting the vehicle is a last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.



Scan the code to
watch Mary's story

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

Northern Lights (USPS 016488), Vol. 69, No. 5

Northern Lights is published monthly by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., 4111 Technology Drive NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-5128. Subscription rate \$5. Periodicals postage paid at Bemidji, MN 56601.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488.

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

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

www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

Chair	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Vice Chair	Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (Square Butte Director)
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 (Minnkota Director)
President and CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@koonsinspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Brandon Disselbrett

218-640-0187 - disselbrett@hotmail.com

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 email as indicated.

Gopher State One Call 811
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.

Mission of Beltrami Electric Co-op

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.



Prioritize safety year-round

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

At Beltrami Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As president and CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see Beltrami Electric Cooperative hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools and appliances,

I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle – by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. If you are adding load to your panel, make sure your panel and circuits have enough capacity to carry the load. If you are unsure, contact a qualified electrician for assistance.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But more important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Beltrami Electric Cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or upcoming community event.

PLUG INTO SAFETY

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH
Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.

JOHN LUND RECEIVES RED LANTERN AWARD



John Lund, Beltrami Electric Cooperative board chair, was presented with the Red Lantern Award by Minnkota Power Cooperative, recognizing his 10 years of service as a cooperative board member. The award reads: *“Just as the lantern was the friendly symbol of light in rural neighborhoods in bygone days, so is rural electrification the symbol of this era of abundant light, progress and better living.”* Congratulations, John!

Les Windjue (left), Minnkota Power Cooperative board chair, presents the award to John Lund.

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SELECTS

Ashley Pirkel for 2022 Youth Tour



Beltrami Electric is pleased to announce that Ashley Pirkel of Bemidji has been selected as the cooperative’s 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour representative. She will join hundreds of high school students representing their cooperatives on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14-19, 2022. The annual Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and Beltrami Electric Cooperative.



“The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students from Minnesota and around the United States, and after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, we’re pleased to once again send a student to Washington, D.C.,

to participate,” said Angela Lyseng, Youth Tour coordinator for Beltrami Electric Cooperative. “These students will gain a firsthand understanding of the legislative process, learn about advocating on behalf of their community and make connections with others that will last a lifetime. Our youth are our future, and we can give them the tools to succeed.”

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with their U.S. representatives and senators, jump-start their national peer network

and tour Washington, D.C. The tour includes visits to the Smithsonian, the National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, the WWI, Vietnam, and Korean War Veterans Memorials as well as the Jefferson, Washington and Lincoln Memorials.

As part of the selection process, candidates were required to submit an application, two letters of reference and a 500-word essay. Ms. Pirkel’s application reflected her strong commitment to academics and community volunteerism and revealed a good understanding of what it means to be a member of a cooperative.

Ms. Pirkel is very active in her school. She has participated in show choir and is a member of Interact, a group of students who are service-minded volunteers. She has received an academic letter two years in a row, received a Varsity letter in swimming and was inducted into the National Honor Society this year. Through the BHS Interact Club, she has volunteered for Operation Christmas Child, Great River Rescue and the Northwoods Battered Women’s Shelter. Ms. Pirkel enjoys piano, choir, swimming, hiking and camping, and will be pursuing a degree in architecture and business. She is the daughter of William and Jennifer Pirkel of Bemidji. The members of Beltrami Electric are once again pleased to send a well-rounded student to our nation’s capital as a representative of the cooperative. Congratulations and good luck!



When your AC croaks...

call the heat pump folks!

You've had your trusty air conditioner for years, and it hasn't let you down. **YET.**

When the time comes – and it will – for a more efficient, more versatile, money-saving replacement, Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC) recommends researching an air-source heat pump (ASHP) or a ductless mini-split heat pump. These modern technologies will not only help you fight the Minnesota summer heat, but they'll also warm you up when the state transitions to its famously cold winters. Show us an air conditioner that can do that!

TECHNOLOGY BENEFIT BREAKDOWN



AIR CONDITIONER



ASHP



MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

How it works

Absorbs heat inside and expels it from your home, returning the cooled air into the home

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (throughout the home, using ductwork)

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (zones of the home, no ductwork needed)

Versatility

Only used during the warm months when home cooling is needed

Offers heating and cooling through every season

Offers heating and cooling through every season, can be installed in any room or space

Efficiency

Efficiency differs, but some wall-mounted units only provide spot cooling and air can leak through seals

Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks

Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks

Off-peak program qualified

No

Yes (nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment)

Yes (nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment)

Co-op rebate available

No

Yes (up to \$650/ton)

Yes (up to \$650/ton)

BONUS WINTER BENEFIT: Electric ASHP heating is much *more efficient* and *cost effective* than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses. Plus, stable electric rates will help you protect yourself from ever-volatile propane and gas prices.

Call the energy experts at BEC to find the heating & cooling system that works best for your home!

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUEL COSTS

An electric vehicle can protect you from rising gas prices

We've all felt it this year – that pain that comes with pumping gas at around \$4 per gallon. The smallest cars need \$40 of fuel for a full tank. Larger, 36-gallon gas tanks will cost upward of \$140-150 to fill. It's even more costly for the large trucks and vehicles that deliver food and necessities to our local communities.

With uncertainty surrounding future fuel prices, adding an electric vehicle (EV) to your family's fleet is a smart idea. Electricity prices have been

relatively stable in recent years and are much lower than gasoline prices – even at \$2 a gallon. Beltrami Electric Cooperative's supply of electricity comes from homegrown resources, meaning you'll be supporting energy workers across the region and in your community.

Filling up your EV on Beltrami Electric's off-peak program costs less than the average fast food meal. Take a look at the chart below.



VEHICLE & POWER SOURCE	COST TO DRIVE 225 MILES
Gas-powered vehicle (18 mpg, \$4 a gallon)	\$50.00
Gas-powered vehicle (25 mpg, \$4 a gallon)	\$36.00
Gas powered vehicle (35 mpg, \$4 a gallon)	\$25.70
Standard electric pickup truck (225 miles of range, 100-kWh battery) on off-peak home charging rate (\$0.07/kWh)	\$7.00
Standard electric car (225 miles of range, 68-kWh battery) on off-peak home charging rate (\$0.07/kWh)	\$4.76



When members sign up voluntarily for the off-peak EV program, they simply install their 240-volt home charger on an off-peak meter and charge the vehicle when electric demand is low. This is often in the overnight hours, when the EV is already tucked away in the garage. Drivers can plug in with a nearly depleted battery and wake up in the morning fully charged for the day.

Installing a home charger on Beltrami Electric Cooperative's off-peak program will pay out in a few ways:

- A super-low charging rate (as seen above)
- An up-to-\$500 charging equipment rebate (many home chargers are \$500-\$1,000)
- Many EVs still qualify for an up-to-\$7,500 federal tax credit (ask your dealership)
- No need to stand at the pump in the heat/cold (80-90% of charging is done at home)
- No regular tune-ups or maintenance needed (other than a tire rotation)



Scan this code with your phone to browse the highly rated electric options available now.

Want to learn more about how you can save with the off-peak program?
CALL US AT 218-444-2540 OR VISIT
VALUEOFELECTRICITY.COM!

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - Ads submitted by May 1 will be published in June issue.
 - Ads submitted between May 2 and June 1 will be published in July issue.
- Ads will be submitted via our website at 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:

Gardening supplies: rakes, hoes, shovels, forks, Harvest King 3-gallon farm and garden sprayer, \$10 each. Large plastic patio pots, \$5 each. Stihl weed/brush trimmer w/shoulder harness, \$90. Agri-Fab (the heavyweight) gas tiller for big projects, pulls behind riding mower or larger, \$700. 218-586-2884.

NordicTrack treadmill, EXP1000i commercial grade, great shape, \$600/obo. Used Whirlpool flat-top electric range, \$100/obo. 218-766-8813.

Savage Model 24 .22 over 20 gauge. Great condition. \$700. 612-747-5922.

Fishing boat: 1987 Lund 16' boat, 25 hp Evinrude motor, electric and recoil start, Spartan trailer. Includes battery and 2 fuel tanks \$2,500/obo. Call 218-444-6223 or 218-766-5570 for more info.

2015 Hobie fishing pedal kayak. 13-foot Revolution model, asking 50% less than replacement cost. 218-443-6326.

Snapper LE3191E single stage snowblower, 19" electric start, about 10 years old, hardly used, paid over \$400, asking \$75. Metal king-size headboard, footboard, and frame, \$75. 3 antique quart Hilex/Purex brown bottles with original cork stopper, 1 half gallon without cork stopper, 1 gallon with original stopper, \$50. 218-368-1643.

Western 7.5 Pro snow plow, unimount, like new, on 1977 Ford F250, needs clutch and master brake cylinder, \$3,500/obo. 218-407-7247.

Boat, trailer and dock for sale: 18-foot pontoon with motor and trailer, good condition. 2018 Yamaha 25 hp 4-stroke motor. \$8,250/obo. Dock: 32 ft x 4 ft sectional aluminum dock, no maintenance, removable vinyl decking. \$2,000/obo. 218-243-2815.

Rifle: Remington Model 700 30-06, new condition, never used, \$700. Contact: Zeke 218-760-4700.

Beautiful flowers! Local organic flower farmer wants to deliver four weekly bouquets at one monthly price of \$100. Annuals, perennials and herbs. Every bouquet will surprise you. Call 218-556-3629.

16-ft boat trailer, \$500. 18-ft aluminum boat w/ trailer, \$750. 8' x 14' Rainbow utility trailer with sides and ramp, made in Canada, \$700. 2005 Harley Davidson Fatboy anniversary edition, many extras, 17K miles, \$8,750. 2-1997 Mercury Cougars XR7 HO engines, one for \$1,850, one for \$1,400. 218-766-5285.

55-gallon rain barrels, heavy plastic, \$5 each. New hydraulic fluid, approx. 30 gallons, call for price. 218-308-4025.

Matching Roadmaster Chromium Edition men and women's bicycles, teal color, 26", Techno Lite Tubing, 5-speed Shimano Index System, spoke mounted reflectors, water bottle holders with original bottles, large comfy seats, good condition, \$75 each, cash only. 218-759-1433, leave message if no answer.

Golf clubs, 4 sets of children's, women's Velociteque golf clubs full set, 1 men's MP30 3-PW Forged Mizuno irons, 5 - 3x3 foot HD Fatigue mats, Wayne 1 hp sprinkler and utility pump w/16 feet of 1" water line, \$189 new, sell \$100. 218-586-2534.

Pontoon lift. Manually operated, steel frame, on wheels. Ideal for shallow water. \$300. Call 218-556-1213.

Hewitt 1800# aluminum lift with new electric winch and vinyl canopy, 100W x 110L. Valued at \$1,250, yours for \$800 to get it off my property. 320-583-0471.

Two dressers, one tall and one short and long with mirror. \$25 for both. 218-751-8629.

New in box: Farberware electric griddle NEW \$199.97, asking \$100; also 2 vintage black Coach purses, asking \$50 each. 218-368-4973, if no answer leave message.

Springfield 1903, 30-06 sporter rifle, 3-9 scope. American walnut, checkered stock, Timney trigger, Buehler safety, high number double heat receiver. Serial# 10061XX, \$800. Marlin 1894C .357 Mag, 18" barrel, walnut stock, like new condition, \$600. 218-444-9929.

Wanted:

Free peonies or any perennials. 218-556-2743.

Retired teacher will love and care for your pet while you're gone. 218-766-6510.

Long roll-in dock on wheels. 651-324-4747.

Looking for a rough-cut mower. Either walk-behind or ATV-pulled style. Call or text Matt at 218-368-0737.

Do you want your old chair re-caned? Call Nate at 218-407-0168.

Looking for consignment items for upcoming auctions in May and June. May 21 farm auction at the fairgrounds in Bemidji and June 4 auction at the fairgrounds in Pine River. Please call Bernard at 320-290-9079 or Scott at 218-760-0138.

Looking for someone to cut firewood for me on my property. Must have own chainsaw and truck for hauling to my woodpile. 218-751-7693.

Buying old baseball, football and basketball cards, empty display boxes that the cards came in and wrappers from the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's, 1960's and older. Will pay a fair price. Nothing newer than 1970! 218-556-6464.

Kevlar canoe, in good shape. Call 218-766-3475.

Over and under rifle shotgun. Left-handed rifles, two-wheel trailer. 218-340-9010.

White banquet tablecloths that fit 6-foot rectangular tables, need 15. Need in excellent condition. 218-556-2320, leave message.

Free:

Smaller plastic pots for planting, some flowerpots. 218-586-2884.



Need help paying your electric bill?

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 St. NW, Suite 130, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-0824

Leech Lake

115 6th St. NW, 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

2022 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$8,809	4	\$16,941
2	\$11,520	5	\$19,651
3	\$14,230	6	\$22,362

Visit <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/> for more EAP income guidelines and program information.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, March 30, 2022. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echernach gave his monthly report, including discussions on January and February financials, employee updates, loan funds, debt limit, solar projects, obsolete equipment auction, legislative issues affecting the cooperative and Greater Bemidji.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the January and February financial reports.
- David Holt, Brady Martz & Associates, gave the 2021 audit report giving Beltrami Electric Cooperative a clean audit opinion.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the 2021

Patronage Capital margins and allocation.

- Arlene Hogquist presented the RUS loan application and financial forecast.
- President and CEO Echernach reviewed the updates to the Cooperative Service Standards.
- Chair Lund appointed John Lund as the Federated delegate with Jared Echernach as the alternate.
- Chair Lund appointed John Lund as the CFC delegate with Jared Echernach as the alternate.
- Chair Lund appointed Mike Nordrud, Sharon Lembke and Muri Nord as the Policy Committee members.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved the 2021 audit report.
- Approved the 2021 Patronage Capital allocation.
- Approved the Debt Limit Resolution.
- Approved the 2022 district meetings.
- Approved director expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

- District 1 meeting on June 27, 6 p.m.
- District 5 meeting on June 23, 6 p.m.
- District 8 meeting on June 28, 6 p.m.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

EMPLOYEE NEWS




Congratulations, Bob Gregg


Energy conservation representative Bob Gregg was recently named Beltrami Electric Cooperative's new business development manager. Bob began his duties April 4, which will focus on business development, increased efficient energy sales and positive member engagement. As a manager, Bob will oversee Beltrami Electric's energy services department. Bob began his Beltrami Electric career in September 2003 as an electrician. He was later promoted to energy conservation representative in 2005 before accepting his current position.


"I look forward to assisting our members in the wise use of new and innovative electrical technologies," Gregg said.

LOVE THE OUTDOORS? BE SAFE OUT THERE


 $\frac{2}{3}$ of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor recreational activities.


 Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.

 **Do not use generators in enclosed areas.** The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.

 **Look up** for power lines while fishing or sailing.

FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.

 **Going for a hike?** If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**

 **Tent camping?** Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.

 Safe Electricity.org

TURN THE PAGE TO ELECTRIC LIVING

Can you see yourself with an electric life? Efficiency, affordability, reliability, responsibility – it's all wrapped into the latest electric technology found right here in our region.

Pick up a free copy of the newly printed **Electric Living** publication at your co-op to see how we can help you plug in and save big. Whether



it's home heating and cooling, water heating, electric vehicle charging or yard care, electricity can enhance your life more now than ever before. **Electric Living** will highlight how your friends and neighbors have leveraged kilowatts (and the voluntary off-peak program) in their Minnesota and North Dakota homes.



Scan this code with your phone to browse **Electric Living** now, or visit ValueofElectricity.com!





Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board met in April to review Operation Round Up® grant applications, which it received requesting funding for various local programs. The total amount requested was \$120,435. The board awarded grants to 36 area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$44,101. 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. All funds for Operation Round Up are placed into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors, comprised of five volunteers from our communities. The average amount a participating member will contribute is 50 cents a month or \$6 a year, while the maximum annual contribution possible is \$11.88 per year. Contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible and will be shown on your billing statement. Participation is voluntary and members may opt out at any time or opt back in by contacting our office. The next application deadline is **Sept. 23, 2022**.

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

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
Beltrami County Historical Society	Museum collection management upgrade	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Career Academies	Bemidji Career Academies Exploring Program	\$ 2,250
Bemidji Community Arts Council	Watermark Art Center studio art	\$ 500
Bemidji HS Girls Soccer	Bemidji HS Girls Soccer goalkeeper uniforms	\$ 155
Bemidji Marching Band Booster Club, Inc.	BHS Marching Band Color Guard & Honor Guard supplies	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Middle School Robotics Club	Bemidji Middle School Robotics – teams attending world competition	\$ 1,450
Bemidji Senior Center	Removal of outdated fire pull stations	\$ 295
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra	Basking in Brass Concert	\$ 1,000
Blackduck Beach Project Committee	Beach-area sidewalks / bike rack / fire pits	\$ 2,000
Blackduck HS Trap Club	MN Trap Shooting Championship Tournament	\$ 1,000
Blackduck Parks and Recreation	Wayside Rest inclusive playground for all	\$ 1,200
Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area	2022 summer financial aid	\$ 2,500
Camp Oak Hills	AED replacement	\$ 1,000
Deeper Life Bible Camp	Mattress replacement	\$ 1,000
Family Safety Network	Education and advocacy planning	\$ 2,500
Great River Rescue	GRR scrubs	\$ 1,360
Headwaters Music and Art	Native Landscaping at Headwaters Music & Arts	\$ 500
Headwaters Quilters	Community quilts	\$ 1,500
Headwaters Science Center	Robotics for after-school programs/club and summer camps	\$ 1,450
Helga Township Nary Heritage Park	Phase 2 Nary Heritage Park	\$ 1,000
Hubbard County Sheriff's Office	Night Vision for K9 Program	\$ 1,000
Kelliher Kids Childcare Center	STEM for Infants and Toddlers	\$ 1,606
Knights of Columbus Walleye Classic	Video board	\$ 2,000
Koochiching County Fair-Northome	Prizes for kids activities	\$ 500
Lakes Area Dive Team, Inc. (LADT)	Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) for search and rescue	\$ 1,200
Let's Go Fishing of MN	Let's Go Fishing	\$ 300
Minnesota Teen Challenge, Inc.	MN Fishing Challenge (to benefit MN Adult & Teen Challenge)	\$ 2,000
Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society	Young Naturalist Program	\$ 935
MN National Barrel Horse Association	Equipment upgrade	\$ 500
North Beltrami Sportsmen's Club	Storage building	\$ 1,000
North Star Sportsmen's Club	Rebuild club driveway	\$ 1,000
Northern Beltrami Development Corporation	Big Bog Festival at Paul Bunyan Park	\$ 1,500
Northwoods Caregivers	Northwoods Caregivers Give a Hoot	\$ 1,400
Society of St. Vincent de Paul-St. Philip's Conference	Hope In Bemidji	\$ 1,500
Solway Elementary School	Spring 2022 Solway Elementary School student field trips	\$ 1,000
United Way of Bemidji Area	Imagination Library Early Literacy Program	\$ 2,000