

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

August 2019



## Friday, Aug. 23, 2019

### Castle Highlands Golf Course

*Be part of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Beltrami Electric Touchstone Energy® Open to raise funds for the 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 Friday, Aug. 16  
*(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. 16, entry fee is \$80 per person
- **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UNITED WAY OF BEMIDJI AREA**

*For more information or to register, please call Bob Gregg at 218-444-3622.*

Operation Round Up grants awarded – page 3  
Youth Tour recap – page 8

United Way  
of Bemidji Area



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Monday – Friday

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

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

### Board of Directors

Chair	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Minnkota Director)
Vice Chair	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
President and CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - [wade@kooninspections.com](mailto:wade@kooninspections.com)

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

218-652-2213 – 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 lines, television cables, pipelines, utility electrical lines, and municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

### STAY CONNECTED!



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## Structured to serve our members

Jared Echternach, *President and CEO*

Recent news articles published both nationally and in Minnesota have falsely asserted that electric cooperatives are not regulated. They question the value of self-governance or why cooperatives are different from other utilities. We want to set the record straight on these points.

We don't take for granted what it means to be different from other electric providers. We appreciate and embrace our differences because it means we can serve you, our member, in a manner that best meets your needs. While there are dozens of positive ways electric cooperatives differ from other utilities, everything we do revolves around our unique business model and our local, not-for-profit structure.

Like all electric cooperatives in the state, Beltrami Electric is owned by our neighbors, friends and community members. Because of this member-ownership structure, the directors you elect to govern the cooperative are entrusted to make decisions that are in the best interests of our local communities.

This type of self-governance is successful in many forms – through schools, churches, credit unions, communications and other various types of cooperatives. While this structure allows for local decision-making, it's important to recognize that self-governed organizations – including Beltrami Electric – must adhere to all local, state and federal laws and regulations. In that light, electric cooperatives are, in fact, significantly regulated.

We are under considerable oversight through hundreds of Minnesota statutes and by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). We follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, National Electrical Safety Code® standards and

Environmental Protection Agency regulations, to name just a few. Where PUC regulation primarily differs for electric cooperatives versus other utilities is in rate regulation. The PUC plays a regulatory role for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in the rate-making process to provide checks and balances between shareholders and ratepayers. Without this oversight, it could be in the IOUs' interest to charge the highest rates possible to return profits to their shareholders.

Because the board members, who are setting rates for Beltrami Electric, are also members and users of co-op-generated electricity, there is no benefit in charging any more than necessary for power. Beltrami Electric undertakes extensive cost-of-service studies to ensure rates are appropriate and adequate to solely cover the costs of providing service. Margins at the end of the year are allocated back to the membership based on their patronage.

To govern effectively, Beltrami Electric's directors bring a diverse and well-rounded background to the boardroom. Our directors have financial skills, industry knowledge, an understanding of regulatory and legislative policymaking and an aptitude for determining the ongoing and future strategic direction of your cooperative.

Since 1940, the cooperative business model and core principles have been guiding us as we make long-term decisions to ensure safe, reliable, affordable energy for our members. We're proud of our track record of powering homes, businesses, schools, health care facilities and other essential services in our communities. If you have questions about your cooperative, please don't hesitate to contact us – we're right here.

# Operation Round Up® helps local programs

The Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust Board for Operation Round Up® met in July to review 27 applications that it received requesting funding for various local programs. The board awarded grants to 25 local programs totaling \$20,325.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a charitable program designed to give members a means of working together to use our small change to make a big impact in our local communities. Together we are doing some wonderful things for our local communities.

The average amount a member will pay is 50 cents a month or \$6 a year, while the maximum annual contribution possible is \$11.88 per year. Contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible and will be shown on your billing statement. Participation is voluntary and members may opt out at any time by contacting our office. Members can also make an additional contribution and may contact our office to do so.



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

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
Belle Thalia Creative Arts Space/Mask & Rose Women's Theater	Housing assistance for the cast of "Nature," a walking play	\$ 500
Bemidji Community Theater	Theater Under the Pines – "Mother Knows Best"	\$ 500
Bemidji High School Boys Soccer Booster Club	Warm-up jackets	\$ 1,000
Bemidji High School English & Special Education Department	Senior memory book	\$ 400
Bemidji High School Girls Soccer Booster Club	Warm-up jackets	\$ 1,000
Bemidji Marching Band Booster Club	Bemidji High School Marching Band support	\$ 1,062
Bemidji State University Foundation	Scholarships for female athletes at BSU	\$ 750
Bemidji Symphony Orchestra	Summer Pops concert	\$ 500
Blackduck Backwoods Bash	Backwoods Bash	\$ 1,000
Blackduck Elementary School	Books for fifth-grade reading program	\$ 450
Blackduck High School Trap Team	USA Clay Target National Championship	\$ 1,000
Blackduck Public School	Funds for physical education equipment	\$ 250
Blackduck Woodcarvers Arts Festival	2019 festival enhancement	\$ 1,000
Boys & Girls Club of Leech Lake Area	Traditional native flute class for youth	\$ 750
First City Singers of the Headwaters School of Music & Arts	Permanent name badges for members	\$ 250
Friends of Lake Bemidji State Park	Volleyball court upgrade	\$ 800
Heartland Christian Academy	Physical education program equipment upgrade	\$ 1,000
Kelliher FCCLA	FCCLA National Conference	\$ 500
Laporte Public School	Preschool rebuild (3- and 4-year-olds)	\$ 900
Red Lake Community Center	New sign for Red Lake Warrior Shady Park	\$ 585
Red Lake Housing Authority	Fire safety initiative (smoke/CO <sub>2</sub> detectors, fire extinguishers)	\$ 1,500
St. Vincent de Paul-St. Philip's Conference	Hope in Bemidji	\$ 1,500
United Way of Bemidji Area	Imagination Library Early Literacy Program	\$ 600
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	Uniforms for military funeral honors	\$ 1,000
Voyageurs Area Council-Boy Scouts of America	Support for Boy Scouts of America Program	\$ 1,528

*Small change makes a*  
**BIG DIFFERENCE!**





# SMARTHUB

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- Report service issues
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[www.smarthubapp.com](http://www.smarthubapp.com)

# Rebates & Incentives *for our members*

Beltrami Electric Cooperative recognizes that energy conservation is the best way for members to reduce their electric bills. Energy conservation and efficiency strategies play significant roles for Minnesota cooperatives and municipals in Minnkota Power Cooperative's service territory. PowerSavers offers incentives for a variety of projects.



- Refrigerator/freezers
- LED lighting
- Various commercial and industrial incentives
- Electric water heaters
- Insulation & air sealing
- Washer/dryers
- Heat pump systems
- Programmable and smart thermostats
- Electric vehicle (EV) chargers



Beltrami Electric also offers rebates on the installation of NEW off-peak electric heating equipment as part of Minnkota Power's Powerful Value campaign. For more information about this campaign, visit [www.beltramielctric.com](http://www.beltramielctric.com) or contact our Energy Services department at 444-2540.



# Easy DIY projects to save energy

Now is the perfect time to tackle some DIY efficiency projects for your home. You don't have to be an energy expert to do these! By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. Plus, you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

## Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, outdoor fixtures, dryer vents, water spigots, electrical wiring, cable, and gas and plumbing lines can save energy and money.

Windows are a little different as it is not as easy to detect gaps by



looking for sunlight. Smoke pens can also be used to detect air flow; however, an easy way to look for gaps is to

see where there is no caulking or old, worn caulking that needs replacing. Look around the frame/seams of the window from the exterior for the best opportunities to apply caulk.

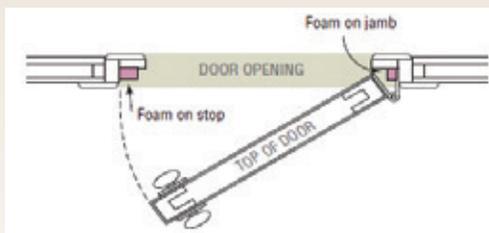
There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

## Weatherstrip your exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weatherstrip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. The best way to find openings and gaps in doors and windows



is to look for sunlight through the cracks. When you approach a door, look at the seals when it is a bright and sunny day. Notice if you can see light seeping through or illuminating the seam. If you do, the seal is not airtight.

Weatherstripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weatherstripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides. Before applying the new weatherstripping, clean the molding with water and soap, and then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, and then cut the weatherstripping to fit each section. Make sure the weatherstripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

## Lighting



Note where you still have incandescent lights and consider replacing them with LEDs – both indoors and outside. Take advantage of Beltrami Electric's incentives for LED bulbs and fixtures –



check out the orange Power Savers Rebates

button on our homepage at [www.beltramielc.com](http://www.beltramielc.com).

For more energy efficiency improvement ideas, use the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool (H.E.A.T.) at [TouchstoneEnergy.com](http://TouchstoneEnergy.com). Answer a few questions about your home and it will give you quick tips and fixes, designed around your space, to help you cut down on your energy and costs.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
  - Ads submitted by August 1 will be published in the September issue.
  - Ads submitted between August 2 and September 1 will be published in the October issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) (preferred).
- Include your name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.
- All ads must be **50 words or fewer** 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:

Farmall H Tractor w/loader/bucket, Farmall H Tractor w/o bucket, McCormick Farmall M w/hydraulic loader/snow bucket. 760-4377.

Solid oak pew from Fort Snelling Chapel 1950's era, 10' long. 444-9750.

WeatherTech floor mats black in color. Were bought for a 2014 Toyota RAV4. For front and back seat. \$25. 751-8629.

Olive green 1997 lower miles Ford V10 E350 Club Wagon XLT 15-passenger van equipped with a hitch. Also single owner black 2001 5-speed lower miles 4-cylinder, 4-door Honda Civic LX sedan with fairly brand new tires. Please call 553-1110 for more information if interested.

2001 PT Cruiser, one owner, good runner, high miles. \$1,000/obo. 214-0103.

2 - 2,100 gallon Norwesco vertical poly water tanks. 87" dia, 98" H, 16" manway, 2" female threaded NPT outlet. Never used. \$800 each. 766-2513.

15,000-lb equalizer hitch bar with sway control. 791-8414.

Craftsman 20 hp lawn tractor, 42" cut, with 3-bin rear bagger and 40" front mount tine de-thatcher. 556-1213.

Dynamark Plus 43" riding lawn mower w/6 speed shift on the go, electric start, 18 hp Twin Briggs and Stratton w/cast iron

sleeves. Runs great, good transmission and tires. Always stored inside. Needs blade engagement cable. \$250/obo. 766-3167.

10-speed bicycle, made in England 1972, Viscount Sebring, needs TLC, \$25/obo. 3-speed bicycle, made in England 1967, Huffy Sportsman, needs TLC, \$100/obo. 2 metal bed frames on rollers, \$15 ea. 49" x 80" double door, 10 windows per door, \$100/obo. 5-cu.-ft. Craftsman wheelbarrow, \$15. Craftsman Bushwacker 20" hedge trimmer, \$30. 4 heavy-duty fatigue mats, \$20 ea/obo. New Microsoft wired keyboard 500, \$15. 586-2534.

Antique cherry-stained three-shelf bookcase with glass doors and three small enclosed cabinets across the top. 68" H x 42" W x 13" D. \$500. 759-2099.

Paddle boat, \$125. Garden utility trailer, \$50. 60" picture window with crank-out side, \$50. 751-2121.

Custom 21' duck hunter's pontoon, no railing, aluminum pontoons. 30 hp Mercury motor with electric start, tilt, motor repair record available. \$2,900. Call 760-3298.

Coleman Evcon 74K Btu central furnace, model# FG9B08012UPIIA. Standard 72" x 80" white clad patio door, screen included. New-in-box: Kohler bypass shower door for above a tub, make offer. 224-3269.

2-Pella sash flip windows, brown metal clad, full screen, GS 24x20, RO 28 1/2 x 46. 1-Marvin sash window, brown metal clad, full screen, GS 16x20, RO 25x40. \$200/obo. Call or text: 701-330-7386.

Beautiful flowers! Local organic flower farmer wants to deliver four weekly bouquets at one monthly price of \$85. Annuals, perennials and herbs. Every bouquet will surprise you. Call 556-0586.

Dark wood table/chair set, 2 garage windows, porch-size screen door (white), stainless appliances – Whirlpool microwave, stovetop w/grill/fan and Bosch dishwasher. 444-3510.

AKC registered fox-red shade and yellow Labs. All vet work completed, full and limited registration available. Guarantees on all puppies and dogs. Some puppies and some starter dogs available. All come from excellent hunting bloodlines. For more information please text or call 244-7605.

## Wanted:

Electric wood planer. Please call after 5 p.m. 224-3466.

Low mileage SUV with AWD or 4WD in good condition. Price range – under \$10,000. 751-7693.

## Infinity Renewable Energy

Using renewable energy to power your home or business is easy with the Infinity Renewable Wind Energy Program. The Infinity program allows our



members to ensure the energy they consume comes from a renewable source like the wind. Infinity can be purchased in blocks of 100 kWh (30¢ for 100 kWh) of wind energy for a portion or 100% of your energy needs.

The best part is that Infinity Renewable Wind Energy provides members with a means of supporting renewable energy without the expense of installing generation equipment on their property.

For more information visit [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) or call BEC at 800-955-6083.



## ARE YOU A "SNOWBIRD"?

*Ensure you receive your Northern Lights!*

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, 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 we 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 Northern Lights 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).*



*Est. 2005*

# BACKWOODS Bash

**BLACKDUCK CITY PARK REST AREA • BLACKDUCK, MN**

**FRIDAY, AUG. 16** – Choice Therapy's Backwoods Bash Kickoff Celebration and Block Party (4-10 p.m.)

**SATURDAY, AUG. 17** – Dash for Cash 5K, Pancake breakfast, lots of family activities including bounce houses, mechanical bull, food vendors, magic show, bingo, pie eating contest, bean bag tournament, climbing wall, grand parade at noon, live music (The Acoust Hicks), Judy & Shannasey's talent & variety show and more!

**SUNDAY, AUG. 18** – Drakes Golf Scramble at Blackduck Golf Course *Visit the Backwoods Bash Facebook page for more information.*

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, June 26, 2019. A quorum of directors was present.

**The following reports were given:**

- President and CEO Echternach presented his monthly report, including employee updates, auditor services and legislative issues affecting the electric industry.
- President and CEO Echternach gave the financial and statistical report and reviewed work orders for May.
- Jolene Kallroos, manager of member services, presented the Red Flag report and reviewed the identity theft prevention process at the cooperative.
- Auditor service bids were reviewed.
- Chair Coe appointed the union negotiations committee.
- Dave Hengel gave an update on Greater Bemidji.
- Directors and the president and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed upcoming meetings, educational classes and conferences.

**The following actions were taken:**

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved the auditor services and accepted a five-year contract from Brady Martz.

*The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2019.*

## Rick Coe receives Red Lantern Award



Rick Coe, Beltrami Electric Cooperative board chair, was presented with the Red Lantern Award by Minnkota Power Cooperative, recognizing his 10 years of service as a cooperative board member. The award

reads: "Just as the lantern was the friendly symbol of light in rural neighborhoods in bygone days, so is rural electrification the symbol of this era of abundant light, progress and better living." Coe is also Beltrami Electric's representative on Minnkota Power's board of directors.

## SEE YOU AT THE BELTRAMI COUNTY FAIR!

Visit our booth in the commercial exhibits building at the Beltrami County Fair

**Wednesday through Sunday  
Aug. 7-11!**



## We are looking for you!



Beltrami Electric is looking for **Claudine Mason** (Red Lake, Minn.). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.

## Chris Henriksen joins Beltrami Electric Cooperative



Chris Henriksen recently joined Beltrami Electric as an electrician in our Energy Services Department. Chris is from the Blackduck area and is a graduate of Blackduck High School and the North Dakota College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D. Chris's professional experiences and community involvement provide an excellent foundation from which to serve our members. Chris comes to us from the local electrical contractor in Bemidji, Minn., where he was the lead electrical service technician for the past 10 years. Chris lives in Blackduck with his wife Gretchen and children Aubree, Rebeka and Cade. Welcome, Chris!



# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.beltramielectric.com

## IN HER OWN WORDS: WILLOW DAMAR

### 2019 YOUTH TOUR | JUNE 15-20



tears. And it should. These are reminders of our past and a warning for our future.

Washington is not just monuments or memorials. It is also the place where real change is made; the center of our government. While

Thank you to Beltrami Electric for choosing me to represent our electric cooperative and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association during the 2019 Youth Tour. Washington, D.C., is home to some of the most important parts of our democracy, whether they be actual documents or historical landmarks. The most memorable parts of this trip are the ones I cannot put into words, such as the gratitude, respect and sadness that places such as Arlington National Cemetery conjure up. Looking out into what seems to be a never-ending sea of white gravestones puts into perspective the price we pay for freedom.

At the Vietnam War Memorial, thousands of flowers sat on the ground along a wall of names and faces. Little notes accompanied them, from brothers, sisters, children, friends and wives – childish scrawl addressed to “Grandpa,” all wishing the fallen and missing well-wishes and a happy Father’s Day. Each of those flowers is from someone – someone who misses someone.

The 9/11 Pentagon Memorial where each victim’s name corresponds to a year on the surrounding wall, the youngest from only 1998. A three-year-old girl, along with the rest of her family. A very beautiful place marked with tragedy. A place to sit, remember and reflect. The United States Holocaust Museum is the kind of place where you don’t feel comfortable breathing. In fact, you can’t breathe at all. There, a quote from Jewish playwright Bertolt Brecht stuck out to me:

*“I know, of course; it’s simply luck. That I’ve survived so many friends. But last night in a dream I heard those friends say of me: ‘Survival of the fittest,’ and I hated myself.”*

Guilt champions all emotions at the Holocaust Museum. It inspires a responsibility to prevent future tragedies. Stolen shoes, clothes and hair. The drawings of children sent to die in gas chambers. It moves even the toughest and most stoic to

in D.C, I had the opportunity to visit the White House and the Senate. Outside the White House, I met with protesters and asked them questions about their causes. One man outside was a part of the longest running protest in United States history. One other was a businessman who appeared to be on his lunch break, taking a short time to fight for a cause he believed in.

While inside the Senate building, I had the opportunity to meet with our senator, Tina Smith. We also had the opportunity to meet with representatives for Amy Klobuchar, Angie Craig, Pete Stauber and Collin Peterson. Everyone was genuinely interested in our questions and took the time to carefully answer them. Amy Klobuchar’s legislative assistant gave us passes to sit in on a Senate session. Watching lawmakers in action is quite awe-inspiring and is a hopeful sight for someone



like me, who one day wishes to be on that floor, making real change.

Overall, the 2019 Washington, D.C. Youth Tour has only increased my passion for politics and political change. I am beyond grateful for a taste of my (hopeful) future. Nothing I can say or do can really explain how much this trip has meant to me. I have had the opportunity to visit the

most important places and monuments in Washington, D.C, as well as being able to make new friends along the way who are just as passionate about politics as I am. Thank you.