

# NORTHERN


L I G H T S

January 2017

*Congratulations Northland Composite Squadron!*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



2016 Touchstone Energy Community Award recipient: Northland Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. Front Row: Patti Schrader, Janelle Vance, Hunter Axelsen, Joshua Godding, Daniel Borck, Sarah Rogers, Hannah Rogers and Tammi Rogers. Back Row: John Scramer, Daniel Kako, Christopher Day, Eric Ihrke, Jeremiah Engst, Jacob Rogers, Calder Karger and Matthew Patrick.

## Northland Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol

named Beltrami Electric's 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative



Beltrami Electric Cooperative has selected Northland Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as the winner of the local 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award from a pool of excellent and worthy nominations. The recognition comes with a \$500 cash award donated to a community service organization/project of their choice and an engraved Touchstone Energy® Community Award plaque.

(article continued on page 8)



# NORTHERN L I G H T S

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Monday – Friday

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

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

## Board of Directors

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

*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](mailto:mntristate@gmail.com)**

*Cass and Hubbard Counties*

**Steve Schauland**

**218-652-2213 or fax 218-333-0451**

*These are the inspectors covering the area served by Beltrami Electric. They can be reached by phone Monday through Friday between 7 and 8:30 a.m. or by fax or email as indicated.*

## Gopher State One Call

**1-800-252-1166 or 811**

**[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)**

Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance.

All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

**ON THE COVER:** Beltrami Electric's 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award recipient, Northland Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol.



## The year in review

Jared Echternach, CEO

2016 was a busy year for your cooperative. We completed the final year of our construction work plan, including major projects along Beltrami CR 39 (Scenic Highway), State Hwy. 1, Archery Road, Mission Road, the Red Lake substation feeder, and south of U.S. Hwy. 2 in Cass Lake. Crews also constructed more than 250 new services and performed more than 100 service improvements for our membership. It's a reassuring sign that our local economy continues to slowly grow.

While we continue to experience modest service growth, 2016 was another soft year in terms of energy sales. Two consecutive mild winters have resulted in decreased energy sales. This has placed upward pressure on rates as there are fewer kilowatt-hours over which to spread our fixed costs. Your board of directors recognizes this and is faced with the financial reality of fluctuating energy sales. If you recall the Polar Vortex of 2014, energy sales were robust and your cooperative was able to spread its fixed costs over more kilowatt-hours sold, helping all our members.

We experienced one major storm in 2016 as high winds ripped through our service area in July causing widespread outages in the southern portion of our system. We received help from neighboring cooperatives allowing us to restore power more quickly. The cost to repair your system as a result of this storm was approximately \$115,000 with no FEMA reimbursement funding available.

While we had our challenges in 2016, you can be extremely proud of your employees for all they

accomplished and for their dedicated response to the July storm.

## Looking ahead

Last month I reported that your board of directors approved the next four-year construction work plan. These projects are designed to maintain and improve service reliability to our members. Major work for 2017 includes projects near the Red Lake Hospital, along State Hwy. 371 north of Walker, along 16<sup>th</sup> St. in Bemidji, along the North Plantagenet Rd. south of Bemidji and along Beltrami CR 39 (Scenic Highway). We also expect to build another 250 new services and perform 100 or so system improvements. These activities will keep our employees busy throughout the year. In addition, we will continue our meter changeout project with completion expected by the end of 2018.

## Northern Solar

While it has been a long process, your board of directors has approved the construction of our Northern Solar community solar array. This is an 80-kilowatt (kW) array to be located at our headquarters facility. 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 and it's great to see progress being made. 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.

## New employee

I'd like to welcome a new employee to your cooperative.

Alex Ames was hired as a full-time apprentice line worker at the end of November. Alex worked for us this past summer as part of our seasonal apprentice line worker program and got a taste of real line work during our July storm. We're glad he's joining our cooperative family. If you see Alex

around town, please welcome him to the co-op.

### Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Congratulations to the Northland Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol on winning our local

Touchstone Energy Community Award. Their dedication to our communities is commendable and epitomizes what we stand for as a member-owned electric cooperative. Thank you for all you do for our communities.

## Beltrami Electric Cooperative collects and delivers items for 17<sup>th</sup> annual mitten tree

Beltrami Electric Cooperative recently delivered donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to area children as part of its annual Mitten Tree campaign for the 17th straight year.

This season, 765 items were collected and distributed to students enrolled in seven Head Start and Early Child Family Education programs throughout the Cooperative's service area. The number of items the Cooperative receives from employees, members and friends continues to be very generous.

We have seen the number of enrolled students grow each year.

As some of you might know, cooperatives around the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions – from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle and it is one that is especially important. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped with a donation to the Mitten Tree this year. By working together, we are able to make a big impact in our local communities, keeping children warm for yet another winter season.



## Alex Ames joins Beltrami Electric Cooperative

Alex Ames recently joined Beltrami Electric in the line department as an apprentice line worker.

Alex is a graduate of Hawley High School. He attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., for one year and then went on to complete the two-year Electrical Line Worker program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena, Minn. His previous work experience includes Moorhead Public Service in Moorhead, Minn., and MPM Construction in Fargo, N.D. Alex is the son of Chuck (Brooke) Ames of Hawley and Jen (Paul) Boerboom of Fargo, N.D. Alex enjoys hunting, fishing and working out. Welcome Alex!





# Five ways to take charge of your energy costs



## 1. Rebates

Your cooperative has an array of rebates designed to make your home or business efficient. We have rebates for electric heating equipment, appliances, CFL and LED light bulbs, programmable thermostats, water heaters and more! Just go to [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) and click on "Energy Services" to see what is available.



## 2. MyMeter

MyMeter is a free online energy tool available for members of BEC. MyMeter can help you take control of your energy usage. With MyMeter you can spot trends, track your usage and even receive energy-related alerts and challenges. It's your energy, make the most of it. Go to [www.beltramelectric.com](http://www.beltramelectric.com) and click on the orange MyMeter button to sign up.



## 3. Kill-A-Watt energy use monitors

Kill-A-Watt monitors are available at local hardware and big-box stores and allow you to see what your 120-volt plug-in appliances and gadgets use on a daily and weekly basis. Here is a hint ... if that old refrigerator is humming ... it might be using more energy than you think. If you would like to check it out without purchasing your own, contact our energy services department today. We have a limited number available for BEC members to check out for a short time at no cost.



## 4. Home electric evaluations

If you just can't figure out where your energy use is going, give your cooperative a call. We can come out and go through your home with you to help better educate you about your energy usage. This service is available to BEC members at no additional charge.



## 5 tips for space heater safety in your home

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

**Materials** – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

**Placement** – While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from

## 5. Load Management Program

Load management, commonly referred to as "off-peak," is a program developed by Minkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, that allows specific loads to be turned off during periods of peak electrical demand. This allows members to reduce the cost of their electric heating by reducing electrical demand expense and in exchange receiving the lower cost off-peak rate.

An adequate backup heating system is required to help meet your home's heating needs during these periods.







# Cold Weather Expo

## JOIN US!

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### BEC Community Room

4111 Technology Dr. NW Bemidji  
218-444-2540 or 800-955-6083

#### Cold Weather Rule Clarification

- How it works and who it affects

#### Assistance Agencies

- Visit with your local agencies
- Learn about qualifying for resources

#### Energy Conservation

- Home Electrical Evaluations
- Ways to make your home more energy efficient
- Rebates on heating and lighting and more!

#### Load Management Information

- What is off-peak and how does it work?
- How to take advantage of a lower electric rate

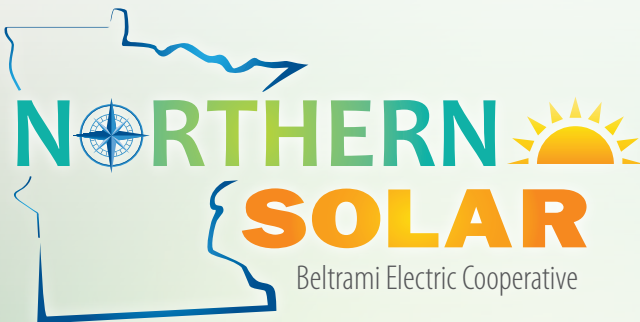
#### Member Tools for your Smartphones/Devices

- Learn about SmartHub
- Learn how to track your energy usage with MyMeter
- Learn about multiple ways to report outages

\* Cookies/refreshments will be available

\* Enter to win one of four \$50 credits on your BEC electric bill

- Tools available on BEC website
- Communications on Facebook-Twitter



## Subscribe to locally-produced, renewable solar energy today!

**B**eltrami Electric Cooperative is moving forward with our plan to build an 80-kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) community solar array at our headquarters.

The array will consist of 180 photovoltaic panels, with a projected annual average of 450 kWh per panel or an average of 37.5 kWh/month. The array will produce more during the sunny days of summer and less during the short days of our Minnesota winters. To provide a point of reference, a residential electric bill averages around 1,253 kWh/month. Members will see the actual kWh production of their portion of the array credited on their electric bill at current electric rates, so if/when electric rates increase, your credit will too.

Community solar gardens like Northern Solar provide interested members an option to purchase renewable, locally-produced, solar energy without the hassle of installing, permitting, maintaining and insuring their own solar array. Members may subscribe to as many panels as they wish, up to the equivalent of their annual average usage. Members who wish to participate but may not want to commit to a subscription may choose to simply purchase a set amount of kWh/month from Northern Solar, up to their average usage, for an additional charge on their electric bill.

If you have been thinking about subscribing but haven't done so yet, the time is now! We have four different payment options, including options for members interested in subscribing to a panel(s) and members who simply want to purchase locally-produced solar energy on a Pay-As-You-Go basis with no contract. Contact our office today for more information.

***Consider purchasing a subscription as a gift for a family member, friend, local community center or church.***

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramelectric.com](http://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 to run additional months.
- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
  - o Ads submitted by Jan. 5 – will be published in February issue
  - o Ads submitted by Feb. 5 – will be published in March 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.
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619

## For Sale:

New pearl 5-foot Whirlpool tub, air and water jets, never been used, new \$2,800 will sell for \$1,800, 766-0228.

'96 Black Chev. K1500 Z71 Extended Cab (no 3<sup>rd</sup> dr). 4WD, 136,000 mi. 5.7L, has rust but motor is excellent. Asking \$1,500. 444-2280.

1997 El Dorado 153K, excellent condition, Idaho car, no rust. \$3,500. M-diesel farm tractor, very clean, new rubber, runs excellent. For more information call Bob 766-2853.

Weather Tech front floor mats for Toyota Avalon compatible years: 2005-2012. Excellent clean condition, \$50 cash. Call mornings 444-2958.

Custom .284 cal. Mauser action 1909 Douglas premium barrel, built by Ron Lampert; custom stock w/ very nice hand checking. Comes w/ 2x7 Bushnell elite scope hardly used 150 new brass, 200

used and Redding dies all for \$900. Bullets available. RCBS 338 Fed dies \$20, 100 new 308 brass. 467-3442.

DynaStar dual action 185 downhill skis w/Marker M36 TwinCam bindings and Kerma poles. All like new condition used only three times. Call 308-1085 for price.

Flexsteel brand burgundy couch, like new, \$400. Two wood carved swivel bar stools with black leather seats, \$50/pr. 333-1510.

Chimney brush, six-inch diameter round poly brush includes three 6-foot fiberglass rods that screw together like new \$20. 760-7111.

2006? Pelican Bayou 160 square stern canoe. Approx 16' 3". Sturdy, hardly used, in decent condition. Licensed thru 2017. Winter deal at \$375! Canoe storage hoist for \$35. Brand new Upland game hunting pants size 38x27 - \$20; 243-3029 leave message.

Firewood, two cords dry popple firewood in various lengths, you haul, \$80. Call 224-2836.

Heated cab for Massey Ferguson 1428 tractor \$200. 854-7444.

Four Firestone Transforce HT 265/70-17 tires. Very few miles, lots of tread left. 17 inch, all-season tires. New price \$175 each, will sell all 4 for \$450. Call 407-1520. I don't take calls at work, but will return voice mails or texts.

Four Toyota Prius 16" aluminum rims mounted with Nexen Winguard Show'G 185/65/R15 tires with lots of wear left. \$400. Call 368-1458 after 4 p.m.

Three Shaw/Walker 4-drawer fireproof file cabinets. Brown, nice condition. \$375 each. 751-8192.

2001 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, \$2,000/obo. Sears electric wall furnace, 30,000 Btu. 2 water pumps for 2-in. wells. 556-6736.

Like new: complete set floor mats for 2015 ETC Chevy Silverado crew cab. 333-1510.

Oversized burgundy recliner, \$50. Black leather recliner, \$75. Forest green/light floral pattern sofa w/love seat, \$300. 40-in. round oak table with fold-down sides with 2 chairs, \$40. Two cherry wood finish end tables, \$30. 760-7944 or 214-1021.

Two snow tires, General Altimax Arctic 205/65-R15, \$50. 751-8097.

Browning 3006 lever-action, open hammer, Mod. BLR. BSA scope, 3-9. Like new. \$700. 751-5667.

4-5-6 inch blocks, star and crazy quilts. Twin \$35, Full \$40, Queen \$45, King \$55. Antique oak rocker \$65. Parlor table \$70. Sq. dining room table 44x44 \$100. Six matching refinished oak chairs \$120. Sewing machines \$15 each. Winter coats \$10 each. 243-2702.

## Wanted:

Used room dehumidifier. 751-7693.

Would like to buy some woodworking clamps-any style, please call 224-3405.

Looking for a Winchester model 94 30-30. Please call or text 766-4776.

One set of tractor tire chains. Size 18x4x34. Fits 826 International tractor. Must be in good condition. 224-2895 after 7 p.m.

Old manure spreader that will spread pot ash - cheap! 766-9663.

Looking for a fairly new 250-lb LP outside gas tank. Must have all gauges and in proper working condition. Pressure test certified. Call Bruce at 612-868-3807.

Hay wagon in good shape with good running gear. 1,000-gal. fuel tank no longer than 9½ ft. 751-0408.

## 5 tips for space heater safety in your home

(continued from page 4)



falling over, preventing fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the 3-foot rule. Whether you are using the heater in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept 3 feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

**Special Features** – Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.

**Cords** – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged into the wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

**Use** – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

Following these tips and making sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions can keep you safe this winter.

### HOW TO CALCULATE THE COST OF RUNNING A PORTABLE ELECTRIC HEATER

First, convert watts to watt hours:

\_\_\_\_\_ watts / 1,000 = \_\_\_\_\_ kilowatts

Next, calculate the operating cost:

\_\_\_\_\_ kilowatts x .11¢ per hour

\_\_\_\_\_ ¢ per hour x \_\_\_\_\_ hours = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per day



## Beltrami Electric Cooperative scholarships available

Once again, it is time for high school seniors to apply for Beltrami Electric's college scholarships. As we all know, a college education can be expensive. Beltrami Electric and its board of directors are proud to offer \$1,000 in scholarship money to deserving students attending seven area high schools to help with this ever-growing expense.

To be eligible to be awarded scholarship money this spring, the parents and/or guardians of the students must be members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Criteria and applications are available at each high school's career guidance departments. For more information, you can also visit [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com).

The scholarship selection process is handled through each school's designated career guidance offices or scholarship committees. Please contact your high school for more information.



*Dream Big!*

## Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Monday, Nov. 28, 2016. A quorum of directors was present.

### The following reports were given:

- CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including updates on the new meter system, the 2017 budget, a legislative forum to be held at BEC and the recent storm and our help to neighboring cooperatives.
- Sid Sletten gave the financial report for October, including review of work orders.
- Arlene Hogquist, Director of Strategy and Corporate Services, gave an update of the strategic planning process.
- Sam Mason, Manager of Energy Services and Facilities, gave an update on the Northern Solar project.
- Matt Hughes, Minnesota Managing Director of Cooperative Network Association, reported on the Association.
- Sid Sletten presented the long-range financial forecast for the cooperative.
- Rich Riewer, Manager of Engineering, presented the 2017-2020 construction work plan.
- Directors and the CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda and work order inventories.
- Approved construction of the Northern Solar garden.
- Approved the long-range financial forecast.
- Approved 2017-2020 construction work plan.

The next board meeting will be Dec. 28, 2016.



## Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

*If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.*

### Bi-CAP Energy Assistance

6603 Bemidji Ave N  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-751-4631

### Mahube Energy Assistance

120 North Central Ave  
Park Rapids, MN 56470  
218-732-7204

### Leech Lake Energy Assistance

115 6<sup>th</sup> St NW, Suite E  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-3783

### Red Lake Energy Assistance

PO Box 190  
Red Lake, MN 56671  
218-679-1880

### Kootasca Energy Assistance

201 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 130  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-0800

## Electrical contractor continuing education sessions set for January, February



Minnkota Power Cooperative and the associated systems will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout Minnkota's service area.

This marks the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices.

The electrical workshops will be held Jan. 17 and Jan. 18 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The training then moves to the Cambria Hotel & Suites in West Fargo, Jan. 24 and Jan. 25. The workshops continue with classes Feb. 7 at the Eagles Club in Bemidji, Minn., and Feb. 8 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, Minn.

The registration fee is \$75 for eight code credits.

Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. Online registration is preferred through [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com). Registration should be completed by Jan. 12.

For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, contact Sue Black, Minnkota communications/member services specialist, at (701) 795-4292 or email questions to [sblack@minnkota.com](mailto:sblack@minnkota.com).

### 2017 Electrical Workshops

#### Jan. 17 and 18

Alerus Center  
1200 42<sup>nd</sup> Street South  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

#### Jan. 24 and 25

Cambria Hotel & Suites  
825 East Beaton Drive  
West Fargo, ND 58078

#### Feb. 7

Eagles Club  
1270 Neilson Avenue SE  
Bemidji, MN 56601

#### Feb. 8

Bigwood Event Center  
925 Western Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537



## MLK JR. DAY

Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed

**Monday, Jan. 16,**

*in observance of Martin Luther King Jr., Day.*





# Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Northland Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol named Beltrami Electric's 2016 Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner (article continued from page 1)



Since 1946, CAP has been instilling its core values (Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence and Respect) in youth, ages 12 to 21, through its Cadet Program. Participants are provided training in Communications, Aerospace Education, Medical and Emergency Services, Safety, Character Development, Leadership, Drug Prevention and Physical Fitness. They also learn to respect themselves and others, to mentor and be mentored and to enjoy serving their community. CAP cadets are not obligated to join any branch of the military service.



Northland Composite Squadron has members from the Bemidji, Laporte, Walker and Park Rapids areas. The cadets volunteer many hours of service in our community. They provide parking support at events such as the Beltrami County Fair, Paul Bunyan Antique Car Club Show and Ride for the Troops. They assist in sorting winter clothing for Coats for the Community, perform highway roadside cleanup and help with many youth events, such as the Jaycees Kiddie Carnival.



They honor our veterans through the Wreaths Across America program and serving at VFW dinners. The squadron also presents a Drug Demand Reduction program in local schools. They volunteer with disaster relief and search and rescue, and most recently, helped with the search for a local missing person.

Besides these tangible benefits of services provided, the lasting impact of this program is the formation of responsible young adults. Cadets in the program are held to a high standard of integrity and are expected to be respectful, honest, selfless in service and strive for excellence in all they do. They typically become better students, entrepreneurs, employees, community members and overall leaders among their peers. Beltrami Electric Cooperative recognizes that these values help produce fine young adults who are a credit to our community.



Northland Composite Squadron's application will be submitted for consideration to the statewide Minnesota Touchstone Energy® Community Award committee. The statewide award recipient will be selected from numerous local award winners throughout Minnesota, and the overall winner will receive \$1,000 toward a community cause of choice. It will be presented in February 2017 during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul.

The Touchstone Energy® Community Award recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to their community. For a complete list of previous years' winners, please see our website: [www.beltramielectric.com/content/touchstone-energy-community-award](http://www.beltramielectric.com/content/touchstone-energy-community-award).

