

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

August 2016

## Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open

Friday, Aug. 19, 2016

Castle Highlands Golf Course

Be part of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric  
Touchstone Energy® Open to raise funds for the  
United Way of Bemidji Area!

(For more information or to register, call Cammie Vogel or  
Rich Riewer at 218-444-2540)



2016 Youth Tour recap – page 8



Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

- Tournament format is a five-person team scramble.
- 12:30 p.m. shotgun start
- Early bird entry fee is \$70 per person before Aug. 12.  
*(In order to qualify, entry fee must be paid and registration form filled out.)*
- Includes golf, dinner, door prizes and a fantastic time!
- After Aug. 12, entry fee is \$80 per person.
- **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA.**

United Way  
of Bemidji Area



Beltrami Electric



Touchstone Energy®  
**OPEN**



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

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

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

### Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Minnkota Director)
Vice President	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (Square Butte Director)
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Lea Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Charles Parson, DISTRICT 3; Jerry Larson Sr., DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8
CEO	Jared Echternach
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

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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 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:** Register today for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open to raise funds for the United Way of the Bemidji area. Call 218-444-2540 for more information.



## Investing in people

Jared Echternach, *CEO*

I had the opportunity to visit with one of our business members recently and we engaged in an excellent conversation about continuing education and training. I was impressed with how this long-time, successful businessperson approached education. It was not simply a goal for their business to have educated employees, it was clearly part of their culture to train and educate employees, to provide growth and learning opportunities and to include the community as part of their learning experience, from senior learning to elementary school students. This person was proud of their in-house education center and of their commitment to providing opportunities to our youth and to those seeking a second chance in life. Needless to say, I was honored to get a glimpse of this commitment to continuous training and education and proud that this business is a Beltrami Electric member.

This visit made me think of our cooperative and how one of the very principles under which we operate is Education, Training and Information. Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Simply put, we invest in our people.

The cooperative business model serves both an economic and social

purpose and our members and employees believe in the cooperative difference.

Over the next several years, our country will see a major shift in the professional landscape. Many businesses are already noticing this change as the Baby Boomer Generation moves into retirement and their children and grandchildren, members of the Millennial Generation, begin to move into the workforce and advance in their careers. We are noticing this at Beltrami Electric.

The Millennial Generation is the largest population of adults to move into the workforce since the Baby Boomer Generation. They are highly educated and, after weathering a recession during or immediately after trying to break into the workforce, they

are motivated by the ability to gain work experience that can turn into a meaningful and rewarding career.

Driven by values and attracted to a company's strong mission and culture over salary and compensation, many Millennials are uniquely suited for careers at their local electric cooperative. Beltrami Electric's dedication to our communities and our focus on people, not profits, make it an ideal work environment for individuals seeking to develop meaningful careers.

Within the next five years, 20 percent of America's electric cooperative employees will be eligible for retirement. We are looking to the future generations to move us forward, to help us prepare for an evolving global economy and the changes that will come with new policies, regulations, technology and changing



member expectations. We need people who will help us do this while ensuring that we remain true to our mission: 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.

Whether you're ready to start your career, make a career change or know someone who will soon be entering the workforce, take a closer look at electric cooperatives – we're located in 47

states, and, of course, we're right here at home. Building and strengthening our community has always been a priority. Investing in the next generation of employees is critical to maintaining the success of our mission and our business model.

### **Congratulations to Rick**

Rick Eisenzimmer will retire from Beltrami Electric in August and I'd like to personally thank Rick for his 37 years of service to our cooperative members.

Rick has seen many changes in our cooperative over the course of his career but the ultimate goal of providing safe and reliable electric service to our members remains unchanged. Thank you Rick for your dedication to our members, for keeping the lights on day in and day out – often in extreme weather conditions, and for being a great employee. I wish you a long and healthy retirement.



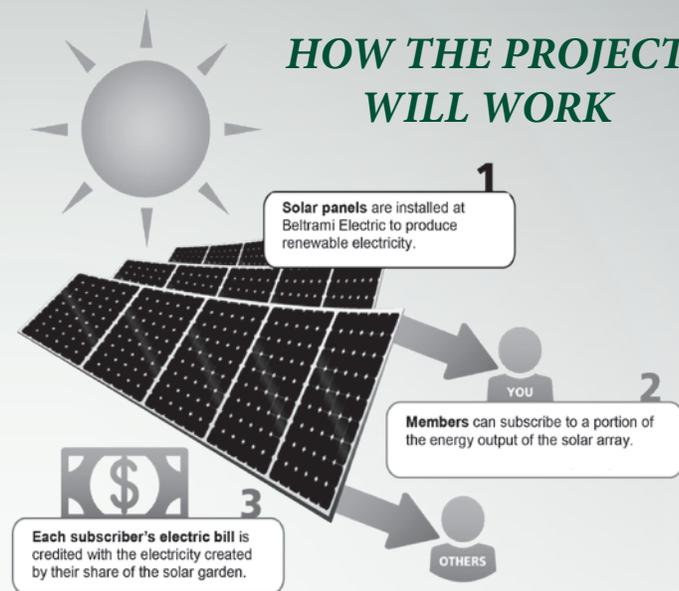
## **Northern Solar** *by Beltrami Electric Cooperative*

Just over a year ago, we announced our plans to construct an 80-kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) community solar garden array on our headquarters property. This project is an effort to provide interested members with an option to purchase renewable, locally-produced, solar energy. Community solar is an affordable, low-risk way for BEC members to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without the hassle of designing, permitting, installing, maintaining and insuring their own solar array.

The planned solar array was to 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) for a 20-year term, to offset their kWh on their electric bill.

Each panel is estimated to produce approximately 450 kWh annually, which translates into an average of about 37.5 kWh per month. A panel will produce more in the summer months and less in the winter months.

### **HOW THE PROJECT WILL WORK**



We will not be able to move forward with this project until we get at least 50 percent (96 of the 192 panels) subscribed. As of the middle of July, we have received subscriptions for just 68.5 panels. We need at least another 27.5 panels subscribed to before we can break ground. If you would like to help see this project succeed by subscribing to a panel(s), or if you would like more information, please contact our 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.beltramielc.com](http://www.beltramielc.com).

## **Thank you for your years of service, Rick!**

Rick Eisenzimmer will be retiring in August after more than 37 years of service to Beltrami Electric Cooperative and its members. Rick started at Beltrami Electric in May of 1979 in the line department. We wish to thank Rick for his many years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement. Congratulations, Rick!



# Track your home's energy use with MyMeter



mymeter  
 Data home kwh comparison  
 MyMeter POWER computer  
**FREE**  
 house **Energy-savings** electricity  
 Daily energy use **MyMeter** comparison  
**Temperature** energy Reliability  
 Neighborhood comparison **awareness** Beltrami Electric Co-op  
**Threshold** Alerts  
 Sign up at [mymeter.beltramelectric.com](http://mymeter.beltramelectric.com)



## Take control of your electrical account with SmartHub



SmartHub is Beltrami Electric's innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your electricity and your BEC account like never before. SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible.

- Make a payment using your smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop. You can also securely store your payment information for future transactions;
- Check your energy use, allowing you to take control of your bill;
- Track your payment history;
- Report an outage or view our outage map;
- Contact us with a request or question;
- Sign up for Auto Pay and/or paperless billing;
- Receive alerts and keep up with BEC news and events.

To sign up or log in to SmartHub, please visit [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) and click on the SmartHub icon or go directly to Beltrami Electric's SmartHub page at [beltramelectric.smarthub.coop](http://beltramelectric.smarthub.coop).

To use this service via a mobile device (smartphone or tablet), members can download the SmartHub app free of charge from the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet). Just search "SmartHub" or scan one of the QR codes above (depending on your mobile platform) to go directly to the app from your device. If you have any questions regarding SmartHub, please contact customer service at 218-444-2540/1-800-955-6083 or at [info@beltramelectric.com](mailto:info@beltramelectric.com).



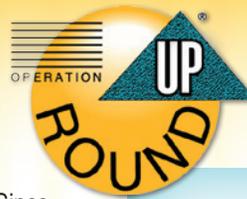
Android Smartphone



IOS Smartphone

Scan either of these QR codes with your smartphone to be instantly directed to the SmartHub app. The code on the top is for the Android platform and the code on the bottom is for the iOS platform.

# Operation Round Up<sup>®</sup>



## What is Operation Round Up?

- Operation Round Up was created in 1989 by a cooperative in South Carolina. Since that time, hundreds of electric cooperatives around the nation have adopted the program.
- It's a charitable program designed to give members a means of working together to use their small change to make a big impact in their local communities.
- A separate board, made up of five volunteers from our community, meet quarterly to review applications for grants and disburse the funds.

## How does Operation Round Up work?

- Operation Round Up is just what its name implies. Each month, BEC "rounds up" the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar. For example, a member's monthly bill of \$78.65 would be automatically rounded up to \$79, with the additional 35 cents going to Operation Round Up.
- The average contribution per member is approximately 50 cents a month, or \$6 per year. Donations are tax deductible, and members will receive an annual summary of their contributions on their January billing statement.

## What are some possible uses for Operation Round Up?

- 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.

## Why should I participate?

- This program's sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for our community. 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.

*Members who choose not to contribute to Operation Round Up can simply "opt out" of this voluntary program by notifying BEC by phone, email or through our website.*

## Applications due Sept. 30

Do you know a local not-for-profit organization that could benefit from an Operation Round Up grant? Encourage your local fire & rescue, 4-H, early childhood or senior citizens group and others to apply.

Applications for the Beltrami Electric (Operation Round Up) Trust are now available. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our region. Projects should fit one or more of these categories: Community Service, Economic Development, Education & Youth and the Environment.

Grants will not be made for lobbying, political and religious organizations, veteran, fraternal and labor organizations, fundraising dinners, raffles, capital fund campaigns, national fund drives, advertising or ongoing operational expenses.

If your organization wishes to apply for Operation Round Up funds, grant application forms are available in our office or on our website at [www.beltramielc.com](http://www.beltramielc.com). The first application deadline is Sept. 30, 2016, and applications must be received at Beltrami Electric by 4:30 p.m. to be eligible. Funds will be disbursed in October.

Co-op Connections<sup>®</sup> Card



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

© Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



# Shop local and SAVE BIG with

## *Beltrami Electric's Co-op Connections Card!*

Beltrami Electric has participated in the Co-op Connections program since it began in 2008, and the Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. This card provides our cooperative members access to many local and national discounts. We think this program is a great opportunity to partner with those in our community and to aid in their success.

Co-op Connections allows businesses to promote and advertise to our members at **NO COST**. Businesses may be promoted in a variety of ways, including newsletters, online and flyers given out to all new members. The program allows your business to reach consumers locally and nationally. Call Beltrami Electric Cooperative today to learn how you can get your business advertised through the Co-op Connections Card program.

Try out the free **Mobile App**, and you'll have GPS, "call the store" ability, and a digital card at your fingertips. Search "**Co-op Connections**" in the App Store or on Google Play, and download it today. Find all the ways to save at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

*The one card that does it all.*

Featured "Deal of the Month"

**2% off of purchase**



**SND Appliances, Service N Delivery** is the local choice for all your appliance needs. We offer BRAND NEW top quality LG, Whirlpool, Haier, Danby and Amana appliances at unbelievable prices! We're an authorized LG retailer and can beat anyone's prices. We have brand new in box and scratch and dent models available. Located next to the new bowling alley in Bemidji, we're easy to find. We're an authorized service center for everything we sell, so buy with confidence knowing that we're here for the long haul!

**SND Appliances**  
3481 Laurel Dr NW, Bemidji  
218-444-6577

Mon – Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.,  
Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
[www.bemidjisnd.com](http://www.bemidjisnd.com)

# Northern Lights CLASSIFIEDS

## For Sale:

1999 Chevy Malibu, V6, 335-8862.

Four walnut dining room chairs \$40; 6x4x4 dog kennel \$75; electric hedge trimmer \$20. 556-5559.

2006 Honda V-Star Custom motorcycle, only 12K miles. A beautiful bike in excellent condition \$4,000. Bow-Flex Power Pro, like new condition \$450. 556-8298.

1987 Chevrolet Caprice Classic sedan with brougham roof, leather seats, no rust, very good condition. B.O. 444-4992.

Evinrude 1989 8 hp Tracker outboard motor in excellent condition with gas tank and hose. \$395. Call 219-854-7262. Leave message. Email: stevbooth@hotmail.com.

Dr. Leaf vacuum in good shape works great new \$2,100 now \$975. 547-1975.

1993 Evinrude 8 hp outboard motor, model #E8RETB. Very clean motor at \$475. Has no gas tank. Call: 444-8032.

20' Premier Castaway 1992 pontoon and w/deluxe trailer. Several extras, 50 hp motor, nice shape. \$2,900, 612-554-1714.

Two interior doors, 28x80, good condition, 3.5 x3.5' framed glider window, excellent condition, 8-piece Mirro cookware, like new, adult and children water boots, ironing board, full size bed sheet sets, like new and 2 new toilet seats. 335-8945.

18' Winona Champion 2-person canoe, incl. oak padded carrying yoke, 2 seats w/back, used 1 season, new cond., new \$2,600, asking \$1,850. Leaver end gate for 5" wheel, fits Ford pickups, new cond., \$185. Single horse cart for full size horse, great for training or going down the road, \$325. Antique 4-drawer dresser with mirror, \$100. Lots of new polyester fabric, good for quilting, rugs, etc. 333-3879.

14' aluminum fishing boat, structurally sound but needs some wood pieces replaced. \$500/obo. 24' catamaran and trailer-needs work \$550/obo. I want to move both of them so make an offer 701-741-9731.

10 x 12 log cabin to be moved. Intended to be used as a sauna but is unfinished inside and so could be used for other purposes. Call for details. 854-7444.

1973 4 hp Johnson outboard motor, 2-stroke, 2 cylinder, forward-only (no clutch), motor. Weighs 34 lbs. It was used on duck boat for many years. Haven't used for last 5 years. Cover has been spray painted camouflage. It uses a 50:1 gas/oil mixture. \$175. 766-3702.

Amish built, corrugated, steel sided cabin, electric and plumbing included, 1 bdrm, must be moved. Inside dimensions 28' x 13', w/porch. 444-7538.

4' x 5' round bales of mixed grass hay, \$35 ea. 4' x 5' round bales of alfalfa hay, \$40 ea. We load, you haul. Call before 8 p.m.; 751-8191.

Heavy duty 14-foot fiberglass square stern camo sportboat \$500/obo. Golden Eagle compound bow with all accessories, case, quiver, arrows, release, target etc. \$150. 586-2507.

Lady's pantsuits, one black, one gray, size 16. Never worn. \$50 each. Formal dress, knee length in navy chiffon. Size 14, \$40. 759-2322.

Large wood wishing wells for well pipes or gardens. Small wood wishing wells. Wood turtles, serving trays, wine racks and apple crates 407-4014 or 407-4013.

1999 GMC 1500 Suburban LSE, V8 engine, oversized gas tank. Excellent cond. Auto trans, antilock brakes, cruise, privacy windows, front/rear control AC/heat. Power windows, locks, mirrors, doors and seats. AM/FM radio, cd/cassette player. Excellent tires. Luggage rack. Dual air bags. Class 3 hitch. Keyless entry. \$12,000. 368-4834.

2001 Chevy Silverado 1500 ext 4x4. Hunter green. PW, PL, cruise, compass/temp, AC, AM/FM, block heater. Everything works. Good tread. 224,000. \$2,500. 556-9350.

16-ft camouflage aluminum boat with trailer. \$400/obo. 760-0718.

Shotgun shell reloader - Ponsness Warren, 10-gauge, with bushings 368-2261.

Bunk beds sheets, blankets included \$200. Delta brand scroll saw and stand \$100. Delta brand table saw \$200. 444-4992.

1990 Chevy conversion van w/1,000 lb wheelchair lift (could be removed), 112,000 miles, good working condition has some rust. \$3,000/obo. Will consider trade for hunting guns. 751-2593.

Full size LP gas stove, 4-burner w/oven. Ideal for a hunting cabin \$100/obo. 243-2846.

1951 John Deere A. new rear tires. Excellent runner. New oil filter and gear lube. \$1,200 call or text 766-2624.

1988 Fleetwood motor home. 30-ft, body needs some work, inside exc. cond. Asking \$4,000/obo. 2000 Ford Ranger, red, great cond., 4x4, new tires, 34,000 original miles, (Grandpa left in garage). Asking \$8,000/obo. 759-1147 afternoons.

2001 Dodge 2500 5.9L, gas, 4x4, 93,000 miles, AM/FM/Cass, auto, power steering, cruise and tilt, runs good. Asking \$7,950/obo. 766-1204 (Jim) or 243-2196.

2007 Ford Sport Trac Limited, 4x4, auto, 100,000 miles, 4-dr, door code, 6 CD/AM/FM, power seats, mirrors, tilt, cruise, V8. Asking \$12,300. 308-3718.

WD-45 Allis tractor, Paulson loader, no second gear. \$1,200. 647-8199.

New camo cover for ATV, \$40. Sony Complete stereo system, AM/FM/5-CD changer w/4' speakers, \$150. Complete set floor mats for Chevy Silverado crew cab, \$40. Beautiful oak dining room set. Call 368-5264 or 333-1510.

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> crop large round hay bales. Call 751-0408, leave message.

1971 Lund boat and trailer, Evinrude motor, needs work, trolling motor, depth finder, in good condition, \$1,100. Call 751-1907.

2014 Lund 1400 Fury, side steer, red, 2014 Mercury 30 ELPT 4 stroke, tilt and trim, 2015 Shoreland'r trailer, used only 5-6 times, excellent condition. \$9,000. 2013 Sears Craftsman 24" snowblower, like new! \$300. Call John at 760-2091.

2014 TaoTao electric scooter, street legal, no endorsement or license plate needed. \$850. 243-2952 or 320-260-3301.

Victory Pride handicap scooter, \$800. Batteries replaced within last year, comes with umbrella top and charger. Call 694-6779 or 368-1423.

14' Alumcraft boat with anchor, oars and cover. 1982 7.5 Evinrude with 6-gallon tank. 1969 Spartan trailer (Lifetime license) \$1,200. Call 766-7052.

New grip MS General 700-15 LT tubeless tire, \$75. Homemade star block crazy quilts: twin \$35, full \$40, queen \$45, king \$55. Floor lamps, \$7 each. Oak 44x44 dining room table, \$120. 6 pressed back chairs, \$150. 5-drawer highboy dresser, \$150. Sewing machines, \$15. (1 Touch-n-Sew) 243-2702.

17-ft canoe, cedar strip. 760-0039.

Two like new 17" tires, \$40 each. Power plant, \$135. 444-5783.

2007 Cub Cadet Zero Turn, Z Force, 44" cut, with bagger, excellent cond. \$1,750. 444-4082 after 6:30 p.m.

Samsung black smoothtop electric range and stove. Good condition. Works great. \$250/obo. 556-2188.

Classic Eldorado Cadillac, 2-dr, 94K orig. miles, CD player, pale yellow, better than avg. cond. for 1987, \$3,800. Catalan storage ottoman, w/4 convertible serving trays, black vinyl. Four-piece China-ware dinner set, silver trim/rose pattern. Recurve hunting bow w/arrows rest, Williams portable room heater, 5,200 Btu, 1,500 watts. Call Mimi at 368-5469 or 497-0177.

5x8 utility trailer, bought new 4 years ago, drop-down end gate, wood sides, mesh floor, hitch jack w/wheel, used very little. \$500/obo. 255-5808.

## 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.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) (preferred).
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619. If submitting by mail, ad must be printed clearly.

## Wanted:

Wanted to buy good running Kohler 20 hp magnum engine horizontal shaft. 835-6304 or 760-3184.

## Professional office spaces 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.



1,315-square-foot office suite – two office suites, including bright corner office, reception area, storage room as well as large workspace. 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.

## Are you a "snowbird"?

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 member 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](http://www.beltramelectric.com).



# Come visit us at the Beltrami County Fair!

Visit the BEC booth at the fair starting Thursday, Aug. 11! Register for a chance to win a door prize!



## Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Wednesday, June 29, 2016. A quorum of directors were present.

*The following reports were given:*

- Rich Riewer gave an update on the new AMI meter system and an amendment to the current Work Plan.
- CEO Echternach presented Policy 310 regarding AMI System installation.
- Chris Kelsey discussed a new option of cell phone texting of outage information.
- CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on Northern Solar, Cooperative Response Center and the legislative candidate forum to be held at BEC.
- Sid Sletten gave the financial report for May, including review of work orders and special equipment, the annual report on the procedures of BEC in regard to the Red Flag Rule and reviewed Form 990.
- The board discussed the Hubbard County Fair 4-H Livestock auction.
- President Coe appointed Murl Nord as BEC's delegate to the NRECA regional meeting and Sue Kringen as alternate.
- President Coe reported on the MREA board meeting and the Minnesota Power Cooperative board meeting.

*The following actions were taken:*

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Approved Amendment to the Work Plan.
- Approved new BEC Policy #310.
- Approved Form 990.
- Approved a monetary donation to the Hubbard County 4-H Livestock Program.

*The next board meeting will be July 25, 2016.*

## Horse pulling event at the fair!

In the early 1900s when farmers farmed with horses, can't you just visualize a farmer telling his neighbor: "I bet my horse can pull more than yours can." Then to prove it, the neighbor would take him up on that bet and soon there would be some competition between several farmers. Horse pulling has come quite far from the early 1900s. Horse pulling is a sport with a team of equine athletes. Lately much interest has sprung up in Wisconsin, the Dakotas and now Minnesota horse owners have joined in.



The Go and Whoa Harness Club thought it sounded like a good project so they sent out invites to "horse people," on a first-come basis, to register in a Horse and Pony Pull at the Beltrami County Fair this year, with a limit of 20 teams.

The team that pulls the highest percentage of weight compared to the team's weight will win. The horses will all be weighed and recorded earlier in the afternoon.

The pull will be **Wednesday evening, Aug. 10, beginning at 6 p.m.**, at the Beltrami County Fair Grandstand. **Admission is \$5 per person (under 3 free) or \$25 per family.** There will also be FREE gate on Wednesday. There are many prize drawings throughout the evening and a special drawing for kids' bikes at the end of the pull.

Ah, yes, the sport itself brings together good friends and family. There are always good friends to mingle with. **Friday evening and Saturday, Aug. 12 and 13**, of the Beltrami County Fair, the Go and Whoa Harness Club will be holding their regular horse shows in the horse arena. Stop in the horse barns and visit with the teamsters!

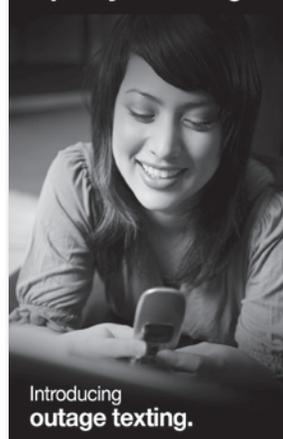
## OUTAGE TEXTING NOW AVAILABLE!

We have deployed a new service to the membership, the ability to TEXT an electrical outage to us. This service will provide an alternative to calling us in an outage situation. **Here are the steps you need to follow to have the ability to text power outages:**

1. Call the cooperative office to make sure we have your cell phone number(s) recorded in our system. **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.** Simply texting our two main phone numbers WILL NOT work.
2. After you have given the cooperative your cell phone number(s), go to our website [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com) and register for the service. You can do this by clicking the orange "Report Outage" icon, then clicking "Sign Up for Outage Texting." The registration process is simple and takes less than two minutes.
3. You will be given an outage "texting number." Add this number to your contacts on your cell phone so it's ready when an outage occurs.

Now you are ready to text us in the event your power goes out. Please call the office during normal office hours, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., if you have any questions or comments.

Looking for a convenient way to report your outage?



Introducing outage texting.

## We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for **Gregory W. Parkhurst** (Redby, Minn.). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.



**Beltrami Electric  
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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# 2016 Youth Tour

*In her own words: Lara Hicks*

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

The week of June 11 I had an awesome experience representing Beltrami Electric for the 2016 Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the trip I got to meet tons of intelligent students from many rural Minnesota cooperatives and see many monuments, museums, memorials and government buildings. I'm so thankful that Beltrami Electric gave me the opportunity to learn more about our nation's history and emphasize the role of cooperative relationships in the past, present and future.

The day after we landed and had a night's rest we visited most of the different memorials and monuments, they were absolutely stunning! I really enjoyed being able to view them in person and getting a bit of insight to the symbolism behind each one from our tour guide. We also

got to see Arlington Cemetery and half of the Smithsonian Museums on the south side of the National Mall. Adam Schwartz gave an excellent presentation and afterwards I found myself having a much more avid understanding of cooperative business principles and how they affect rural communities.

On Monday we got to explore Mount Vernon, George Washington's home. Afterwards, we went to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We walked through exhibits for every major U.S. war and learned about the integral role Marines played in serving our country. I enjoyed the environmental simulations in the Korean War and Vietnam War exhibits; it felt as if you really were experiencing the terrains that these wars took place on. That evening we had the NRECA Youth Night, which was a blast! I met other youth tour delegates from all over the U.S. and listened to some amazing speeches. Mike Schlapp's speech really spoke to me and helped me change my perspective on how to deal with challenges, enough so that I ordered his book and began delving into his life story.

The following day we were allowed to roam around the north side of the National Mall. I went to the Newseum, the National Archives and the other half of the Smithsonian Museums. I loved seeing all of the historic documents and examining the different exhibits in the National Museum of



Natural History. We went to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and I got to follow the story of Faiga Grynbaum, the daughter of a Jewish tailor in Poland. I was very moved by the museum and Faiga's determination to stand for her beliefs. Afterwards, we watched the Broadway Musical "Kinky Boots." It was very fun to watch!

On Wednesday we went to the Capitol building. We had breakfast with Al Franken and met Amy Klobuchar. The District 7 group got to meet with Collin Peterson's legislative assistant Zach Martin. He answered a lot of our questions and gave us a brief summary of his job on Capitol Hill. I also had the opportunity to meet Rick Nolan and Tim Walz.

Throughout the Youth Tour I met some truly wonderful friends, gained great insight into our country's history and learned that the principles that formed our nation really tie into how cooperatives like Beltrami Electric conduct their business. Thank you to the NRECA, the MREA and Beltrami Electric for investing in youth and giving me this unforgettable experience!

