

NORTHERN

L G H T S

August 2017

Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open

Friday, Aug. 18, 2017

Castle Highlands Golf Course



*Be part of the 13th
annual Beltrami
Electric Touchstone
Energy® Open to raise
funds for the United
Way of Bemidji Area!*

Operation Round Up grants awarded – page 3

2017 Youth Tour recap – page 8



Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



United Way
of Bemidji Area



- Tournament format is a five-person team scramble.
- 12:30 p.m. shotgun start
- Early bird entry fee is \$70 per person before Aug. 11.
(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. 11, entry fee is \$80 per person.
- **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA.**

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

Beltrami Electric
Touchstone Energy®
OPEN

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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Monday – Friday

Member Service: 218-444-2540
or 1-800-955-6083
www.beltramielectric.com

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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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: The 13th Annual Touchstone Energy® Open will be held on Friday, Aug. 18 at Castle Highlands Golf Course, north of Bemidji.



A word about safety

Jared Echternach, CEO

A word about safety

This month I'd like to touch on vehicle safety. Each year our line crews respond to several vehicle accidents involving our power poles – despite the fact more than 72 percent of our lines are now underground.

If you are in an accident with a power pole, your vehicle may be charged with electricity. If this is the case and you step out of the car, you will become the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it – creating a risk for electrocution if you leave the vehicle.

While downed power lines can sometimes reveal they are energized by arcing and sparking with electricity, this is not always the case. Power lines do not always show signs that they are energized, but they are just as lethal.

After an accident, stay in the car, and tell others to do the same. If you come upon an accident involving power lines, do not approach the accident scene. If you see someone approaching, warn them to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and utility services. Do not leave your vehicle until a utility professional has told you it is safe to do so.

The safest place to be is almost always inside the vehicle. The only circumstance when you should exit the vehicle is if it is on fire – and those instances are rare. If you must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Continue to hop with your feet together to safety. Doing this will ensure only one point of contact and avoid a potential of different strengths of electric current running from one foot

to another, which can be deadly.

Understanding how to react in the case of vehicle contact with a power pole could be the difference between life and death.

Community Solar

Construction continues on our community solar project. The 80-kilowatt (kW) array is located in front of our headquarters facility and is scheduled to come online in August. This project is a great example of how local control and decision making is much better than legislative or regulatory mandates. Members who want to participate in this project are able to do so. If you are interested in purchasing local, renewable energy without the cost and hassle of a rooftop system, this may be a good option for you. We have a limited number of subscriptions available so if you are interested in this program, please contact the cooperative.

Touchstone Energy® Open

The 13th annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy Open is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 18, at Castle Highlands. This event is held each year as a fundraiser for the United Way of Bemidji Area. Please join us for a fun time for a great cause. Registration information is included in this issue of *Northern Lights* or online at www.beltramielectric.com.

Beltrami County Fair

The Beltrami County Fair is scheduled for Aug. 9-13. Your cooperative will again have a booth in the commercial building. We'd love to visit with you, so please stop by and learn about our programs and services, register for door prizes and have a treat on us. See you at the fair!

Operation Round Up® awards \$23,357.56 to community programs

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board for Operation Round Up® recently awarded grants to 22 area nonprofit and community organizations totaling \$23,357.56. The board had a very difficult task as they received 26 grant requests totaling almost \$55,000 and there was only a little over \$23,000 in funds available.

The board was diligent in their review process of all grant applications and there were many worthy projects in the group.

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 Sept. 30, 2017. Funding guidelines and grant applications are available at the Beltrami Electric Cooperative office or by visiting our website at www.beltramielectric.com.



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

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
All-Pro Dads	All-Pro Dads Program	\$ 1,000
Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota-ND	MedicAlert & Safe Return Scholarship Program	\$ 200
Blackduck Backwoods Bash	Blackduck Backwoods Bash	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Community Theater	Fairy Tale Courtroom-Parks Project	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Public Library	1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	\$ 1,000
Blackduck School District #32	Balance Training for All Grades	\$ 1,000
Blackduck School District #32	Portable Wireless Mic System	\$ 2,000
Community Resource Connections	Tummy Time Blanket Project	\$ 500
Headwaters Science Center	KinderBuild Project	\$ 1,500
Hubbard County 4-H	4-H Ambassador Mystery Trip	\$ 1,000
Hubbard County 4-H	4-H Volunteer Retreat	\$ 500
Minnesota Thrive Initiative-Bemidji	Early Childhood Mental Health Professional Education Series	\$ 600
Northern Artist Association/Gallery North	Land a Lunker Walleye Mural Project	\$ 1,000
Northland Composite Squadron	Glider O Flights	\$142.56
Northland Composite Squadron	Physical Training Program	\$ 160
Northome School - 4 th Grade	Trout in the Classroom	\$ 200
Red Lake Nation College	RLNC - Success Oriented Student Program	\$ 2,055
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Philip's Conference	Hope in Bemidji	\$ 1,500
Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. Kateri Conference	Walk for the Poor	\$ 1,000
United Way of Bemidji	Holiday Gifts for Kids	\$ 3,000
Voyageurs Expeditionary School	Hand Dryers for Restrooms	\$ 1,000
Waskish Township	Airport Public Safety	\$ 2,000

Thank you Beltrami Electric Cooperative members!



Seated: Ray Berger, Waskish Township; Annie Butler Ricks, Headwaters Science Center; Steve Cashman, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Kateri Conference; Joann Gardner, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Phillip's Conference; Dan King, Red Lake Nation College; Danae Alamano, United Way of Bemidji Area. **Standing:** Terry Belanger, All Pro Dads; Colleen Joyce, Bemidji Public Library; Misty Frenzel, Blackduck Backwoods Bash; Mark Lundin, Blackduck School District #32; Kathy Sanders, Northern Artist Association/Gallery North; Kathy Skinner, Voyageurs Expeditionary School; Jill O'Hotto, Minnesota Thrive Initiative-Bemidji; Tammy Rogers, Northland Composite Squadron/Civil Air Patrol; Cindi Jernigan, Community Resource Connections/Child and Parent Connections; Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board Member Randy Frisk; Nokomis Paiz, Red Lake Nation College; Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board Member Lea Perkins.

Air-source heat pumps

A versatile choice for your home

Air-source heat pumps (ASHP) are a very efficient way of cooling and heating your home, providing year-round versatility. Since heating and cooling account for more than half of the energy used by a typical household, those efficiencies can be very positive for the pocketbook, especially when you factor in rebates from your cooperative.

How do ASHP's work?

Unlike a furnace, an ASHP doesn't burn fuel to make heat. It efficiently uses electricity to move heat from one place to another. Think of an ASHP as a heat transporter constantly moving warm air from one place to another, to where it's needed or not needed, depending on the season.

Heat pumps work exactly like a central air conditioner in the summer, transferring heat from the inside to the outside. In the winter, a reversing valve allows them to transfer heat from the outside to the inside of the home. Heat pumps provide all of a home's summer cooling needs and much of the heating needs. Air-source heat pumps are often coupled with a modulating electric plenum heater to provide comfort at any outdoor temperature. This combination allows you to take advantage of the high efficiency heat pump down to 5 degrees and these systems can have a seasonal efficiency of 200 percent. For members utilizing the discounted off-peak electrical rate, a backup heating system such as an LP furnace is used during periods of peak electrical demand. For those members who prefer an all-electric option, an ASHP can be coupled with a Steffes electric thermal storage (ETS) system.

Regardless of whether a heat pump is utilizing our off-peak rate (with qualified backup) or not, the high efficiency makes it a competitive and smart choice for cooling and supplemental heating. The high efficiency of a heat pump is a valuable addition to any gas furnace, providing the ability to choose between the fuels based on system efficiency and operating cost. ASHP provide both cooling during both those hot summer days and heating during the cooler season.



What options do I have?

Standard

A standard ASHP is a self-contained unit that uses existing ductwork to both heat and cool. The system has two main components: an outdoor compressor unit and an indoor air handling unit. The two units are linked with refrigerant tubing and a connected electric supply wire.

Mini-split

A mini-split ASHP is an economical and efficient option for homes without an existing ducted system or when adding ductwork may be impractical or too expensive. Similar to a standard ASHP, an outdoor unit is placed outside your home and is connected to an indoor unit by small cables and a refrigerant line. The indoor unit is typically mounted high on the wall of the room and can be preset to run automatically or be adjusted by a remote control. Many homeowners rave about the comfort, improved de-humidification and savings that their mini-split heat pumps provide.

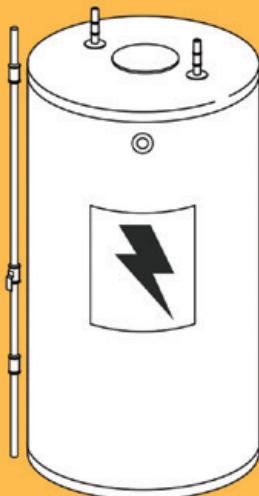
Member benefits

Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing home or simply buying a new appliance, your cooperative offers professional advice and a wide array of incentives to ensure you get the most for your energy dollar.

When considering a new ASHP, remember that Beltrami Electric Cooperative offers rebates to help with the initial cost of purchase. All rebate and incentive programs have certain restrictions and requirements that must be met before a rebate can be issued. Please contact the energy services department at **218-444-2540** for more information.

The Hidden Battery

Using Your Electric Water Heater for Heating Storage



1

Electric water heater:

Controllable, high-efficiency electric water heaters are in homes.

2

During times of high demand:

Water heaters are temporarily turned off, helping you to save money on your monthly bill.

3

When demand drops:

Water heaters are turned back on to run during the night and provide warm water for the next day.

Benefits

Co-ops avoid peak pricing

Members receive a reduced off-peak electric rate.

Allows utility to take full advantage of wind generation, which is most active at night.

Water heater storage

Electric water heaters are essentially pre-installed thermal batteries that can be used to manage the storage of heat energy, allowing the co-op to take heavy energy loads off-line during peak periods. This saves energy and money for members.

Contact Beltrami Electric Cooperative to learn more about load management programs.



Energy awareness and tracking makes it easy to understand your home or business

The meter at your home or business provides you mountains of useful data. Now you can spot trends, track your usage and even receive energy-related alerts and challenges. It's your energy, make the most of it.



Data and alerts where you are

Alerts and meter data are accessible across lots of different devices and our mobile alert system keeps you up-to-date even when you're on the road.



Track and compare your usage

Track your usage against weather conditions and see how you compare to your own usage from previous years.



Customizable markers

Track important events and monitor associated energy changes with handy markers. Using markers helps the system know how and when to provide important alerts.



Energy challenge

Set an energy savings goal and track your progress over time.

Please visit <https://mymeter.beltramielectric.com>.

Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
- Ads submitted by July 5 – will be published in August issue.
- Ads submitted between July 6 and August 5 – will be published in September issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.belramielectric.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.

For Sale:

14' Aluminum fishing boats, Alumacraft, Loweline and Crestliner, \$195-\$475/each. Call 760-8266.

Sea Ray 17' boat in mint condition, with covers and all accessories, 125 Mercruiser engine, Shorelander trailer with electric winch. \$9,450, please call 751-9357 or cell 766-5200.

New pearl 5' Whirlpool bath tub. Air, water jets never been used. New \$2,800 will sell for \$1,200. 766-0228.

Two pairs of 12x48 wooden snowshoes with leather bindings (Northwoods brand, made in Canada). About 40 years old, used but not very much. \$100 for both. REI Summit snowshoe poles, made in Austria by Komperdell. Only used a couple times, paid \$100, asking \$70. Buy the snowshoes and the poles for \$150. 368-1643.

1981 Corvette, white with red interior, well maintained, updated interior and paint. Great car! Please call or text 556-5395.

John Deere 4400 combine with JD belt pickup and straw chopper. \$4,000. Call 556-2045.

4-kW 120/240V generator \$200. 4'x 6' utility trailer \$300. 5 hp 2" water pump \$50. 854-7444 before 8 p.m.

American Harvest jet stream oven, like new. \$25. Bemis air purifier and humidifier, \$25. 586-3464.

Pre-finished solid wood American Walnut 5" x 0.75", 475 sq. feet. New and in box. \$5/sq ft. Call 770-500-5057.

1998 18' Hornet by Damon travel trailer. Very good condition. \$5,300 cash only. 760-1845.

760 MF RWA 1980 V8 Hydro 2,292 hours, field ready; 860 MF V8 Hydro, 1,845 hours, 1/2 track rice combine with RWA, 1982 with 20 ft. rice head. 9001 pickup head for MF. 9024 straight head bat reel for MF. 766-2461.

Wood stove: Drolet/Myriad with blower, used one season. Bob at 218-443-0426.

Beautiful flowers! Local organic flower farmer wants to deliver 4 weekly bouquets at one monthly price of \$85. Annuals, perennials and herbs. Every bouquet will surprise you. Call 556-0586. DIYers for special events, call too! We'll work something out!

Various sized coil spring and conibear traps. Also some trapping supplies. Price negotiable. 586-5541.

Massey Ferguson 3-point rear blade 8 ft. Ex. cond., heavy duty \$750. 335-0144.

2010 Quicksilver 18 SUT by Liv'n Lite. All aluminum tent trailer. Toy hauling flatbed 82" x 8'6" camper 83" x 8'6" long, 22'6" total length, dual axle, 12V and 110V converter. In great shape. Low profile and light, tows like a dream. \$4,900/obo. 239-0140.

Alaskan model snowshoes, excellent condition, two twin beds w/legs, canoe bookcase, old upright desk, pool table, jiffy 10" ice auger runs good, Clam 5600 canvas portable fish house, 10" table saw w/stand. Call 407-7458, will send pictures.

Long stem silk calla lilies for weddings or celebratory gatherings. \$75 for 350 lilies. Call 854-7212.

2014 Crossroads 28RL 5th wheel; 30.5 ft. long with 3 slideouts. Well taken care of. A/C, heat plus many add-ons. Towed by 2011 2500HD Chevy Silverado. Total package is \$50,000. 5th wheel is \$24,500. Call 766-2200 or 766-2503 or email oliveoyol@paulbunyan.net for pictures and questions. Truck not sold separately.

Computer desk, file cabinets, small book stand, king mattress set; dining table (72x44 W, 2-20" leaves) 6 chairs and 60-inch buffet, Cabin Fever log furniture; queen futon, ottoman and end table. 368-5477.

All working/usable/ready to use: Lowrey organ, mahogany Duncan Phyfe dining room set/6 chairs, maple double head/footboard, multiple singleton antique rockers/chairs, 2 recliners, singleton tables, area rugs both 5x7 and 8x10, brass lamps, refrigerator, freezer. Call: 766-8676 after 6 p.m.

Good used Kieffer dressage saddle. Serial number 9404. \$500 firm. 759-7730.

2003 Bobcat, S-160, 930 HRS, best offer, 647-8514 or 766-3228.

Highland beef cattle breeding stock for sale. Highland cattle are nice looking, small, hardy, easy to care for, do well on just grass and have very lean meat. We have a variety of animals for sale, including this year's calves, yearling and two-year-old heifers and bulls, plus young cows, in a range of colors - white, tan, red and dun. 467-3584.

Pine slab wood, \$60 a pickup load or \$90 cut and split, you haul. 224-2443.

Wheelchair and walker with seat, like new condition. \$350 for both/obo. Call after 6 p.m. 308-1485.

Pentax ZX-50 SLR Camera with Pentax 35-80 lens and factory case. Excellent condition only a few rolls of film shot, \$75. Miller 330 A/B/TIG/Stick Welder, older transformer machine in excellent condition with cart, foot pedal and new torch. Gas bottle not included, \$800. 280-2537.

Craftsman riding mower. DLT, auto transmission. 46" cut, 25 hp. Extra drive belt. Well maintained. Always stored indoors. Runs good, ready to mow. \$450. Beccida. 854-7483.

2004 Winnebago Adventurer 38' Class A Motor home. Main awning and 3 slides. 64,000 miles on Ford gas engine. New brakes and tires. Central heat and A/C. 5.5 kW generator, backup camera, convection/microwave, outdoor stereo, all appliances and fixtures. Book value \$66,800. All items in excellent condition. \$47,000. 731-9628.

25' x 180' beige pontoon canopy – excellent condition, \$250. Sno-Cat trailer, older model, new tires, lights, bearings, \$180. Savage model 111-7mm bolt, 3x9x40 Bushnell, sling, American walnut, monte-carlo stock, \$300. 701-317-5011.

Greenbriar china by Vita Craft. 12 place settings with 5 pieces to each setting. Also, 3 bowls, gravy boat, meat platter, sugar and creamer, \$60. Also, 12 crystal glasses, \$10. 712-662-3369 or 712-660-1508.

Portable fire pit, \$30. 766-8781.

Man's sale: one-day only, Sat., Aug. 12, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Lots of tools! (hand and power) Drill press, tire changer, etc. Also, 4 cords of pine, birch and poplar, all cut and split. Some things for ladies also. Call for directions: 224-2448.

Mixed firewood, cut and split, \$45 standard pickup load, you haul. Kelliher area. 647-9003 or 320-256-7255.

Book: These Old Boots by James Lowmaster, covering his life raised on a dairy farm in Michigan during the Great Depression and WWII, his Marine Corps service and adventures as a professional forester on three Indian Reservations, including Red Lake. Two volumes, 802 pages, \$45. (Mailed \$52). Call 586-2492.

'90 Ford F150 pickup w/topper. Rebuilt engine, \$600/obo. '96 Dodge Caravan, \$400/obo. '98 Plymouth Voyager, \$400/obo. You haul. 759-9764.

Barkbuster pto wood-splitter, \$200. Front-end loader for Ford 9N, 2N, 8N, \$350. 7ft pull-behind double disc, \$100. 854-7317.

1998 Chevy Blazer, good motor, transmission, transfer case, battery, tires, \$1,500 or trade for ATV

or UTV. Parts worth more. 854-7347 or 766-3158, leave message.

Queen size Sleep Number bed in great condition. \$308-1575.

Folding 4-step aluminum pickup camper steps, used once, \$220. Hudson Bay 6-point blanket, queen size, like new, \$275. 547-1744.

Two Starrett micrometers, 2", \$20; 3", \$25. Surface gauge, \$25. Tool makers clamps (2), \$15. Screw pitch gauge 3 1/2 to 32 thirds, \$10. Comb. Hand vise (tool makers, mechanic, hobby), \$15. German 12" metric depth gauge with sliding Vernier HD and soft leather case, \$30. 755-1581.

STA-rite 1 hp horizontal multi-stage jet pump, like new, \$250/obo. TACO boiler stove water pump w/ replacement cartridge and thermostat (for outdoor wood stove), \$80/obo. Heat exchanger/radiator 19"x21" for outdoor wood stove, \$35/obo. Call 333-3651.

351 Winchester self-loaders with rare 10 round clip, model 07, clean, \$775. 751-5667.

2004 Oldsmobile Alero, less than 55K miles, new tires and brakes. \$4,000. 224-3526.

Wanted:

Looking for a corn cob elevator, cheap. 444-7308.

Auctioneer amp and speakers good for 1/2 mile or more. For free public reading events. 320-223-3615.

Bolens Lawn and Garden tractors running or not, attachments or not. If you called me and I haven't called you back, please call again. 835-6304.

Older small riding lawn tractor in good condition. 407-7458.

Will pet sit and/or house check while you are gone. Leave message when you call please. 766-6510.

Free:

35 mm slide projector/slide scenery/slide containers, viewer, lots of accessories. 586-3464.

Picnic table, 96 x 30, metal frame, needs new wood. Call 751-1907.

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.belramielectric.com.

Come visit us at the Beltrami County Fair!

Visit the BEC booth at the fair starting THURSDAY, AUG. 10! Register for a chance to win a door prize!



Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, June 28, 2017. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including discussion on the May financials and updates on the new meter system and Northern Solar. He also discussed the Conservation Improvement Program and legislative issues affecting the electric industry.
- A cooperative member addressed the board regarding right-of-way clearing.
- Sid Sletten presented the long-range financial forecast and gave the financial report for May.
- Brad Schmidt, Rural Utilities Service (RUS), discussed terms and conditions of borrowing from the Federal Financing Bank (FFB).
- CEO Echternach presented revisions to various BEC policies as recommended by the policy committee.
- The board discussed MN Statute 216B.164 regarding the assumption of authority granted by the Minnesota Legislature regarding cooperative cogeneration and the dispute resolution process.
- President Coe appointed Craig Gaasvig as the NRECA regional meeting voting delegate and Muri Nord as the alternate, and Rick Coe as the RESCO annual meeting voting delegate and Muri Nord as the alternate.
- 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.
- Adopted a Resolution approving the long-range financial forecast.
- Adopted a Resolution accepting the terms and conditions established by RUS for the FFB loan.
- Approved revisions to BEC policies.

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017.



Like your cooperative at www.facebook.com/BeltramiElectricCoop for outage updates during summer storm season, safety and energy savings tips.

SYSTEMWIDE METER UPGRADE – installing new meters to help serve you better

Work continues on our systemwide meter upgrade and to date we have installed more than 11,000 new meters. Our existing metering system was installed in the mid-1990s and has reached its end-of-life, and the manufacturer is no longer supporting this older equipment.



In April, BEC contracted with a third party metering group, Allegiant Utility Services, to assist in completing the remaining meter exchanges. Allegiant Utility Services' vehicles have its logo, as well as signage designating that they are a contractor for Beltrami Electric. The contractors from Allegiant Utility Services also wear an ID badge with their name and photo.

The new meters will improve reliability and give you more tools and opportunities to manage and save energy. The impact of the installation is minimal. Co-op members can expect to lose power for a few minutes on the day of installation. You may need to reset your electronic devices, such as digital clocks. In addition, the next bill will show two meter readings: one from the old meter and one from the new meter. We will not need to access your home or business, nor will you need to be on-site when this work is performed.





Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

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Like the waters and rivers, history flows everywhere in Washington, D.C.

Beltrami Electric chose me to join the representatives from other Minnesota cooperatives on a Youth Tour to our capital. I received the gift of experiencing this history myself. On our first morning, before the heat seeped into the city, a guide showed us the monuments, the ones to Vietnam, the Korean War, Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Roosevelt. Vietnam first, a black gash into the smooth lawn of the Mall. At the Korean Monument, statues waded through juniper rice patties, wet and cold but fighting on. Lincoln's was the greatest, though, like he was. Just a man, sitting there, worry on his shoulders, but peace in his eyes, like he knew it would all be right, sometime.

We bussed out to Mount Vernon the next day. Washington's home looked a bit small in today's conception of a mansion, and lonely, when you looked at all the elegant furniture as you passed through. A woman posing as the president's cook reminded me how much living went on there once, though. She spun us a story, laughing, about Washington's granddaughter and her love for mush cakes. Fields and gardens surrounded the mansion, neatly kept up, though perhaps no longer by colored slaves.

In the afternoon, we cruised along the Potomac, with an important building sometimes to the starboard side or port. The naval research laboratory. The Pentagon. The Kennedy Center, tall marble with trees growing on the balcony. We later watched the Sound of Music there. Watergate, the curvy-building scene of the scandal I'd heard confusing bits of all my life.

Other afternoons, we went to museums, lots of museums. At the Smithsonian Art Gallery there were paintings, of course, famous ones. I skipped by them half bewildered – Vincent Van Gough, Claude Monet, medieval frescos – but we were on a time schedule. A friend and I ate at the Sculpture Garden's café, casually ordering spinach-artichoke pasta, baked in a ceramic dish. There was a Natural History Museum too, full of stuffed animals (non-plush) and pretty stones. The Holocaust Museum made me think the most, though. It's hard to realize what depths of brutality humans are capable of.

Wednesday, we went to the Capitol. Our Minnesota senators and several congressmen, including Rick Nolan and Collin Peterson, spoke to our group. Afterwards, Representative Nolan's interns took us on a tour of the capitol. We slipped into a session of the senate, with occasional "Aye" votes breaking the galleries' silence and the senators' low talk. We saw the White House, but from across the street – security guards strung out the yellow tape just as we walked by. Our coordinator Gayle took our pictures in front of the Supreme Court building.

It's hard to give a picture of the capital in just a few words, though. There's so much more color, more experiences I didn't have room to share. Really, it was you, the members of Beltrami Electric, who sent me. Thank you a lot. - **Mara Cobb**

