


NORTHERN

L I G H T S

September 2016



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July storms



Seeking nominations for the 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award – page 8

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

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

www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

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CEO	Jared Echternach
Editor	Angela Lyseng

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: Crews work to restore power to more than 5,500 members after severe storms ripped through the Beltrami Electric service area in July.



Employees and members respond well during July storms

Jared Echternach, CEO

I would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding during the storms that occurred in mid-July. The three-day event struck mainly the southern portion of our service area, with some additional outages scattered throughout. At its peak, the storm, with wind gusts approaching 100 miles per hour, disrupted power to roughly 5,500 members. Outages began early Thursday morning and our crews had power restored to our members by Saturday morning. I'm very proud of our employees in how they come together during times of adversity – often in difficult conditions. As a member-owner, you can be proud of them as well.

The good news is that more than 70 percent of our lines are now underground. If we had more overhead lines or had not invested in a sound vegetation management program, the storm would have been devastating to your cooperative. I'm often asked why we don't have all of our lines underground. Well, we're working toward that goal, but with just under 1,000 miles of overhead distribution line remaining, it will take decades to accomplish.

I'd like to give a special thanks to our friends from Roseau Electric and PKM Electric who sent line crews and equipment to assist us during our time of need. That's one of the great advantages of being a co-op and one of the seven cooperative principles – Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Help is just a phone call away. We would do the same for our fellow cooperatives in their time of need. Some of our neighboring cooperatives and the city of Bemidji had it much

worse and we were fortunate to have an excellent team of employees assisted by area cooperatives who were spared from the storm.

Employees rolled up their sleeves and went to work in some extreme heat and humidity over the three days. I was impressed with our membership as well. We received many thank you notes for the work our employees did during the restoration effort. On several occasions, members stopped by to personally thank crews or offer them water. Some even made sandwiches. That truly says a lot about our membership, and for that we thank you.

So what did the storm cost? Early estimates are coming in around \$180,000. We will attempt to access state funding to be reimbursed for as much as we can.

The use of technology has aided us tremendously during severe storms. Our outage management system allows us to field more calls, avoid busy signals, respond more efficiently, work more safely and ultimately reduce response time. Members are also able to access our outage map to see if there is an outage in their area. Our new outage texting service was tested as well, and we've seen an uptick of enrollments since the storm. If you are interested in the outage texting feature, please visit our website at www.beltramielectric.com to enroll.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding during the outage response. Let's hope the major storms are behind us for the year and that we have a calm and enjoyable fall.

Operation Round Up®



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

The Beltrami Electric Trust board administers Operation Round Up donations. The Trust board is made up of five members of our community who serve on a voluntary basis. The board will meet quarterly beginning in October to review applications for grants and disburse the funds.

This program’s sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for our community. Through a cooperative and unified program, members will have a means of donating to worthy causes, and, through Operation Round Up, the small change of individuals can add up and make a big difference for our area. Together, we can do some wonderful things for our local communities.

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

Applications due Sept. 30

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

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

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

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

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Buena Vista Fall Colors Festival

Buena Vista Ski Area & Logging Village

(along with the Go & Whoa Harness Club)

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2016, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Family fun, food, horses, wagon rides and more!

Music, crafts, square dancing, wood carving, kids' activities, historic display paintings in train car, walking tours, chain saw carvings and blacksmith demonstrations!

Rates: \$6 (13 and over) • \$3 (5-12) • Under 5 (free)

www.bvskiarea.com • 218-766-9919

(12 miles north of Bemidji on County Road 15)



SAVE BIG with Beltrami's *Co-op Connections Card!*



Summer has quickly come and gone, but that doesn't mean the fun has to end! Did you know Beltrami Electric Cooperative has a program in place to help you save on a variety of goods and services, from hotel discounts to fitness club memberships?

The Co-op Connections® Card is a free program that saves Beltrami Electric members money on everyday expenses. The card also gives you access to Cash Back Mall, where you can get money back for shopping online at more than 3,000 leading online retailers.

Your Co-op Connections Card gives you access to discounts from tens-of-thousands of retailers because it taps into a national business community. But it doesn't just help you save at big box stores and chains. The card also provides discounts for businesses right here in our local community. In fact, it was created specifically to help businesses on our nation's Main streets! Save on studio portraits and framing at Image Photography or save 10 percent off your ticket at Country Kitchen. And the program consistently

adds new retailers to help improve our members' experience. One of the most popular features is the prescription discount benefit. Even if you don't have insurance, the card will help you save up to 85 percent on your medications at more than 60,000 pharmacies across the country.

We know how important it is to save, and we want to make sure that you are taking full advantage of the programs we offer. The Co-op Connections card is an easy way to see the value of being an electric cooperative member. So don't let the end-of-summer blues get you down. Plan a trip for the family, get fit with a discounted gym membership or take advantage of other deals available to you such as saving 10 percent off all beverage purchases at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Bemidji. It really is the one card that does it all!

You can learn more about the discounts we offer by visiting www.beltramielctric.com and clicking on the Co-op Connections Card in the bottom left corner OR www.connections.coop.

2016 power plant tour



Forty-four individuals from Beltrami Electric Cooperative attended the three-day tour this year, which included stops at Garrison Dam, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Fort Mandan, Milton R. Young Station, as well as a trip to the BNI Coal mine. Inclement weather prevented a planned visit to the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center.



Minnkota Power employee Scott Hopfauf takes BEC members on a tour of the Milton R. Young Station. It is very loud inside the plant so members wear mini radios with headphones in order to hear Scott as he talks about the plant operations.



Members had the opportunity to climb aboard the electric dragline "Liberty" after an up-close look at its massive 77-cubic-yard bucket that is used to remove the topsoil and subsoil to expose the coal.



Zack Hein and Wesley Johnson stand in front of the 12-foot-tall steel statues depicting Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Mandan Chief Sheheke at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, N.D. These two junior BEC members pitched in and helped members on the bus by serving snacks, refilling supplies and offering their help wherever needed. Thank you both!



Members visit Fort Mandan and listen to guide Lee Coleman as he talks about the expeditions of Lewis & Clark.

Northern Lights

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

MinnKota V2 "Pontoon" trolling motor. 12-volt, 54 lbs. thrust, electronic-wired foot control, 48" shaft. Like new, never used, no box. \$400. MinnKota Maxxum Pro bow mount 24-volt trolling motor. 80 lbs. thrust, 62-inch shaft, push-pull cable foot control. Built in transducer compatible w/ most brands of depth finders. Used very little. \$600. Call 751-5137 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Fiberglass Tonneau cover with locks. Fits short box pickup. New \$700 to \$800, sell for \$200/obo. Call Vincent 255-4101.

Car top luggage carrier 3ft W, 4ft L 16 inches deep. Used for one trip. \$25. Call 647-8560.

Class C motor home, 2006 Gulfstream Conquest, Ford E 450, less than 23,000 miles, sleeps 8, new tires last year, one slide, well maintained and charming decor. Asking \$39,900. Call 586-2594.

Popular Mechanics Do-it-Yourself encyclopedias, 1969 edition. \$10. 759-2322.

Homemade heavy steel boatlift. 1,500-pound capacity. 224-2547.

1993 Evinrude 8 hp outboard motor, Model #E8RETB. Very clean. No gas tank. \$475. Call 444-8032.

ARE Olympic white fiberglass topper with black tinted windows. Wiring intact for lights. Fits Chevy long-bed box. \$800/obo. Used side-by-side refrigerator. \$125/obo. Call 760-4506 or 760-7015.

Cedar line and corner posts. Available mid-August. Please call 307-746-2040.

2012 800 Polaris RZR ATV. 1,600 miles. Half windshield, mud flaps, running boards, box extenders, roof. Excellent condition \$9,300. 2004 Cadillac Deville. 127,000 miles. Heated seats front and back, sunroof, etc. \$3,900. Call Dan at 766-3773.

Weatherby PA-08 12 GA. Walnut Stock. \$375/obo. 766-5951.

Lightly used compact 56x37x17 oak/pressboard entertainment center \$125, Quality Michigan made firm queen mattress, \$300, Chevy HHR floor mats like new, \$10. 231-429-8276.

Small square bales of oat or barley straw. Oat straw \$3.50 each, barley straw \$4 each. Call before 8 p.m. to 751-8191.

Model 865 MXTA MinnKota fishing motor. Thrust 36 lbs. Foot pedal controls. Automatic steering. Factory reconditioned. Seldom used. Housed indoors during the winter. Purchased at Reeds in Walker in 1997. \$75. 444-7778.

Full size headboard, chest of drawers, dresser and mirror. All items are dark wood. Price \$300. Contact me at 556-4571 and leave message, I will call you back. Must agree to pick up.

Pine king size frame which includes headboard, footboard, metal rails and storage drawers. Dimensions 89W x 102D x 66H. Looks brand new, only used 2 years. \$500. 335-2441.

Four Crestline patio chairs (\$50/each) and table frame with matching umbrella (\$50 for both). Chairs/umbrella excellent condition, table is frame only, no top. Silver/Gray. 701-741-3265.

Aqua-Therm 275 SS wood burning boiler \$1,700. 556-2398.

Firewood for sale, \$25 - \$35 a pickup load. You load and haul, close to Bemidji, call after 4 p.m. or leave a message. 444-0247.

Kenmore refrigerator, Almond, with auto ice maker, \$150. Kenmore 4-burner gas stove, Almond, like new, \$200. Wooden rocker with cushions, \$25. Two-tiered glass table, \$100. Weber grill, \$20. Oil lamps, several styles, 2 sizes. \$12 - \$20. Call 224-2141.

200-gallon water tote. \$45. 243-2844.

2005 Cardinal 33-ft 5th wheel camper, loaded with all the bells and whistles \$14,500. 766-2853.

Grass catcher/bagging system for a Craftsman lawn tractor. Our mower is a 2001 with 48" mowing deck, but this bagging system may fit other years/models. I've only used it one time. Previous owner use, but in great condition. Can email pictures. \$125. 444-6014.

1999 GMC 1500 Blue Suburban SLE, V8, over-sized gas tank. Excellent cond. Runs great. No rust. Auto transmission, antilock brakes, cruise, privacy windows, front/rear control AC/heat. Power windows, locks, mirrors, doors and seats. AM/FM/CD/cassette player. Excellent tires. Luggage rack, dual air bags. Class 3 hitch. Keyless entry. 127 K miles. \$10,995. 368-4834.

Sewing machine in a cabinet with bench, \$25. Call 547-1975.

2013 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic 37 K miles, 103-cubic-inch motor, 6-speed transmission. The bike is in very good shape. It has good tires and it is black \$17,800/obo. 766-7063.

HP printer/copier/fax machine, new. \$75. 647-8839.

New VW Beetle and Rabbit parts. 1971 Rabbit diesel engine and 4-speed transmission, car rusted apart, runs good. Would like to sell everything as a package. Best offer. 835-7332.

Browning BLR 30-6 lever action rifle, clip, BSA scope. Like new. \$750. 751-5667.

Remington model 7600, 30-6 w/Bushnell 3x9x32 scope. AM walnut, case, ammo, \$650. New England Arms 12-ga. pump shotgun, 3" chokes, case, exc. cond. \$175. 701-317-5011.

Older Baldwin electronic 2-keyboard organ, model 131 DE. Works well, includes bench. \$50/obo. 444-9882.

Budweiser beer stein series: 3 Champion Horses, 4 Outlaws, 4 National Parks, 4 Bald Eagles, 4 Songbirds, 3 Dalmations. Individual steins: Louie Lizard, Character Frog, Dalmation, Sovereign of the Sky Eagle, Pewter 150th Anniv, Elvis, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Slouch Cowboy Boot. Call Sheila at 444-2096 for prices, details, questions.

First and second crop alfalfa/grass mix large round bales, small square straw bales. Call 751-0408, leave message.

Dog run material - 2 galvanized gates w/hardware and posts, 15-8' 4x4 treated wood posts; approx 120' of wire fence and 2x4 treated top and bottom rails. Material is installed in current dog run, was new last year. Asking price is \$150 and you disassemble and transport. Call Jerry 847-344-8410.

'92 Mazda V6 Ext Cab 4x4 pickup, white, good tires, runs great, 133K, good cond. \$4,900. RC Airplane J-3 model w/floats and wheels. 60" wingspan, O.S. 60 engine. Includes gas, battery starter. New built engine, broke in, never flown. Cost new: \$950, asking \$600. 766-6777.

Square bales, inside, no rain. \$3.50/bale first-cutting. \$4/bale-second cutting. Call 407-0278.

Two Toyota 4Runners for sale: '93, lots of rust, runs/'90 some rust, knock in engine. Had plans to take '93 engine and put in '90, but have had no time. \$1,300 for both/obo. Call or text 556-8276.

Shore Station vertical aluminum boatlift/6 years old/model SSV1288, 1,200 lb. capacity perfect for fishing boat or jet-ski. Very good condition. Paid \$2,300, asking \$850. Located near Walker. 612-868-3807.

Wanted:

Pallet forks to fit skid steer (Bobcat). Will trade 3-point back blade. 308-4025.

Will pick up for recycling: old appliances, pianos, LP bottles, e scrap, etc. FREE OF CHARGE. Can haul larger items. 75-mile radius of Bemidji. 712-369-3291.

Any extra apples or vegetables. Will pick. 987-2932.

14.9 x 38 tire and tube, decent shape. Rear rims for Ford 9N-2N or complete tractor. 854-7318.

Oneida bow. 760-2254.

Free:

World Book Encyclopedias w/supplemental year books, Book of Science, Childcraft books.

Professional office spaces available for lease (Beltrami Electric's headquarters)



600-square-foot office suite - reception area with three separate office suites. Second floor location, elevator, meeting room, safe, clean, quiet, low-traffic area of well-maintained professional building. For further details contact Sam Mason, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 218-444-3623.



1,315-square-foot office suite - two office suites, including bright corner office, reception area, storage room as well as large workspace. Second floor location, elevator, meeting room, safe, clean, quiet, low-traffic area of well-maintained professional building. For further details contact Sam Mason, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 218-444-3623.

Classified ads rules

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

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.beltramielcric.com.



Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric’s board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Monday, July 25, 2016. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on the storm-related outages of July 21-23, 2016. The board thanked the employees for their hard work following the storm. He also discussed Northern Solar, strategic planning and reported on the Minnkota MAC meeting.
- Sid Sletten gave the financial report for June, including review of work orders and special equipment, mid-year financials and the 2016 second quarter budget.
- Attorney Gerad Paul reviewed Director Fiduciary Duties with the board.
- Lara Hicks, BEC’s representative to the NRECA Youth Tour, reported on her recent visit to Washington, D.C.
- President Coe reported on the MREA board meeting and the Minnkota Power Cooperative board meeting.
- Muri Nord reported on the Square Butte board meeting.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Appointed delegates and alternates for upcoming meetings.
- Approved to change the October board meeting to Oct. 31, 2016, and the November board meeting to Nov. 28, 2016.

The next board meeting will be Aug. 31, 2016.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative’s office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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Statement of Operations Year-to-date: June 2016

	June 2015	June 2016
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 24,497,333	\$ 26,962,990
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 17,187,506	\$ 18,594,846
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 7,245,167	\$ 7,474,160
Total Cost.....	\$ 24,432,673	\$ 26,069,006
Operating Margin.....	\$ 64,660	\$ 893,984
Interest Income.....	\$ 122,313	\$ 121,871
Other Margins.....	\$ 439,288	\$ 70,817
Total Margins.....	\$ 626,261	\$ 1,086,672
kWh Purchased.....	250,777,195	256,712,547
kWh Sold.....	236,202,756	255,934,384
Meters Billed.....	20,463	20,690



Like us on **facebook**

To stay up to date!

Like your cooperative at www.facebook.com/BeltramiElectricCoop for outage updates during summer storm season and other useful information.



mymeter

Track your energy usage on MyMeter



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

Seeking nominations for the 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to our local community? Beltrami Electric is seeking applications for the Touchstone® Energy Community Award, which recognizes businesses, nonprofits and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to our community. Any organization that has helped make their community within the areas served by Beltrami Electric a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 cash award.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing the Touchstone Energy Community Award application form, available at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 4111 Technology Dr NW, Bemidji or online at www.beltramielctric.com. Questions may be directed to Angela Lyseng at 444-3689. The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at Beltrami Electric's office by Oct. 31.

"As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement," CEO of Beltrami Electric Jared Echternach said. *"This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to our community."*

The award recipient will be announced Nov. 4, 2016, and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in February 2017.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 700 rural electric cooperatives that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

For information and to download an application, please visit our website at www.beltramielctric.com.



Touchstone Energy®



2015 award winner - Jack Pine Stables

Past years' winners

- 2004 - Blackduck Tri Sigma General Federated Women's Club
- 2005 - Bemidji Area Task Force on Underage Drinking, Drugs and Gang Activity
- 2006 - Healthy Community Healthy Kids
- 2007 - The Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties
- 2008 - The Radiothon to End Child Abuse
- 2009 - Bemidji Garden Club (Formerly Northwoods Garden Club of the Bemidji Area)
- 2010 - Bemidji Skate and Bike Association
- 2011 - Kelliher Resource Center Committee
- 2012 - Bemidji Area Take a Kid Fishing* *(*Awarded statewide award)*
- 2013 - Blackduck Area Toys for Kids
- 2014 - Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC)*
- 2015 - Jack Pine Stables