

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

May 2017

COMING SOON!



Subscribe to locally-produced, renewable solar energy today!

80-kW DC community solar array to be located at Beltrami Electric Cooperative headquarters

Operation Round Up® grants awarded – page 3
2017 rate information – pages 4-5



Northern Lights (USPS 016488), Vol. 64, No. 5 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

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

www.beltramielc.com

Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Minnkota Director)
Vice President	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1 (Square Butte Director)
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Charlie Perkins, DISTRICT 2; Charles Parson, DISTRICT 3; Craig Gaasvig, DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Sue Kringen, DISTRICT 8
CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

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: BEC employees Dan Hogquist, Dan Dudgeon and Bruce Huderle work to install 64 anchors for the Northern Solar community solar garden. The solar panels have been ordered and we hope to complete construction in June.



Annual meeting, rates and legislative update

Jared Echternach, CEO

Annual meeting

Thank you to all who attended your cooperative's 77th annual meeting April 20 at the Bemidji High School. I always enjoy the annual meeting. It's a great time to connect with fellow members, have a nice meal, and hear how your cooperative is doing. For those of you who weren't able to attend the meeting this year, we recognized Lea Perkins and Jerry Larson for their service on the cooperative's board of directors. Lea has reached term limits and Jerry decided not to seek re-election. Lea and Jerry served your cooperative faithfully and they will be missed. I'd like to congratulate Rick Coe on his reelection to the board and Charlie Perkins and Craig Gaasvig on their election to the board.

Rate increase

Your board of directors approved a rate increase at its March board meeting. The rate charged to Beltrami Electric for wholesale power increased 2.9 percent in April. This will be passed through with the April billing cycles as part of the purchased power adjustment line item on your bill and can be a charge or a credit based on the average cost of wholesale power above or below a baseline cost established by our last cost of service study. The good news is that our general service and off-peak energy rates will remain unchanged.

The monthly access charge for residential services will increase \$6.50 from \$34.50 to \$41. Commercial accounts will see the same increase of \$6.50. These changes are effective with the May billing cycles. A rate synopsis with additional detail is included in this newsletter.

Our last cost of service study conducted in 2015-2016 showed that our monthly access charge for the residential rate class should be in the low-to-mid \$40s, so we still have a ways to go before we recover our fixed distribution costs through the monthly access charge. That means those who are using more kilowatt-hours (kWh) were shouldering more of the burden. Your board of directors decided to increase the monthly access charge in steps rather than do it all at once. What I envision

over the next several years is that you will see smaller incremental increases in the monthly access charge with less emphasis on the energy rate.

While no one likes to see a rate increase, we still need to recover our costs and provide a margin. Selling fewer kWh year after year means that we need to recover our fixed distribution costs over fewer kWh sold. Increasing the monthly access charge mitigates some of this variability and helps recover more of the fixed distribution costs.

I can assure you that your board of directors takes rate setting very seriously and works hard to balance service, reliability and safety under a rate structure intended to fairly recover the costs as they are incurred. Approximately 70 percent of our costs are directly related to purchasing wholesale power, which also has fixed and variable components. The remaining 30 percent is internal, some of which is controllable, some of which is not. Your board of directors and employees have done an excellent job of keeping those controllable costs in check. We have delayed some maintenance and prolonged the use of some larger equipment. These things can be done to some extent, but putting them off for too long can result in larger expenses or service reliability issues down the road. This is the balance we are trying to strike in controlling costs and maintaining service reliability for our members.

I was thinking recently about some of the other bills we pay on a monthly basis and the comparative value of those services. What do you pay per month for your cellphone, TV or internet service? What's one thing they all have in common? Each of these services require safe and reliable electricity so we can enjoy modern conveniences.

Federal legislative update

Last month I discussed our primary legislative push at the state level. This month I will focus on federal legislative and regulatory issues.

We continue to push Congress to fully fund the Rural Utilities Service

(RUS) Electric Loan Program. This is our primary lending agency from which we use funds to support our construction work plans and maintain your electric distribution system. We're pleased that both Rep. Collin Peterson and Rep. Rick Nolan have signed a letter in support of the RUS Electric Loan Program, with Peterson, as ranking member, leading the effort.

President Trump's preliminary budget proposal eliminates funding for the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance

Program (LIHEAP). Many of our members rely on this funding to heat their homes, and we assist our members in accessing this funding. It would be difficult for many of our members to pay their electric bill if this program is eliminated and we will advocate for it to be fully funded.

Finally, we will be looking to support legislation that increases our ability to maintain your distribution system over federal lands. H.R. 1873 would help improve federal policies that make it difficult for utilities to remove trees and

vegetation that threaten reliability and could cause wildfires. It will provide certainty for co-ops to perform proper vegetation management on power line rights-of-way, which is important for ensuring reliable electricity for millions of families and businesses throughout our country. The bill is identical to legislation the House passed in 2015, but that did not move in the Senate.

Operation Round Up® awards \$26,142 to community programs

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board for Operation Round Up recently awarded grants to 21 area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$26,142. The board had a challenging task reviewing and approving grants as the amount of requests totaled more than \$80,000.

Operation Round Up is a charitable program unique to electric cooperatives and is designed to give members a means of working together to use their small change to make a big impact in their local communities. The average amount a member will contribute is approximately 50 cents/month or \$6 per year. Donations are tax deductible and members will receive an annual summary of their contributions on their January billing statement. Members may choose to donate an additional amount to Operation Round Up by simply calling our office.

The Trust Board meets quarterly to review applications for grants and disburse funds. The next quarterly application deadline is June 30, 2017. Funding guidelines and grant applications are available at the BEC office or by visiting our website at www.beltramielectric.com.



The following organizations have been awarded Operation Round Up grants in April:

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
All Pro Dads	All Pro Dads - Bemidji Chapter Program	\$ 500
Bemidji Area Senior Class Party	Bemidji Area All-Night Senior Class Party	\$ 500
Bemidji Community Theater	BCT JR., 2-week theater day camp	\$ 500
Bemidji Rotary Foundation, Inc.	Paul Bunyan Inclusive Playground	\$ 2,750
Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area	Youth Safety	\$ 3,500
Clearwater Lake Area Association	Clearwater Lake Shoreline Restoration & Protection	\$ 500
Concordia Language Villages	4th & 5th Grade Essay Scholarship Contest	\$ 750
Headwaters School of Music and the Arts	Headwaters Chess Program	\$ 1,000
Lady Slipper Scenic Byway, Inc.	Benches for Lady Slipper Interpretive Site Boardwalk	\$ 1,200
Laporte School & Community Garden	One Vegetable, One Community	\$ 296
North Country First Responders	AED purchase	\$ 2,500
Northern Artist Association/Gallery North	Paint and Play Days	\$ 500
Northstar Sportsmens Club	Replace Trap Throwers	\$ 2,025
Project Linus-Northern MN Chapter	Project Linus	\$ 400
Red Lake Community Coordinator	Youth Bingo & Movie Night	\$ 1,000
Red Lake Homeless Shelter	Shelter Dining Room Hall Renovation	\$ 1,921
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Philip's Conf.	Getting Ahead in Bemidji Classes	\$ 500
Solway Volunteer Fire Department	Well Replacement	\$ 2,500
Support Within Reach	Victim Experience Simulation Training	\$ 300
United Way of Bemidji Area	Backpack Buddies Food Pack Program	\$ 2,000
Watermark Art Center	Watermark Art Center Renovation	\$ 1,000

Rate increase Q & A

Beltrami Electric will be implementing a rate increase that will go into effect this month. Rate design entails a balancing act between meeting our revenue needs while minimizing the overall financial impact to our members. As a not-for-profit organization, we must recover our costs of doing business as well as maintain sufficient margins to reinvest in our electric distribution system. For years, cooperatives have recovered fixed costs through a combination of a fixed access charge and the energy (kWh) rate. As a result of a pattern of declining retail sales, cooperatives have begun to re-evaluate the rate structure and the way fixed costs are recovered.

Q: What is the Access Charge on my bill?

A. Like any business, BEC has both fixed and variable costs. The access charge is designed to recover Beltrami Electric's local distribution costs related to making a basic electric service available to all its members. This includes the cost of poles, wire, transformers, meters, right-of-way, etc., needed to provide the reliable electric system to serve our members.

According to the cost of service study done in 2015-2016, BEC has been under-collecting on the monthly access charge for many years. The study has indicated that the cost of having a minimum service available is in the low-to-mid \$40 range. However, recognizing that increasing the access charge all at once would be difficult for many BEC members, the board decided to increase the monthly access charge in steps.

Beltrami Electric serves an average of 6 members per mile

of line, whereas utilities that serve cities and towns serve an average of 40+ customers per mile. Therefore, we as rural electric cooperative members have fewer neighbors with whom to share these fixed costs; each of us must contribute a greater portion of the investment and maintenance cost of the system required to provide service to our homes and businesses.

A mile of single-phase line requires an investment of approximately \$75,000 to build, plus annual maintenance expenses create a significant cost related to providing the grid access required to make electric services available to rural locations. The difference in access fees between rural and urban or an area with significant commercial customers often comes down to the number of customers or members sharing the fixed cost of each mile of electrical line.

Q: What is the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) on my bill?

A. The PPA is a direct pass-through of changes in cost (either increases or decreases) of purchased wholesale power from Minnkota that appears on your bill as a separate line item. The cost of wholesale electricity is composed of numerous fixed and several variable costs. The monthly PPA is a charge or credit based on the ratio between the fixed and variable components. Fixed expenses include the cost for transmission

lines and generators or capacity expense required to meet members' peak electrical demands. Variable charges are related to the cost of fuel and actual operation of the power supply system. The effective kWh cost can vary each month as the ratio between these costs change. The PPA allows the monthly billing statement to accurately reflect the changes in the cost of wholesale power as consumers' electrical usage changes.

Q: Why do you promote energy conservation if reduced energy sales contribute to increased rates?

A. Beltrami Electric has always encouraged the wise use of electricity. As part of the Next Generation Act of 2007, the Minnesota Legislature established an energy-saving goal of 1.5 percent of gross annual retail energy sales that electric utilities must meet annually. In an effort to effectively achieve this goal, Beltrami Electric maintains a Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) and continues to promote energy conservation, offering rebates toward the installation of energy-saving

appliances, lighting, heating and more. Today, we are seeing the success of these efforts, as members reduce their energy consumption and, ultimately, overall energy sales. This is challenging as we are not seeing as many new consumers, which created the load growth we had 10 years ago that helped to offset reduced energy usage through conservation efforts. Choosing to use the available electrical service to meet your energy need does help hold down the cost of electricity; wise use of electricity is the key.

Q: What can I do to reduce my electric costs and can BEC provide any assistance in this area?

A. The most important thing you can do is practice conservation. By simply turning electrical equipment off or down, you can reduce your electric bill. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or below in the winter and 78 degrees or higher in the summer. Unplug electronic devices when not in use. BEC offers a number of options to help members manage their electric usage, including the web-based MyMeter program. Rebates are available for installing Energy Star® appliances, new electric water heaters, LED light bulbs, or new off-peak electric heating equipment. In addition, BEC's Demand Response (off-peak) system offers a significant savings to participating members compared to the standard electrical rate. See the many energy efficiency tools and brochures that are available on our website at www.beltramielctric.com or contact our office at 218-444-2540 or 800-955-6083 for more information.

2017 Beltrami Electric Rate Increase		
<i>Effective with May billing cycles, the Access Charge will increase by \$6.50/month for all general service rate classes.</i>		
Service Type	2016 Rates	Effective - May Billings
Residential / Small Commercial: Access charge (25 kVa and less) (over 25 kVa) Energy charge (kWh)	\$34.50/month \$85/month \$0.1069/kWh	\$41.00/month \$91.50/month No change
Off-peak: Access charge Energy charge	\$2.50/month \$0.0672/kWh Oct. - May \$0.0776/kWh June - Sept.	No change No change No change
Yard Lighting: Metered light Unmetered light	\$4.43/month plus energy \$10.82/month	No change No change
Large Commercial: Monthly minimum	\$180.00/month	\$186.50/month
Three-phase commercial, industrial or farm with billing demands of 50 kW or less and single-phase with billing demands of 50 kW - 1000 kW: Access charge Energy charge (kWh)	\$95/month \$0.1220/kWh first 2000 kWh \$0.1120/kWh for all excess	\$101.50/month No change No change
Three-phase commercial, industrial or farm with billing demands over 50 kW and single-phase with billing demands over 100 kW: Demand charge Energy charge	\$10.00/kWh/month \$0.750/kWh	No change No change
<i>Minnkota Power Cooperative's 2.9% wholesale rate increase will be passed through as part of the Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) line item beginning with April billing cycles. The PPA is a charge or credit based on the difference in the base wholesale rate and the actual cost of wholesale power, calculated monthly. It is a direct pass-through of the changes in cost (either increases or decreases) of purchased wholesale power. This separate line item on bills is adjusted monthly, depending on the ratio between the fixed and variable costs of the wholesale power components.</i>		

Value of electricity

While the cost of most goods and services has increased significantly over the years, electricity remains a relative bargain. You may be surprised by the value you receive for your energy dollar.

The average homeowner uses about \$5 of electricity per day. That is less than the cost of a fast-food meal to keep your lights on, your home at a comfortable temperature, your food fresh and your devices running. Think of electricity as an employee you're paying pennies an hour to cook your food, wash your clothes and clean your dishes.

The way people use electricity has changed over the years, and so has the way Beltrami Electric Cooperative provides it. But what hasn't changed is the commitment to provide you with the best possible product at fair and reasonable prices.

Who says you can't get anything for \$1?

\$1 of electricity gets you:

- 1,680 HOURS of smartphone charging
- 840 HOURS of light from an LED lamp
- 8 HOURS of coffee brewing
- 44 HOURS of shows on an LCD TV
- 6 HOURS of microwaving
- 120 HOURS of ceiling fan spinning
- 138 HOURS on your laptop

Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - o Ads submitted by April 5 – will be published in May issue.
 - o Ads submitted between April 6 and May 5 – will be published in June issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.com (preferred).
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a first-received, first-printed basis, with no guarantee your ad will appear.
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for three consecutive months and must be resubmitted each month.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise noted.
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619

For Sale:

'94, 17' Sea Ray IO Mercuriser, electric lift, Shorelander trlr., full covers, always trailered from garage, exc. cond. \$9,479/obo. 751-9357 or 766-5200.

Stainless/black Primo water dispenser with 2-5 gal. refillable bottles, cleaned and ready to use, \$75, Delco engine stand, \$25, Emerson compact refrigerator (17.3x20.2x27) \$25. Call Charlie at 444-3849.

5-gallon aquarium with all equipment. \$10 or best offer. Call Sandy at 230-3217.

19-ft. 5th-wheel Scamp camper 5x13, 6-hole wheeled fish house. 335-2355 or 766-3212.

Like new, full sized oak futon w/6-in. green mattress, \$150, extra cover \$20. Two unique wood carved stools, w/black leather swivel seats, \$20 each. New full set floor mats, fits Silverado crew cab 2015. \$40. 333-1510 or 368-0441.

Tools for cutting square timbers with a chain saw. Use for building small log/timber structures such as cabins or saunas. Other log building tools included. \$300. 854-7444 before 8 p.m.

Two-wheel trailer for sale, made from a Ford 150 pickup, 8 ft. box, 15-inch wheels and tires and spare. Some rust. \$250. Call 335-7707 for details.

Solid oak dining table 66x44 with 2 leaves, each 18-inch wide with 6 chairs and matching lighted buffet. \$250. 84-inch long brown davenport hide-a-bed never slept on. Like new \$400. 444-8747 or 324-1676.

Leather chair w/ottoman, \$175; Hoover Sprint vacuum, \$40; wine cooler, holds 8 bottles, \$50; Walnut coffee table, 48" x 21", \$100; 2 mahogany end tables, \$25 each or 2/\$40; Sunbeam air ionizer, \$100; Nova pizza oven, stainless steel commercial, \$60; bamboo rocking chair, \$40, bamboo chair \$50, plaid recliner, \$150. Call mornings 224-2483.

Computer desk, L-shaped, \$100; dining room table w/4 chairs, 3 leaves, \$150; oil lamps, 2 sizes 10-15; Danish plates, 1970-80s, many Christmas plates, \$6 each. Call mornings 224-2141.

7-ft. slate pool table with all accessories, in excellent shape, like new. \$700. 243-2635.

Miller 330 A/BP TIG / ARC welder, includes custom cart, foot control, new torch, gas regulator. Argon tank is NOT included. This is a heavy duty machine and has been well cared for. Asking price \$1,100. Call 280-2537.

2002 Alumacraft 165LTD Luner Tiller, AM/FM radio, live-well, new battery, 4 swivel seats, crank-down anchor, bilge pump, Lowrance Elite 5-GPS fish-finder and TX 300 Hummingbird front locator. Shorelander w/new spare, exc. cond. 2015 4-stroke Merc 30ELHPT EFI tiller motor, electric start, trim, tilt, long shaft, warranty until April 2020. Price: \$9,000 firm. 612-868-3807 (Walker).

'01 Hunter 240 sailboat, exc. cond., stored indoors, clean. Marine equipped full electronics, Raytheon Auto Pilot, Ship-to-Shore. Nissan 4-stroke hp motor and trailer. Custom built storage systems, rolling furl, water ballasted with retractable keel. \$6,900. Text or call, leave message 763-259-8689.

New pearl 5-ft Whirlpool bathtub, brand new, both air and water jets, never been used retail \$2,800. Will sell for \$1,300. 766-0228.

Antique Singer console sewing machine, beautiful walnut wood, with three drawers on right side. All sewing items included. \$145/obo. Call 751-9357 or 556-2955.

2011 Black, Chev Malibu LT \$10,500/obo, Mileage: 58,700, Bluetooth™, anti-theft system, heated seats, keyless entry w/trunk release, remote start, leather interior, moon roof, Bose radio, On-Star and XM Radio, steering wheel controls, power s/w/locks. No accidents, second owner. Email: chandvogt@hotmail.com.

Shoremaster aluminum 1,500-lb. boatlift, asking \$650. 556-8179.

14' Aluminum fishing boats, Alumacraft, Loweline and Crestliner, \$195-\$475/each. Call 224-2836.

Wooden console table, great condition. \$30. 759-4734.

1994 Shadow Cruiser pickup camper. Light, clean, nice! Some damage from 2012 storm, was repaired. Two-way fridge, dry bathroom w/shower, stove/oven, micro. Newer water heater, newer plumbing for toilet. Everything worked last time it was used, about 5 years ago. Fits short box truck. \$3,000/firm! Leave msg., 243-3029.

60" steel roll in dock with 2 sets of wheels and ladder \$1,650. 1992 Polaris 500sp EFI, with 1,953 miles \$700. Pile of mixed firewood \$200. HP Touchsmart 520 computer, 23" touchscreen wireless keyboard and mouse \$250. 651-334-9509.

S&W K22 17-3, 8 3/8 in barrel. Target grips and holster. Excellent condition. \$1,000 firm. 224-3866.

4x4x8 all metal enclosed utility trailer \$300. Boat trailer \$300. 2-inch 5 hp water pump \$50. 854-7444.

Shotgun-Mossberg 835 Ultra Mag 3 1/2 inch 12-gauge, like new condition. 368-2261.

Lift chair by Golden Technologies, Model No. PR-Capri DJU. Serial No.GT0602F3B01784. Sage green. \$200/obo. 612-618-0589 located near Walker.

17' Alumacraft Quetico Canoe, VG cond, w/carry pads and side motor mount, incl. 2 wooden paddles, all painted dead grass (tan) color, \$400. 3 hp Johnson O/B, twin cyl., 2-stroke \$150. 2 Cannon Supreme® canoe paddles aluminum handle and polycarb blade \$30/pair. Canoe Stabilizer side pontoons \$40. Car Top Canoe Carrier Kit \$20. \$600 takes ALL. 751-7254.

New Burnie Built pine vanity 64" x 23" x 33 1/2" \$1,000. Pine desk hutch 60" x 9 1/2" x 38 1/2", like new, \$75. Bog-Pod CLD-3s shooting height 22"-68" \$65. Kombi System KW-MN power sweep attachment and KB-MN brush attachment excellent condition \$150. Children's 20" bike like new \$40. 243-2107.

32-ft Hewitt aluminum roll-a-dock. 1998 Polaris sportsman 500 Big Boss 6x6. Call 243-2445 (please leave message).

'03 Horn Travel Trailer, 2 axles, exc. cond, \$3,000; '02 Ford Van very clean, \$2,000; 81 Crestliner 18', \$1,500. Call 444-5072.

Hewitt boatlift 75" wide 1,500 lbs, aluminum with canopy and frame. Great for jet skis. \$1,200/obo. 320-583-0471.

Bedroom set: full size bed frame, headboard and mattress, 50" x 18" x 18", chest of drawers, 2-drawer nightstand and 30" x 40" x 18" desk - \$100. 2-drawer 32" x 39" x 19" serving buffet - \$25. Call Sue or Steve 224-2699.

Snap-On Ratchet (1-in drive), heavy duty NAPA pneumatic impact wrench (1-in drive), heavy duty Ingersoll-Rand pneumatic impact wrench (1-in Drive) 90 PISG, Chrome Vanadium sockets, heavy duty 3/8 air drill and metal shear (northern industrial tools) 1/4 in capacity 18 cutting radius 22 hundred air consumption, breaker bar 1-in drive, heavy drill for metal. 647-8514.

1995 Lund 1700 Adventure Series with sport pkg. Mercury 4-stroke 50-horse motor, Humminbird locator. Shorelander trailer. Has been in storage for 10 years. 586-2884.

Super realistic life-size baby dolls (re-borns) professionally done, these are collectible dolls, or used for therapy and memorial dolls. If interested call 224-3688.

1987 Mitsubishi MT372 diesel tractor w/ snowblower, chains, 3 pt hitch. All works great! 236 hours, not 100% sure of year, \$3,000 FIRM; Tan truck topper in good condition. Fits our short box (6 1/2'), ext. cab 2004/2005 Chevy trucks. \$150 FIRM. Call 218-556-1444 leave message.

Two bicycles - both V-G cond. Men's Schwinn Le Tour 10-sp, lg. frame, silver metallic, \$75; women's Holiday 3-sp, green w/red trim, \$50; Admiral 13" stereo color TV w/remote, \$40; Emerson countertop microwave w/turntable, 700 watt, .7 cu. ft 19" wide x 11" tall x 13" deep, \$40. 751-7254.

60-foot batting cage with L screen, bucket of balls, batting T and youth helmets. \$250, call 556-5765.

Beautiful flowers. Weekly bouquet deliveries for one monthly price of \$85. All product is fresh, local and organic with a mix of annuals, perennials and herbs. You will Love it! I am your local flower farmer: call for questions or to sign up: 556-0586.

Never been used three-wheel GOGO Elite Traveler Electric Scooter. Easy disassembly for fast and convenient travel. Easy maneuverability and simple to operate. New \$1,455, now \$500. Must sell. Call 444-4327.

Humminbird 586c Fishfinder HD, w/all hookups, great shape w/cover, \$95. 751-8356.

Graduation is coming! Why not give a beautiful homemade quilt? 4-5-6-inch crazy, block and star quilts, Twin \$35, Full \$40, Queen \$45, King \$55. Antique oak rocker \$65. Parlor table \$70, sq. dining room table, 44x44, \$100. 6-matching oak chairs \$120. Refinished. Sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

Kenmore bisque-colored glass top range, looks new, rear left 6" burner not working, \$95. 50" 3-in-1 TV console, fits up to a 56" flat screen TV, 3 glass shelves, like new, \$95. 751-2772.

2011 Road King police bike, 5,800 miles, runs and looks great. \$11,500/obo. 252-4750.

30-06 Browning lever action, open hammer. 3-9 B.S.A., scope, model B.L.R., like new with box. \$650. 10-22 Ruger stainless steel, auto, nice, w/ Simmons 3-9 scope, \$275. 751-5667.

14' Alumacraft boat, model year 1964, w/anchor, oars, cover. 1982 7.5 hp Evinrude motor w/6 gallon tank. 1969 Spartan trailer (lifetime license). \$1,100. Call 766-7052.

16-ft. Lund flat bottom fishing boat, 2 bench seats, 2 swivel seats, 20 hp Mercury motor, electric motor, Karavan Trailer. \$900. 835-7764 or 239-0764.

Stihl MS 251 chain saw, easy to start, used once, new \$350, now \$300. 760-5045.

Riding mower, 16 hp, B&S Twin Hydro, 42" cut w/ lawn trailer, \$800/obo. Toro Wheel Horse tractor, 20 hp, 201 hrs. w/Toro 42" snow-thrower, \$1,700/obo. Solar 330A 12V battery charger engine starter, like new, \$90. 586-2612.

1999 Crestliner 20-ft pontoon w/bimini top, 25 hp Johnson motor. No trailer. \$4,000. 243-2818.

UND Sioux leather recliner w/footstool, \$100. Lots of Sioux apparel, some new, the rest like new, older Sioux sports programs, press guides, etc. GF Heralds throughout flood times 1997. Make any offers. 368-0441 or 333-1510.

Weslo Momentum G 3.2 exercise bike, hardly used, \$150/obo. 751-3965 or 766-3561, call in mornings and leave message, we will return your call.

1979 MH Skyline 14x70, 2 BR, 1 BA. To be moved. Located in Solway area, \$3,000. 467-3223.

Treadmill, \$100; Porcelain doll collection, \$350, some very old. Dog kennel, \$100, TVs, \$50-\$75. Elvis Presley collection, \$100. 368-3819 or 996-1648.

Older Dodge window van, 45K miles, good brakes, tires, battery. Electric side door and wheelchair lift. Rusty but trusty. \$575. Steel desk in good shape. \$15. 308-4025.

Wanted:

Bolens lawn and garden tractor, running or not, attachments or not. Also a Kohler 20 hp magnum engine that runs good. Phone 835-6304 or 760-3184.

For Recycling: E scrap, pianos, appliances, etc. *Picked up free of charge. Can move heavier items also. (*May change.) Within 75 mile radius of Bemidji. 712-369-3291.

Used aluminum pickup topper for 6' 6" box. 333-9109.

Used aluminum canoe, 12-16 foot, in serviceable condition. 734-223-9917.

Civil Air Patrol, a national youth and adult organization with a local squadron, is looking for donations of ABUs (Airman Battle Uniform of the Air Force) and black combat boots in good condition. Most in need are small sizes. Please call or text Patti Schrader at 252-0682 or Tammy Rogers at 556-6267.

18-20 foot pontoon with motor. 335-6882.

Preemie-size baby clothing in like-new condition, boy or girl. Call 224-3688.

Would like to have some square buckets like what cat litter comes in. Will pick up. Call 214-6874 or 766-3709, leave message.

Canoe, any condition. 444-6165.

Free:

24" SANYO tube TV. Works great. Needs a loving home. 759-4734.

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST THIS MONTH AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

It's May – and Beltrami Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.



Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit our website at www.beltramielc.com, like our page on Facebook or visit www.safeelectricity.org or www.esfi.org.

Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2017. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Echernach presented resolutions recognizing Lea Perkins and Jerry Larson for their many years of service on the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.
- CEO Echernach gave his monthly report, including discussion on February financials, district meetings held and updates on the new meter system, the Northern Solar project and legislative issues and federal budget proposals affecting electric cooperatives.
- Sid Sletten gave the financial report for February, including review of work orders.
- The upcoming annual meeting was discussed. Election tellers were nominated and the election ballot was reviewed.
- Auditors from Brady, Martz & Associates gave the 2016 audit report giving Beltrami Electric Cooperative a "clean" audit opinion.
- CEO Echernach and Sid Sletten presented future rates and projections together with updated rate schedules.
- Directors and the CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings and educational conferences.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Approved the resolutions recognizing Lea Perkins and Jerry Larson for their service on the Board of Directors.
- Approved the election ballot as presented.
- Accepted the audit report as presented.
- Approved updated rate schedules as presented.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for **Kyle J. Robinson** and **Flower White** (Bemidji, 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.beltramielctric.com

Volunteer for Project GreenTouch

Invite your family and friends!

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Lake Bemidji State Park

Tools, equipment, beverages and a grilled lunch provided

For the 18th year, Beltrami Electric Cooperative and other Touchstone Energy® cooperatives throughout Minnesota will again join together to spruce up our state parks through a program called GreenTouch.



You're invited to volunteer your time to plant trees, clean up trails, rake leaves and complete other general projects, all to prepare Lake Bemidji State Park for the 2017 season!

Come join us! No park sticker will be needed that day for volunteers. For more information visit www.beltramielctric.com or if you would like to volunteer, contact Angela at 444-3689 or alsyng@beltramielctric.com.

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC MULTIVENDOR INDOOR GARAGE SALE

to benefit the United Way

Saturday, May 6, 2017

8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Beltrami Electric
(in the garage)

4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji
(near Paul Bunyan Communications)

- Access to 91 booths and the comfort of indoor shopping!
- Huge variety of NEW and USED merchandise!
- All fees (rent, entrance, food) go to the United Way of Bemidji



Operation Round Up® awards \$26,142 (continued from page 3)

Thank you Beltrami Electric Cooperative members!



Seated: Morgan Gibbs, North Country First Responders; Angie Theis, Project Linus; Misty Littlewolf and Joseph Malmo, Jr., Laporte School & Community Garden; Kristin Faris, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Philip's Conf.; Mary Knox-Johnson, Northern Artist Association; Kristine Cannon, Bemidji Community Theater; Shirley Gilmore and Cynthia Hansen, Lady Slipper Scenic Byway.

Standing: Tricia Andrews; Headwaters School of Music & the Arts; Sharon Lembke, ORU Trust Board; Mark Bovee; Northstar Sportsmens Club; Andrea Ohnstad, Boys & Girls Club of Bemidji; Caroline Larson, Support Within Reach; Alan Colliander, Northstar Sportsmens Club; Cori Rude, Concordia Language Villages; Barry Karpinski, All Pro Dads; Denise Johnson, Bemidji Area Senior Class Party; Jordan May, Red Lake Homeless Shelter; Denae Alamano, United Way of Bemidji Area; Skip Anderson and Stephen Chadwick, Clearwater Lake Area Association; Tanya Hasbargen, Bemidji Rotary Foundation; Mike Supan, Lady Slipper Scenic Byway; Seth Tramm, Solway Volunteer Fire Department; Steve Ross, Lady Slipper Scenic Byway; Randy Frisk, ORU Trust Board; Marilyn Miller and Lorie Yourd, Watermark Art Center.