

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

December 2015



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Northern Solar update - page 3

You get the credit - page 4

A “powerful” trip - page 8

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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

Customer Service: 218-444-2540
or 1-800-955-6083
www.beltramielcric.com

Board of Directors

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

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami and Clearwater Counties
Davis Smid
507-227-2772 - 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: Snow-covered trees usher in the winter season in Beltrami Electric's service area.



Across the MANAGER'S DESK

Lynette Nieuwsma, General Manager

Cold Weather Expo

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our second annual Cold Weather Expo on Nov. 10. Our staff developed this event as a way to help our members prepare for the upcoming heating season and the challenges it brings. Several employees from both member services and energy services visited with members about topics ranging from the Cold Weather Rule, to off-peak heating system requirements, and provided information on how to monitor and track their electric usage with our free web-based MyMeter program. In addition, many local agencies were on hand to answer any questions members may have had about the programs and services they offer. If you missed it but have questions on the above topics, feel free to stop in the office anytime.

We look forward to continuing the Cold Weather Expo as a recurring event every November. To stay on top of upcoming events at Beltrami Electric, "Like" our page on Facebook or "Follow" us on Twitter.

Clean Power Plan

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its new carbon rule in the Federal Register at the end of October. On Oct. 23, coinciding with the filing in the Federal Register, 24 states filed lawsuits challenging the EPA's authority of this regulatory overreach. The states and industry

stakeholders are asking the appeals court to prevent "irreparable harm" by halting implementation of the regulation while legal proceedings are carried out. If you recall from our October newsletter, when the EPA issued its Clean Power Plan in August, it looked nothing like what was proposed just a year earlier. What was originally going to be an additional 11 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 morphed into a 45 percent reduction instead. The EPA is no longer giving credit to North Dakota

for being proactive in reducing CO₂ emissions. None of Minnkota's investment in wind energy will count toward the EPA's standard now simply because it was installed before 2013. Now, without changes to this plan, the only way North Dakota will be able to get to a 45 percent reduction is by either shutting down some of the state's coal plants, or

operating them at drastically reduced levels. Prematurely shutting down these plants would be like boarding up your home and moving out into a different home, while still being responsible for mortgages on both. Even if the plants don't run, co-ops still have to pay off the loans. **Join us and more than 1 million supporters of America's electric cooperatives and take 30 seconds to speak out today at www.Action.coop.** Together, we can remind the decision makers that this ruling not only will drive up the electric costs significantly to already struggling residents, but will truly jeopardize the reliability of the power we receive.

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You get the credit

Electric cooperatives aren't like other utilities – you, as a consumer and a member, own a portion of the business. And one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

Electric cooperatives operate at cost – collecting enough revenue to run and expand the business, but without the need to raise rates like investor-owned utilities (IOUs), that generate profits for distant shareholders. When Beltrami Electric closes its books, excess margins are allocated back to you and other members as capital credits. As the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits back to our members. See page 4 for more information.

Beltrami Electric's board of directors has approved the 2015 retirement and allocation of approximately \$1.2 million in capital credits to more than 15,000 active and former members across our service area. Overall, more than \$20 million has been returned back to the membership since the co-op's inception.

For more information on capital credits, I encourage you to visit our website at www.beltramielectric.com/CapitalCredits.aspx, which features an excellent informational video with an explanation of how capital credits work. As always, if you have additional questions, please contact our office.

Happy holidays!

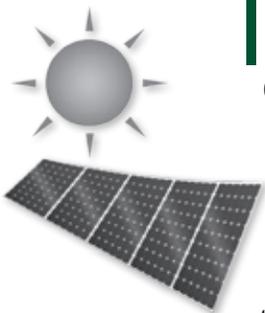
It's hard to believe that 2015 is coming to an end already. I always feel a little nostalgic at the end of each year, looking back on what we've accomplished and looking forward to new challenges and opportunities we'll face in the new year. As the year ends, we think about all we are grateful for. I have just been blessed with another grandchild, and I am grateful to be able to spend the holidays with another little one to spoil and love.

I'd like to take this moment to say thank you for your membership and patronage in 2015. I hope you and your family and friends have a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with all good things.

Lynette

Northern Solar by Beltrami Electric Cooperative

(Update as of Nov. 10, 2015)



In June of this year, we announced our plans to construct an 80-kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) solar garden array on our headquarters property. The array will consist of 192 photovoltaic panels rated at 400 watts each. The cost for members who wish to subscribe to the Northern Solar project is

\$1,295 for a full panel's output or \$647.50 for a half panel's output. In return, members will be allocated the energy produced (kWh) by their subscribed panel(s) to offset their kWh on their electric bill.

If you have additional questions or are interested in enrolling in Northern Solar, you may contact the co-op's office at 218-444-2540 or toll-free at 800-955-6083 to request an informational flyer and a contract, or you may download pdf versions of both from our website at www.beltramielectric.com.

The project will not move forward until we are able to get at least 50 percent (96 panels) subscribed. As of the beginning of November, we have 47 panels subscribed. In talking to members, we do feel there is enough interest for this project to succeed, but until we get at least another 49 panels subscribed to, the exact time frame for construction is unknown.

The power of



It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with 16,000+ members, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Each co-op decides how they want to operate the program, and the vast majority is governed by a board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community. The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed for a wide range of activities. Examples of this include assisting the local food shelf, animal shelter, providing funds to the local fire department to assist in getting a needed piece of equipment, or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country – and the world – is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce that they will be launching Operation Round Up in May of 2016. We welcome your participation.

YOU get the credit!

It's time for you to get the credit – capital credits, that is – for helping build, sustain, and grow your local electric cooperative. This year the board of directors for Beltrami Electric has approved retiring and paying more than \$1 million in capital credits for more than 15,000 present and former members of Beltrami Electric!

It PAYS to be a member-owner of Beltrami Electric! When you signed up to receive electric service from Beltrami Electric,

you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return profits to their shareholders, Beltrami Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, and every year margins are allocated back to the member-owners in the form of capital credits. That's the Cooperative Difference.

MEMBER PATRONAGE

Beltrami Electric keeps track of how much electricity you purchase throughout the year.



ALLOCATION

After a year ends, Beltrami Electric distributes your share of the margins for that year to your capital credit account. Capital credits are not payable at the time they are allocated. This normally happens in March for the previous year.

(Margins = PROFIT – EXPENSES)



ALLOCATED CAPITAL CREDITS

Capital credits increase on your account over a period of time. Beltrami Electric uses the allocated capital credits as a source of equity to build and maintain our electrical system, which in turn helps keep your electric rates low.

Present members who receive a capital credit retirement will see a credit on their statement in late November or early December (depending on the billing cycle). A credit applied to a statement will be listed as "Apply Capital Credit Retirement" under the Detail of Charges (Former members will receive their capital credits via a check in the mail).



YOU, a member-owner of Beltrami Electric, receive a capital credit refund!



RETIREMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS

Each year, depending on the financial condition of Beltrami Electric, the board of directors will decide to retire and pay capital credits to present and former members.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PO Box 488
Bemidji MN 56619

For Billing Questions and Outages
Call (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-4683

www.beltramielectric.com

2150 1. AVY 6.378
MEMBER NAME
MEMBER ADDRESS CITY,
STATE, ZIP

Account Number 9999999
Statement Date 11/24/2015

Billing Summary	
Balance From Last Billing	129.64
Payment - Thank You - 11/10/2015	-129.64
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	119.79
Amount Due By 12/10/2015	\$119.79
Amount Due After 12/10/2015	\$127.29

Page 1 of 1

Messages
Pay by Phone 24/7! Call 1-855-356-6345 to access our automated payment system. (You will need your account number to Pay by Phone.) For other payment options, please visit our website at www.beltramielectric.com

Service Details		Location 999-99-999	Serv Add 999 STREET	Desc	119 Residential
Meter Reading Details		Meter A123			
Current Reading	11/20/15	65063			
Previous Reading	10/20/15	64123			
Total Usage		960			
Days Served	31				
Detail of Charges					
Apply Capital Credit Retirement					-17.24
	KWH Charge	960 KWH@ 0.0826	79.30		29.50
	Access Charge				-0.50
	Access Charge Credit				3.84
	Renewable Energy Market Adjustment				15.48
	Purchased Power Cost Adjustment	960 KWH@ 0.0040000			8.77
	Minnesota Tax	960 KWH@ 0.0161240			0.64
	Beltrami County Tax				119.79
	Total This Service				
This Month Last Year Usage 873 Days Served 31					

MEMBER NAME
MEMBER ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP
Home Phone# (999) 999-9999

Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 488
Bemidji MN 56619-0488

* ALL PAYMENTS ARE PROCESSED THE DAY THEY ARE RECEIVED *

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND NOTICE

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
PO Box 488
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488
218-444-2540



PAY TO THE ORDER OF: You, the Member-Owner...
have received your capital credit refund on this month's electric bill.

AMOUNT is credited to the enclosed bill

Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.

THIS IS NOT A CHECK

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND NOTICE

↖ You will see this notice (pictured above) included with your billing statement if you have received a credit this year.

Trust in your Security. Trust in Per Mar.



Per Mar Security Services is excited to be a part of the community, and to welcome many of you to the Per Mar family. We look forward to serving you with your security needs.

I would like to share with you that our company has been in business for more than 60 years and I am a third generation owner here to serve you. We have an award winning Central Station rated as one of the top 100 Central Stations in the United States out of 10,000.

The team you have known for years continues to operate in the same office and will be part of the community for many years to come. If you need to reach our local Bemidji branch office for any of your sales or service needs, please call us at **218-444-3902** or **877-751-3902** Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

As an added benefit, Per Mar Security Services offers a Customer Care team to assist you with any questions during this transition. You can reach them at **1-866-441-7487** Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Central Standard Time or feel free to email them at customercare@permarsecurity.com.

Our Customer Care team can assist you with information and answer any questions you may have regarding an invoice or payment options such as the ability to have your invoices emailed to you, or to enroll in automatic payments or online bill pay.

Northern Safety & Security is now

PER MAR SECURITY SERVICES
Since 1953

Same location. Same friendly faces. More services!

Over 60 years of security experience available at your fingertips.

Contact us today to learn more about exciting security solutions that can help you protect your home and business.

1-218-444-3902 | permarsecurity.com

We look forward to our new relationship with you and can assure you that we take our mission statement of *“Guardians of people, property, and profits for life”* seriously.

Welcome to our family we are excited to be here!

- Brian Duffy
President Electronic Security

❄️ ❄️ ARE YOU ❄️ ❄️ A SNOW BIRD?

Do you close your home or cabin for the season and head to warmer regions? Do you have the post office forward your mail? Did you know that the USPS will forward your electric bills to your new location, but they will not forward your monthly Northern Lights newsletter? They send them back to the cooperative every month, and in turn, charge us a return fee for each issue.

A great solution for both you and your cooperative is to notify our customer service department of your new address, so they can set up a seasonal address for you. You can choose the date to start and stop forwarding, and you can even set a recurring forwarding address up to start and stop the same time each year.

By notifying us, you can ensure that you receive your member newsletter and also help the cooperative save by alleviating return postage fees every month. Contact our office at **218-444-2540** or toll free at **800-955-6083**.

You also have the option to not receive a paper copy of the newsletter if you prefer to view it on our website at www.beltramelectric.com.

Celebrate with savings

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

LED Rebate Coupon

How to apply:



1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2015.
2. Complete this coupon and submit it to Beltrami Electric Cooperative by Dec. 18, 2015, with your **original** sales receipt and the LED packaging showing the ENERGY STAR® logo and number of lights per string.
3. Strings must be 100 or fewer lights.
4. \$3/string of lights, maximum of 5 strings per customer. Rebate cannot exceed price of LED string per package.

Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate

Mail to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative • P.O. Box 488 • Bemidji, MN 56619

Northern Lights CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

Antique stump puller, unique, 2003 Dodge RAM pickup, 58,000 original miles, 224-2722.

Fender Squier Strat, quad pickups, padded gig bag, excellent cond. \$125, Gibson Les Paul Pee-Wee by Epiphone w/amp and gig bag-excellent cond. \$150, 701-317-5011.

Homemade square, block and star quilts: twin, full, queen and king, portable and cabinet sewing machines, Touch & Sew Singers \$20, others \$15, desk chair \$25, refinished oak 5-drawer highboy dresser, sewing rockers, washstand, 44x44 dining room table, 6 chairs to match, 243-2702.

2006 Suzuki 700 4x4 fuel injected, 450 miles, like new condition, senior owned, one owner, \$4,000, call 785-2142.

Two 2001 Arctic Cat snowmobiles, 244, 440 miles, #1-5803, #2-3939, great condition, selling as pair only, 586-2231, call between 6-9 p.m. only.

1998 Chevy pickup, 6-cyl, 146K, runs good, some rust. \$1,000/obo, 444-9166.

Simplicity 2-stage snowblower, new in 2003, call 586-2895 after 6 p.m.

Pro-Form XP 590s treadmill, has fan, accessory tray, pulse sensor, key clip, 10% incline, 10-speed, ear phone plug in, includes manual, originally from Sears, asking \$350/obo, 308-3718.

Pooh Safety 1st 5-speed, 5-song battery swing, \$25, Snuggler blue battery bouncer, no canopy, \$10, Fisher-Price crawl-through toy, \$5, alternative walker, \$15, 2 highchairs, \$10 and \$15, school desk and chair, \$10, or \$60 for all, 766-3709.

Weight bench and weights, 6-10#, 4-5#, 4-2.5#, \$50, rowing machine, \$50, indoor trampoline, \$15, 3 stepping boxes, \$10, all are in excellent condition, 586-2558.

'88 Toyota 4WD (PU), much better than normal condition, propane gas cook stove, plain jane model, but almost new, two vertical pumps for 2 in. wells, 556-6736.

Mixed firewood, cut, split, delivered (pickup load) 407-5590.

1940s vintage refrigerator, all metal inside great for smoking meat/fish, \$400, 239-0128.

1995 Arctic Cat 340 DLX Puma electric start snowmobile, excellent condition, 2,855 miles, \$800, 444-4880.

6'10" Järvinen x-country skis w/poles, \$25, 6'3" Track x-country skis w/poles, \$25, Anderson & Forester orifice drill kit in case, \$45, 15" wood handle snow rake, \$12, Triple Hwy warning reflector kit w/case, \$6, 755-1581.

Kenmore washer and dryer, 3 yrs. old, like new, used very little by elderly parent, Downsizing, 751-9311.

Haviland china, Bavaria, Germany, service for 8, including dessert dishes plus gravy boat, cream and sugar, excellent condition, packed in a tote, \$40, game hide blaze orange large winter hunting coat with detachable hood, \$50, 755-1581.

Singer sewing machine, walnut console with 3 drawers and all attachments included, \$150, 751-9357 or 556-2955.

Two-stage snowblower, 7 hp, 24-inch path, \$150 obo, 368-4519.

Used men's clothing, 3X and 4X size, mostly dress, some casual and hunting, 751-5129.

1996 Polaris Indy Lite snowmobile, excellent condition 2,200 miles, \$1,000, 835-7719.

Heritage Village collection/Dicken's Village series, 25 cottages, accessories, lighted curio cabinet, 759-9932.

Avalanche roof snow slide, removes snow from roof, prevents ice dams, fiberglass poles, 16 ft long, good condition, \$45, Nordic Track 505 Skier, solid oak, working speedometer/odometer, folds for storage, good condition, \$29, 497-2491.

2008 Ford bedliner long box, old school desk, Genie organ, 19" RCA TV, lg sewing cabinet w/doors, sm bathroom cabinet sink/faucet, table w/glass top, gas fireplace insert w/front, 2 barstools, dining table, 2 leaves no base, king bookcase hdbrd w/mirrors, make offer on all, 556-2089.

Small propane fish house stove \$75, factory made snowmobile sled \$75, 586-2839.

Exercise bike, 2 kitchen tables, 3 dining tables, large desk - 6 drawers, 2 gun racks - 4 hooks on each, heavy barstool, come see and offer, 224-2811.

2005 Polaris Snowmobile 550cc Trail Touring 2up, excellent condition, 3,200 miles, includes cover, heated seat and hand warmers, perfect for ice fishing, \$3,000/obo, 243-2883, please leave message.

Two interior doors 28x80 with glider window 3x3 like new, 8-piece Mirro cookware set like new, Snowmobile suits, ironing board, full size bed sheet sets, call 335-8945.

1976 Evinrude 6 hp outboard motor, very good condition, \$450, call 444-8032.

Bunk bed system with desk, closet and 6-drawer dresser mint condition, solid built tongue/groove drawers, oak and oak finish, would like \$400/obo, 407-4366.

Full size loft bed with trundle, closet, computer desk and drawers, excellent cond. \$700, 766-0189.

TV antenna w/tripod for roof and auto rotor \$100/obo, small 2-wheel trailer that can be used with riding lawn mower \$50, Duratub sudsaver wash tub w/whose connections for sudsaver type washing machine \$25/obo, 224-2836.

Meat band saw \$500, Fitbit, new in box \$75, women's white winter fur hooded jacket size large \$40, oak coffee table \$30, Sylvania stereo with iPod Dock \$30, women's large navy blue pea coat \$25, 368-1360.

Xerox Outlook video magnifier for low vision \$200, Large Tasco telescope \$30, 2011 GMC front grill chrome \$60, maroon electric lift chair \$50, Herand figurine \$50, Amager girl figurine \$50, 751-9311/368-9034.

Blaze King Model PMJ 202 front-loading wood stove with screen, fits 8" stove pipe, excellent condition, \$500, 766-2634.

Refrigerator and electric range, excellent working condition, almond, \$200 for both, Snapper snowblower, 2-stage, 8 hp, \$80, 791-6298.

Wanted:

"Friendly Village," "Singing Wheel" readers, 224-2722.

DVD recorder w/2-way dubbing, will transfer VHS to DVD, 335-6635.

Used doghouse, free or reasonably priced, 333-1388.

Pair of sway chains for 3-point hitch on a John Deere Model 755 subcompact tractor, Becida 854-7483 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Professional office space available for lease (Beltrami Electric's headquarters)

600-square-foot office suite - reception area with three separate office suites. Second floor location, elevator, meeting room, safe, clean, quiet, low-traffic area of well-maintained professional building. For further details contact Sam Mason, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 218-444-3623.

Free:

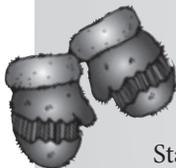
My cannon printer went kaput! Have 8 unused ink cartridges you can have if you want to come and get them. There's also partially filled ones in the printer. Printer was MG5300 series and it took PG1225/226 series cartridges. About 3 miles out of Walker. First come, first serve. Call 547-2240.

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 December 1 would be included in the January issue due out the end of December. An ad received December 2 would be included in the February issue due out the end of January. Ads are preferred to be submitted via the web at www.beltramielctric.com or via email at info@beltramielctric.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.

Help us decorate the mitten tree

Drop off items at Cooperative headquarters by Dec. 10



With the holiday season approaching fast, it's time to decorate Beltrami Electric's annual mitten tree! For the 15th consecutive holiday season, we will accept donations of **new and homemade** mittens, gloves, hats or scarves for distribution to area Head

Start programs. Since the program's inception in 2000, Beltrami Electric has collected and distributed 5,850 items! Last year, our members donated a record 710 garments. If you'd like to help our area children warm and cozy this winter, please consider joining BEC in collecting these items. Donations can be delivered to the Beltrami Electric office at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji. Donations will be accepted until Thursday, Dec. 10, and be distributed very soon after.



Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015. All directors were present except John Lund, who was excused. Also present were General Manager Lynette Nieuwsma and Director of Finance and Member Services Sid Sletten.

The following reports were given:

- The manager made her monthly report, including discussion on customer growth, and an update on the cooperative financials. She also presented information on after-hours dispatch options, capital credits with our wholesale accounts and Minnkota Power rates and rate structure.
- Vickie Swanson, manager of Cooperative Development, LLC reported on the history and the future of the business.
- Sam Mason and Lynette Nieuwsma presented draft mission statement, bylaws and articles of incorporation documents for Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust. Nominations were given by the board of members in their respective districts who have agreed to serve on a five-person board that will administer the Operation Round Up program.
- Sid Sletten presented the August and September financial report, work order inventories and the third-quarter budget and year-end projections. He also reviewed insurance coverage and rates for the headquarters building and equipment and discussed cyber insurance. Workers compensation insurance rates were also reviewed.
- Terry Difley reported on the Minnkota board meeting.
- Rick Coe reported on the Square Butte and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association board meetings.
- The manager presented a revised Neutral to Earth Voltage – Stray Voltage policy.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved membership in Cooperative Response Center.
- Adopted the mission statement, articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust and elected the initial board of directors.
- Approved the purchase of cyber insurance for the cooperative.
- Tabled revised BEC Policy #309 for further review until the November board meeting.

The next board meeting will be Nov. 24, 2015, at 9 a.m.



"Watt's Cooking?"

"Gramma Lilas's" Sugar Cookies



Add the following in order and mix together:

- 1 C. butter or margarine
- 1 C. oil
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar

Add:

- 4½ C. flour

Refrigerate overnight. Press with sugared glass and bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes. Makes 4+ dozen.

(Submitted by Judy Bjerke, in memory of Lila Djonne, Bemidji, Minn.)



"Like" us on Facebook

at www.facebook.com/BeltramiElectricCoop to keep current with your cooperative.



Follow us on Twitter

for updates from your cooperative.



Statement of Operations Year-to-date: September 2015

	September 2014	September 2015
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 36,868,685	\$ 35,611,151
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 24,602,268	\$ 24,875,536
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 10,561,334	\$ 10,583,365
Total Cost.....	\$ 35,163,602	\$ 35,458,901
Operating Margin.....	\$ 1,705,083	\$ 152,250
Interest Income.....	\$ 148,731	\$ 173,845
Other Margins.....	\$ 671,166	\$ 715,954
Total Margins.....	\$ 2,524,980	\$ 1,042,049
kWh Purchased.....	361,161,465	348,495,191
kWh Sold.....	358,828,643	329,488,421
Meters Billed.....	20,444	20,564

We are king for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for **Sarah J. Dubinsky** (Blackduck, Minn). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.



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

A “POWERFUL” trip



Beltrami Electric members took two days out of their busy fall schedules to find out more about where their electricity comes from. Our second tour of the year, we filled a bus chartered from Bemidji Bus Line with a wonderful group of members ages 10 to 90.

We left Beltrami Electric's offices at 6:30 a.m. on Sept. 10 and headed to Minnkota Power Cooperative's offices in Grand Forks, N.D. We were treated to some wonderful coffee, warm rolls, donuts and juice. We were then greeted by Mac McLennan, Minnkota's president & CEO, and he talked with us about Minnkota's history and its future. After visiting with Mac, we split into two groups and started the tour of Minnkota. The first stop on the tour was to see the old diesel generators. They were some of the first units to provide power to the area back in the 1940s, with a few actually being repurposed from old navy ships after WWII ended.

The next stop was the print shop. Our members were able to see first-hand where your *Northern Lights* newsletter is produced, printed and shipped and had the chance to meet the great people who provide this service to us. The last stop before leaving Minnkota was to tour the control center. Operators explained to the group the various tools and technology they use to monitor the entire system, which covers 35,000 square miles. After leaving Minnkota, we settled in on the bus and made our way to Casselton, N.D., where we stopped at Pizza Ranch to enjoy a wonderful lunch, topped off with some of their famous ice cream!

Once again, we boarded our bus and headed further into North Dakota. Our next stop on the tour was the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center, named after Lake Ashtabula, located 15 miles northeast of Valley City, N.D. This 366-megawatt (MW) wind farm was developed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, NextEra Energy Resources and Otter Tail Power Company. Minnkota purchases energy from its 217.5 MW allocation through a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement. Members had the opportunity to learn about what it takes to keep the large turbines in working condition, including seeing all the different parts, grease and filters that get replaced during routine maintenance. By the time we left, we had a better understanding of what it takes to keep the

more than 280-plus turbines functioning, and it's more than just wind.

We then headed to our hotel in Mandan, N.D., the Baymont Inn & Suites. We quickly settled in and were treated to a fabulous banquet meal and presentation, sponsored by Minnkota. After the banquet, Minnkota employee Sue Black showed us a video on the 75th anniversary of Minnkota.

On Friday, we were up before the sun to enjoy a quick breakfast and fill up our coffee mugs for another day of touring. Our first stop of the day was the Milton R. Young Station, where we all departed the bus for a group photo as the sun came up over the hills of North Dakota. With our shoes damp from the early morning dew, we climbed back onto the bus. Sue Black from Minnkota guided us over to the BNI Coal mine, where we picked up our tour guide Courtney Doll. She directed our driver as we made our way to the coal mine and to BNI's largest dragline, Liberty. There isn't a more "up-close" view than from the cab of the Liberty, standing behind the operator's chair watching him work. From a distance, the massive bucket doesn't seem that big, but once they lowered it to the ground for all of us to see, and members climbed up into it for a photo, they barely filled a few feet inside of it. We left Liberty and proceeded to drive down onto the floor of the pit to get a close-up look at the coal seam and the operators driving the massive 240-ton Kress haulers filled with coal.

We then headed back to the Milton R. Young Station where we were treated to cookies and coffee while we watched a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the plant works. The Milton R. Young Station is comprised of two boilers, Unit 1 and Unit 2. Unit 1 began operation in 1970 and has a maximum output of 250 megawatts. Unit 2 was completed in 1977 and has a maximum output of 455 megawatts. After the presentation, we were given a guided tour of the facility. From there, we headed to the Square Butte Creek Golf Course clubhouse, where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch before we said our goodbyes to our tour guides and headed back to Bemidji.

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to see where your power comes from. It's always a pleasant and educational trip and a pleasure to meet everyone. If you have never been on the tour before, please consider it for next year. Keep an eye out for next year's tour dates in your *Northern Lights*.

