

# NORTHERN

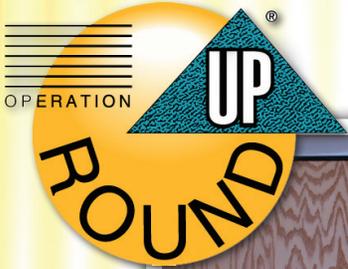
## L I G H T S

March 2016



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



*Beltrami Electric Trust board of directors*



## OPERATION ROUND UP®

**SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR DETAILS.**

**District meetings to be held in March – page 8**

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

Northern Lights (USPS 016488), Vol. 63, No. 3 is published monthly by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., 4111 Technology Drive N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488. 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

**Customer Service:** 218-444-2540  
or 1-800-955-6083

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

## Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Square Butte Director)
Vice President	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](mailto:mntristate@gmail.com)**

*Cass and Hubbard Counties*

**Steve Schauland**

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

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

## Gopher State One Call

**1-800-252-1166 or 811**

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

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

**ON THE COVER:** The Beltrami Electric Trust board of directors for Operation Round Up: **Front:** Michelle Sand, Bemidji; Sharon Lembke, Laporte; **Back:** Randy Frisk, Bemidji; Sherry Billups, Blackduck; Robert Smith, Red Lake.



# Across the MANAGER'S DESK

Lynette Nieuwsma, General Manager

## Operation Round Up®

I have been asking employees and members about what they have accomplished with others that made a big impact that they couldn't have done alone. Whether it was joining a group doing yard cleanup for a senior neighbor, or pitching in to help organize and support a fundraiser for a friend or family member who had recently experienced illness or a tragedy, it is apparent that we can do more when we work together than as individuals. Each of us doing something on our own might not amount to much, but if everyone does a little, we see a big impact in our community.

The concept behind the Operation Round Up program is to extend the principle on which electric cooperatives were built 75 years ago – neighbor-helping-neighbor – and as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we adhere to the seven core principles, one of which is Concern for Community. Of the 44 electric distribution cooperatives in Minnesota, Beltrami Electric remained one of only seven who hadn't already implemented the Operation Round Up program. After hearing about the great success our surrounding electric cooperatives have experienced with this program, as well as the huge impact their members continue to make in their respective communities, our board of directors decided to move forward with this program.

However, we have heard concerns from some of our members about the Operation Round Up program,

and we did forward those concerns on to our board of directors. The board thoroughly discussed those concerns at their February board meeting, along with whether to keep the program as an opt-out program, change it to an opt-in or drop the program altogether. After a very lengthy discussion, our board decided to stay the course with the program as an opt-out program. Over the next few months, we will continue to help our members understand more about their participation in Operation Round Up, as well as how they can opt out of this voluntary program if they choose. We will use several mediums, including your monthly member newsletter, a message on the bills, a separate billing insert, as well as providing the most up-to-date information on our website.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program that seeks to use small amounts of change from BEC members' electric bills to enact large, community-wide changes. This program's sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for our community. This is one of the things that separates electric cooperatives from other investor-owned utilities and why you are a member and not just a customer. The health and long-term sustainability of our community depends on all of us demonstrating our mutual concern for our community.

That being said, I do realize that not everyone is willing or able to participate in the program at this time. You may opt out of the program by calling our office; or in the future if your situation changes, you may opt back in as well.

Please help Beltrami Electric Cooperative help our service area

communities – let's make Operation Round Up the success it can be!

## Northern Solar

Beltrami Electric Cooperative announced last year that we plan to construct an 80-kW DC community solar garden on the cooperative's headquarters property at 4111 Technology Drive in Bemidji.

Members who wish to subscribe to the Northern Solar project will pay \$1,295 for a full panel's output or \$647.50 for a half panel's output. A 10 percent down payment is required to reserve the panel(s). In return, members will be allocated the energy produced (kWh) by their subscribed panel(s) to offset the kWh on their monthly electric bill. The projected annual average of a panel is 450 kWh, based on the Solar Advisor Model from the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

We hope to start breaking ground this spring if we get enough of the solar panels subscribed. We are still receiving interest from members and as of Feb. 10, we now have 62 panels subscribed. However, we need at least 96 panels subscribed before we can move forward with the

project, so if you are interested and have not yet signed up, please do so soon. For more information or to request a contract, you may contact our office or go to our website [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com).

## Rates

The last couple of months I have talked about rates, which is never a fun topic when looking at an increase. As I have mentioned in earlier letters, we will be having a wholesale power increase effective April 2016. With nearly 70 percent of our costs going to wholesale power, this will have an impact on our rate structure. Just how much and what kind remains to be seen.

We have recently closed our 2015 financial books and will be working on a cost of service and rate study, to be conducted by an independent outside consultant. A cost of service study will help us to determine what total revenue is needed and to what rate components and rate classes. We will continue to communicate as we know more.

## Member district meetings in March

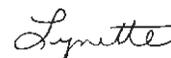
We invite all Beltrami Electric

Cooperative members who live in Districts one (1), five (5) and eight (8) to attend their area's district meeting in March. This is your opportunity to be updated on your cooperative and nominate your district's candidates for the board of directors, which will be voted on by mail next month. The election results will be announced at the annual meeting scheduled for April 21 at the Bemidji High School. Please refer to the map and article on page 8, which gives you specific dates, times and locations of this year's meetings.

## Congratulations to new CEO

Finally, I would like to introduce you to your new general manager/CEO of Beltrami Electric, Jared Echternach. I will be retiring in April after a 40-year career with 30 years in the cooperative industry. I am very grateful to have been your cooperative's CEO for the past 10 years. I have known Jared for many years and feel the cooperative will be in good hands under his leadership. Congratulations and welcome Jared!

Until next month,



# Beltrami Electric selects new CEO



This spring, a new CEO will take the helm at Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC).

"We are very fortunate to hire Jared Echternach to be our new CEO at Beltrami Electric. He is a returning employee who

comes back to us with great management skills and CEO experience," said BEC Board President Rick Coe. "He knows and understands our community very well as he was born and raised in the Bemidji area. This is a rare find and we are excited to have him join us here at Beltrami Electric Cooperative."

Echternach's duties as CEO will begin on March

28 in preparation for the retirement of current general manager and CEO Lynette Nieuwsma.

Echternach is currently the CEO at North Itasca Electric Cooperative, located in Bigfork, Minn. Prior to joining North Itasca, Echternach was the manager of member services for Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association in Park Rapids, Minn. He began his cooperative career at Beltrami Electric Cooperative in 2000 as the marketing/communication specialist.

"I'm honored to have been selected as the next CEO of Beltrami Electric Cooperative. I'll be joining a first-class organization with excellent employees who are dedicated to providing the best possible service to our member-owners. Beltrami Electric is a progressive and growing cooperative and I'm thrilled to become part of such a wonderful organization," said Echternach.

# Operation Round Up®

In May, Beltrami Electric Cooperative (BEC) will be joining 37 other Minnesota electric cooperatives and hundreds more around the nation that currently have an Operation Round Up program (see map of Minnesota participating cooperatives on this page). This program was originally started by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina 27 years ago. Since that time, cooperative members around the nation have invested millions of dollars back into their communities, and have discovered that by working together they have the power to make a significant impact.

Beltrami Electric will implement the Operation Round Up program starting in May 2016. Members will see a separate line item on their billing statement

showing the amount that their bill was rounded up. As an example, if your bill was \$129.60, it would be rounded up to \$130, with the extra 40 cents going into the Beltrami Electric Trust.

All donations collected for Operation Round Up will be placed into the Beltrami Electric Trust and will be administered by a separate board of directors, made up of five members from our community who serve on the board on a voluntary basis (Beltrami Electric Trust board of directors as shown on front cover: Michelle Sand, *Bemidji*; Sharon Lembke, *Laporte*; Randy Frisk, *Bemidji*; Sherry Billups, *Blackduck*; Robert Smith, *Red Lake*).

"I am delighted to be selected to serve the communities within the Beltrami

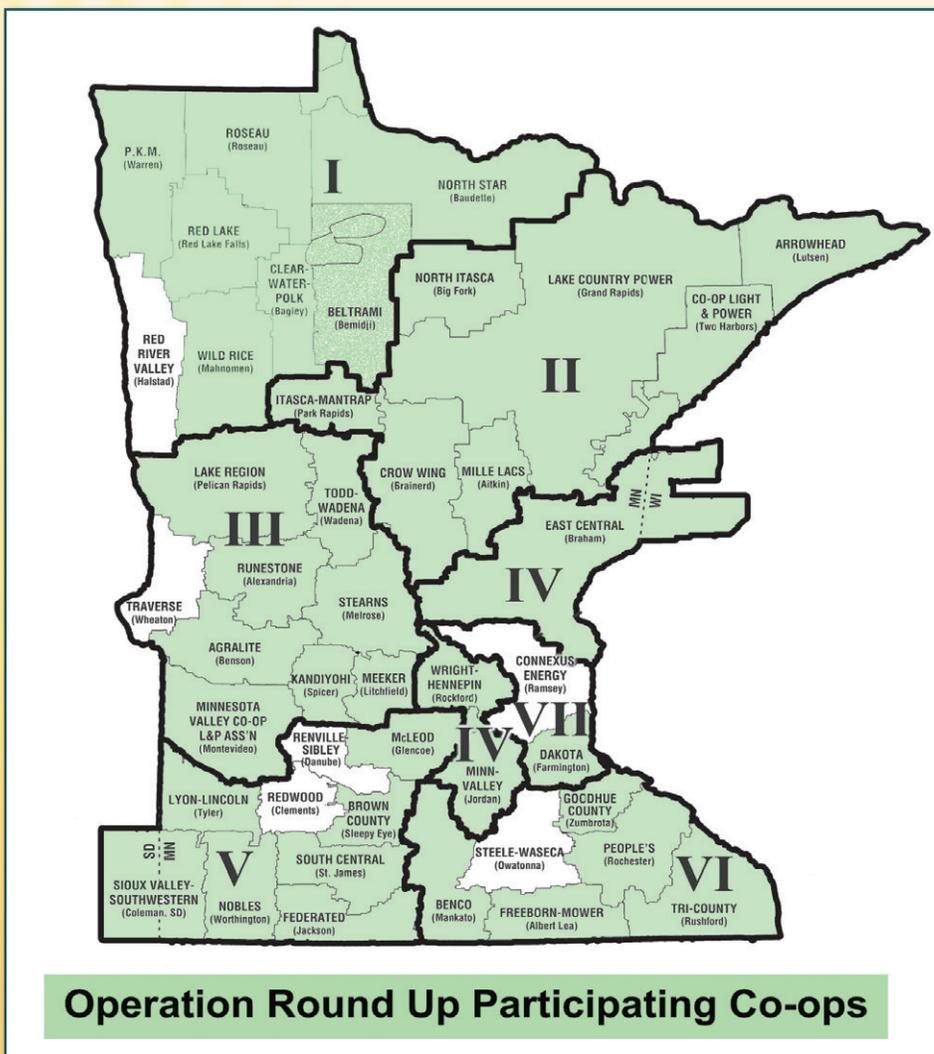
Electric Cooperative service area," said Beltrami Electric Trust board member Sharon Lembke. "I look forward to playing a part in contributing to the needs of our schools, responders, the different boys and girls clubs and responding to the unforeseen situations in a community where help is needed. I will try to be fair, responsible and trustworthy, and will strive to make decisions with those considerations."

The funding categories are as follows: Community Service, Economic Development, Education & Youth and Environment. Operation Round Up funds stay right here in our community and there aren't big administrative costs like you see with other nonprofit organizations. (Grants will not be made for lobbying, political and religious organizations, veteran, fraternal or labor organizations, fundraising dinners, raffles, capital fund campaigns, national fund drives, advertising or ongoing operational expenses.)

There will be an application process to receive a grant from the Trust and requests will be evaluated by the Trust board of directors. They will meet quarterly to evaluate all requests for funds and determine how they will be distributed. The total donations received from Operation Round Up, as well as grants awarded, will be announced in our *Northern Lights* member newsletter and on our website.

Later this year, eligible groups and organizations will be able to pick up an application in our office or download it from our website. They will then need to mail the completed application or bring it into the office in person.

**Again, the Operation Round Up program is VOLUNTARY.** If you do not wish to participate, you have several ways in which you may opt out. You may contact our office at (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-6083, send an email to [info@beltramielctric.com](mailto:info@beltramielctric.com) and place "Operation Round Up Opt Out" in the subject line (please provide member's full name, address and account number(s)), or stop into our office at 4111 Technology Drive NW in Bemidji, Minn.



Operation Round Up Participating Co-ops



# Operation Round Up®

# Q & A



The Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. board of directors is pleased to announce a new community-oriented program called Operation Round Up. This voluntary program encourages members to round up "the change" on their electric bill to the next highest dollar with the money going into a trust for charitable community projects and local needs. To help you better understand the program, we have responded to some questions about Operation Round Up.

## Q. What is Operation Round Up?

A. It's a charitable program designed to provide financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations and community projects. Co-op members can voluntarily participate by "rounding up" electric bills each month to the nearest dollar. What is most significant to us as cooperative members is this is an extension of how our cooperative was built over 75 years ago, with neighbor-helping-neighbor.

## Q. How does Operation Round Up work?

A. This program is designed to "round up" each electric bill to the next dollar and use the additional change to fund the Operation Round Up program for charitable giving purposes. Although the individual change is a small amount, when combined with other participating co-op members, the potential impact could make a substantial difference in our communities.

## Q. How much can members expect to contribute each year?

A. The average member donation will be around 50 cents per month, or \$6 per year, while the maximum annual contribution possible is \$11.88 per year. (This would only happen if your bill was rounded up by 99 cents for 12 months in a row.) Your contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible and will be shown on your billing statement.

## Q. Why should I participate?

A. One should contribute only if they want to join other co-op members in a community development effort AND only if they feel they can afford to contribute an average of \$6 per year. Through a cooperative and unified program, members will have a means of donating to worthy causes, and, through Operation Round Up, the small change of individuals can add up and make a big difference for our area. Together, we can do some wonderful things for our local communities.

## Q. What are some possible uses for the fund?

A. Examples of grants for funding would be local fire department equipment, youth and school groups and activities, local arts and education, senior citizen groups and many other various community programs and projects. Grants will not be going to large charities; they will stay in our community, for the benefit of our community. Contributions will generally be made only to nonprofit organizations that have been granted tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). For more information regarding funding guidelines, please see our website.

## Q. Who administers the funds donated by Beltrami Electric members?

A. The Trust board of directors oversees charitable giving through Operation

Round Up. The Trust board is comprised of five members appointed by Beltrami Electric board of directors. The Trust board is responsible for reviewing applications and dispersing funds to local community organizations and projects. The board will meet quarterly to review applications for grants and disburse the funds. The Trust board of directors will evaluate and distribute grants within the following giving categories:

- Community Service
- Economic Development
- Education and Youth
- Environment

Trust board members volunteer their time and receive no pay or compensation for serving on the board. The directors will have staggered terms.

## Q. How do we know where the funds go?

A. All donations collected from Operation Round Up will be placed in an account with the Beltrami Electric Trust. A list of program recipients will be published in the *Northern Lights* newsletter and on our website. There will also be an annual report for the Trust.

## Q. How do charitable organizations request assistance?

A. Later this year, eligible organizations will be able to pick up an application in our office or download an application from our website. They will then need to mail the completed application to our office or bring it into the office in person. If the request is approved by the Beltrami Electric Trust board, a check will be sent to the organization. If you know of a local group or organization that would benefit from this program, please talk to them about Operation Round Up.

## Q. When will this program start?

A. To give members who do not wish to participate several months in which to contact us, we will not be implementing this program until May 2016.

## Q. If I have more than one account, will each be rounded up?

A. Yes, each account will be auto-enrolled. If you wish for only one account to be rounded up, you can choose to remove additional accounts from the Operation Round Up program by contacting our office at 218-444-2540 or 800-955-6083.

## Q. What if I can't or don't want to participate in this program?

A. The program is always VOLUNTARY, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. If you do not wish to participate in this voluntary program, you have several ways in which to opt out. You may call our office at (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-6083, send an email to [info@beltramielc.com](mailto:info@beltramielc.com) and place "Operation Round Up Opt Out" in the subject line (please provide member's full name, address and account number(s)), or stop into our office at 4111 Technology Drive NW in Bemidji, Minn.

## Time is running out!

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's electric heating rebate program expires May 31, 2016. All equipment must be installed before that date. (Conservation rebates will continue through 2016.)

- \$20/kW rebate for the installation of a qualifying electric heating system that is on off-peak.
- Air-source heat pump incentive is \$100/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Ground-source heat pump incentive is \$200/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Equipment must be new and off-peak systems must have a qualified backup.
- Homeowner will receive a rebate check after a visit from a Beltrami Electric technician.



Contact our Energy Services  
Department for details  
at 218-444-3622 or 800-955-6083

**HOMEOWNERS ADDING NEW OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEMS  
QUALIFY FOR THESE REBATES.**

# Northern Lights

# CLASSIFIEDS

## For Sale:

Maytag gas dryer model MDG 5500 purchased from MJB in 2003. Works great and in excellent condition. Blaze King Model PMJ 202 front-loading wood stove. Fits 8-inch pipe. It has a 3.7-cubic-foot fire box. Excellent condition, 766-2634.

La-Z-Boy James collection, silt console love seat. Purchased 4/18/13. Blended leather/polyester, dual reclining. \$750, 556-8155.

'98 Jeep Cherokee Sport 198k, 4.0L engine, 4WD, dusty blue, well-maintained over the years, still runs great. \$2,500/obo, 760-1375.

2000 GMC Sierra ¾ ton 2wd - not rusty- nice interior- 200k. Nothing wrong with this pickup, white w/gray int. \$5,500/obo, 553-0419 or 553-0418.

Miller Boy wheat/grain grinder (hand crank, belt and sprocket). \$75, 586-2009.

Pint and quart canning jars. \$2 per dozen, 224-2649.

Shore Station 3,600 lb 9 ft x 9 ft vertical boatlift, new leveling cables last fall, \$800. Call 335-7707 for location.

Four-piece sectional w/recliner and hide-a-bed, black/silver/pink, good condition. Four-piece China-ware dinner set, silver trim/rose pattern. Recurve hunting bow w/arrow rest. Williams portable room heater, 5,200 Btu, 1,500 watts, 368-5469.

Billy Cook saddles, 16" seats, just like new, used only 3 or 4 times. King-size Tempur-Pedic bed, just like new, head and foot lift. Call 587-5574, if no answer, leave a message.

Seasoned oak firewood, cut, split, delivered. \$140/cord or 8-ft length \$90/cord, 556-1050.

Homemade square, block and star quilts: twin, full, queen and king. Portable and cabinet sewing machines, Touch-n-Sew Singers: \$20, others: \$15, work good. Desk chair, \$25. Refinished oak 5-drawer highboy dresser, \$175, sewing rocker, \$70, square oak 44 x 44 dining room table, \$150.

Set of 6 matching chairs, \$150. Other chairs, \$25/obo, 243-2702.

Like new Browning Maxus 12-gauge Stalker, \$900 (less than a box of shells). Beautiful single pedestal dining table with chairs, new \$825, now \$300. Nordic Track ski machine \$50, Keith 766-1958.

Springfield Army 1911 .45acp Pistol #PX9109. Like new condition with box, holster and 2 mags. Very accurate gun. Night sights. \$685, call 556-1833.

Wood frame couch. Pull type hay crusher. Sears fuel oil furnace, 243-3112 or 444-6817.

Seasoned balsam and popple firewood. \$40 per pickup load. You haul, 586-2839.

Chess Set: crystal, new, in original box, never been out of box. Set also contains checkers and backgammon, \$14. Fireplace tools: brass, stand, poker, tongs, shovel, broom, used, good condition \$9, 497-2491.

Ruger Super Blackhawk 44 Mag old model, nice condition. \$475, call 766-3038.

Honda 5000 generator in perfect condition \$550. Old Town 14-ft canoe with paddles and life jackets, excellent condition \$400. Clam 6 x 8 portable fish house with brand new cover \$250, call 224-3688.

1995 F250 7.3 Diesel, auto 4x4, original owner, 210k miles, white, set up for geosneck, computer controller, bed cover, Rhino spray on bed liner, factory camper package, inner cooler, extra gauges, rubber bed mat. \$7,000/obo, 444-7308.

Complete set Wilson Women's RH golf clubs and bag, never used, \$80. Older set of men's RH clubs in new bag. Wilson woods and Golfsmith irons, \$75, 760-0501.

Go-Go Elite Traveller 3 wheel mobility electric scooter. Brand new, never been used for \$1,000 was \$1,450 new, 444-4327.

E-Z-Go golf cart charger 36V \$100. 2011 GMC front grill, chrome \$60. Herand figurine \$50. Amager girl figurine \$50, 751-9311/368-9034.

10-inch electric meat slicer, commercial grade, light duty. New in box. Model HBS-250. 150W. \$235/obo, 444-6014.

'92 Arctic Cat Pantera 440 liquid cooled, \$800. Phone 835-6304 or 760-3184.

1997 Sea Ray 185 I/O Mercruiser with EZ Loader Trailer, 4.3 liter V6 engine, gently used and in beautiful condition; presently shrink-wrapped and stored. \$6,500/ obo. Call 507-380-4205.

Vintage Pioneer CS-77 wood cabinet, floor model, two speakers, \$110. Pioneer STR-AV970X stereo receiver with 100 watts per channel, \$75. Vintage Pioneer SX-1000TW stereo receiver in wood cabinet with 50 watts per channel, 586-2541.

1994 GMC ext. cab pickup, weak tranny, \$3,600/ obo, 368-3686.

Troy-Bilt rear-tine tiller, 15-inch, excellent shape. \$350, 444-4725.

Orthoped gravity traction back inversion unit, hardly used. \$75, 444-6165.

Wilton cake pans, reasonably priced. Also, novelty pans and cake set-up furniture, 467-3266.

Golf travel bags for sale. One is a Bag Boy hybrid hard cover travel/cart bag with in-line skate wheels. Convenient to take off the cover and use as a cart bag. The second is a traditional padded soft side travel bag to fit the golf bag and extra room for shoes and other items, 368-5477 or 243-3443.

Pekinese-Shih Tzu puppies, born Christmas Day. Roosters, \$10. Chicken Layers, \$3. Bunnies \$10. Male Shih Tzu, 553-4531.

1954 Ford 8N with loader and back blade, restored, new paint and tires, \$5,250. Can deliver. Call Richard at 507-289-2904 or 507-259-5117.

## Wanted:

Buckets or kegs of grease, 760-1221.

All Minnesota Conservation Volunteer back issues from the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, as well as selected issues from 1983, 84, 85, 87 and 89. Will pay \$1 per magazine if in good condition, 333-3552.

Whiskey barrels, 586-2803.

Low pine dressers approx. 30" high and 48" long with multiple drawers and wood knobs, 586-2541.

12 sheets of roof steel, used, 14 ft. or 16 ft. long, brown or green, 766-6823.

## 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.

## Classified ads rules

- All ads must be 50 words or less.
- Members may submit one **For Sale** and one **Wanted** 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 to run additional months.
- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a (218) area code unless otherwise noted.
- Include name and account number on all submissions.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramielco.com](http://www.beltramielco.com) (preferred).
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619. If submitting by mail, ad must be printed clearly.

## UNITED WAY GARAGE SALE!

Beltrami Electric's indoor garage sale to benefit the United Way of the Bemidji Area is coming

May 7, 2016!

VENDOR SPACES FILL UP FAST!

Booth reservations will be open on Thursday, March 3, and will be accepted until all 89 booths have been filled. If interested, come in to our office at 4111 Technology Dr. in Bemidji and sign up, or contact Cammie at 444-3675 or [cvogel@beltramielco.com](mailto:cvogel@beltramielco.com).



## We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for Michael J. Jourdain (last known address of Bemidji, Minn.). Please call 218-444-2540 if you have any information.



The Beltrami Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Friday, March 25, in observance of Good Friday.

# Board Meeting Highlights

## "Watt's Cooking?"

### Pillsbury Chicken Rolls



#### Ingredients:

- 1 tube Pillsbury crescent rolls
- Celery to taste, dice fine
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 3 oz. cream cheese
- Parsley flakes
- 2 C. chicken, diced
- Onion to taste, diced fine
- Small amount of cream
- Crushed croutons (optional)

Mix cheese and melted butter until smooth. Add other ingredients except cream (only add cream if too dry). Press 2 crescent rolls together to make a square; seal perforation. Place ½ C. filling mixture on each. Fold up criss-crossing on top. Sprinkle with parsley flakes or crushed croutons. Bake at 325 degrees for 20-25 minutes. One tube of crescent rolls makes 4 servings (one each). - Submitted by Lois Hadrava of Bemidji, Minn.

## ATTENTION CONTRACTORS!

### 2016 annual contractor update

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's annual contractor update and dinner will be held on Thursday, March 3, at 5 p.m., at the Bemidji Eagles Club. Contractors please RSVP to Bob Gregg by emailing [BGregg@beltramielctric.com](mailto:BGregg@beltramielctric.com) or call 218-444-3622. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5 p.m., with the program scheduled for 6 p.m. The agenda features a

presentation from Dean Havel from Electro Industries, as well as information regarding the "PowerSavers" conservation program, load management, rate update and new services constructions. Also, any questions contractors have can be addressed. This meeting is often attended by building, electrical and heating (HVAC) contractors.

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2016. All directors were present. Also present were General Manager Lynette Nieuwsma, Director of Finance and Member Services Sid Sletten and Executive Secretary Kay Olson.

#### The following reports were given:

- The manager gave the year-end 2015 report.
- Sid Sletten discussed nonoperating margins and reviewed the December and Year-End Financial and Statistical report, including work order inventories.
- The board was updated on the Operation Round Up program and thoroughly discussed member concerns.
- Dave Hengel, executive director of Greater Bemidji, gave a presentation to the board on economic development in the Bemidji area.
- Arlene Hogquist, Dan Edens, Sid Sletten and Sam Mason presented the operations year-end reports and reviewed the 2015 corporate balance score card with the board.
- Dan Edens reported on vehicle and lost-time accidents for 2015.
- The MREA District 1 meeting held Jan. 15, 2016, was discussed.
- Terry Difley reported on the last Minnkota board meeting.

#### The following actions were taken:

- Approved an investment in Greater Bemidji.
- Approved to record 2015 nonoperating margins, with the exception of G&T margins, as permanent, non-allocated equity as provided for under Article 6 Section 8 of the bylaws.
- Approved moving the February board meeting date to Feb. 22, 2016.
- All directors were appointed as delegates to the Minnkota and Square Butte annual meetings.

The next board meeting will be Feb. 22, 2016.

### Notice to cogenerators

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules Relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

Beltrami Electric has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

An application for interconnection is required for a Qualifying Facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, please call Sam Mason at 218-444-2540.

## Statement of Operations Year-to-date: December 2015

	December 2014	December 2015
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 49,712,733	\$ 49,256,323
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 33,790,977	\$ 34,438,506
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 15,398,062	\$ 14,054,452
Total Cost.....	\$ 49,189,039	\$ 48,492,958
Operating Margin.....	\$ 523,694	\$ 763,365
Interest Income.....	\$ 198,663	\$ 220,642
Other Margins.....	\$ 808,435	\$ 1,084,116
Total Margins.....	\$ 1,530,792	\$ 2,068,123
kWh Purchased.....	497,514,420	483,671,463
kWh Sold.....	478,645,659	453,819,667
Meters Billed.....	20,515	20,697



# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Co-op board of director nominations accepted at district meetings coming up in March

Nominations are now being accepted for director positions at district meetings scheduled in March. Beltrami Electric Cooperative is divided into nine districts, each represented by a director. This year, director positions are open for Districts 1, 5 and 8. The top two candidates as determined by popular vote will have their names on the general election ballot in April.

Persons eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative shall be a member in good standing of the cooperative and receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district where nominated. If you have any questions regarding qualifications or responsibilities about board members, please contact Beltrami Electric CEO Lynette Nieuwsma at 444-3635.

### District 1: Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m.

**Kelliher Community Center, 184 Gould Ave. NE, Kelliher, MN**  
Murl Nord is the incumbent.

**Townships in Beltrami County:** Battle (including account 11-27-018 in Section 27), Birch Island, Cormant, Eland, Hornet, Kelliher, Langor, O'Brien, Quiring, Red Lake, Shooks, Shotley (East and West), Waskish (North, South and West), Woodrow.

**Townships in Koochiching County:** Unorganized T151N R29W, Unorganized T152N R29W, Unorganized T155N R29W.

### District 5: Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m.

**Ten Lake Town Hall, 2142 Mission Road NE, Bemidji, MN**  
Bob Wallner is the incumbent.

**Townships in Beltrami County:** Brook Lake, Frohn (Section 25), Moose Lake, Sugar Bush, Ten Lake.

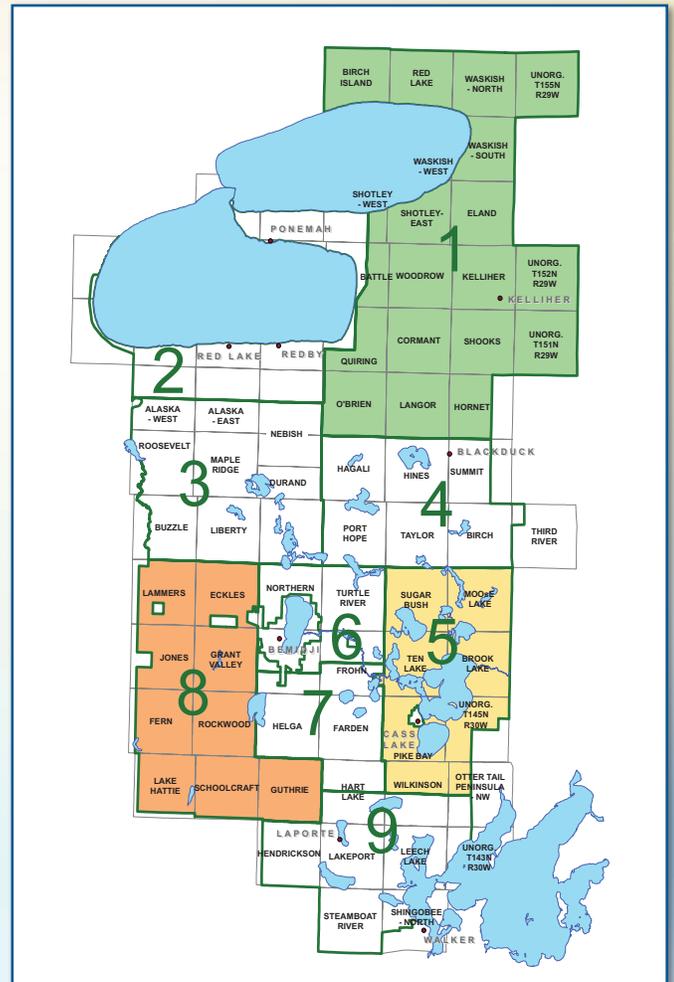
**Townships in Cass County:** Otter Tail Peninsula - NW (Sections 1 thru 18), Pike Bay, Unorganized T145N R30W, Wilkinson (Sections 1 thru 18).

### District 8: Monday, March 14, 7 p.m.

**Rockwood Town Hall, 16962 County 9, Bemidji, MN**  
This will be a vacant position due to term limits held by Terry Diffley.

**Townships in Beltrami County:** Eckles, Grant Valley, Jones, Lammers.

**Townships in Hubbard County:** Fern, Guthrie, Lake Hattie, Rockwood, Schoolcraft.



District meetings are held each year in accordance with your cooperative's bylaws presenting the opportunity to place names on the ballot for director positions. The meetings also serve as a prelude to the upcoming annual meeting Thursday, April 21, at the Bemidji High School.