

# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

December 2018



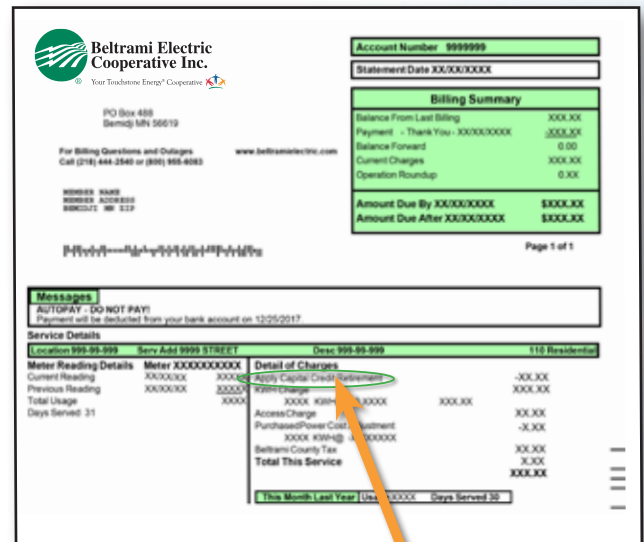
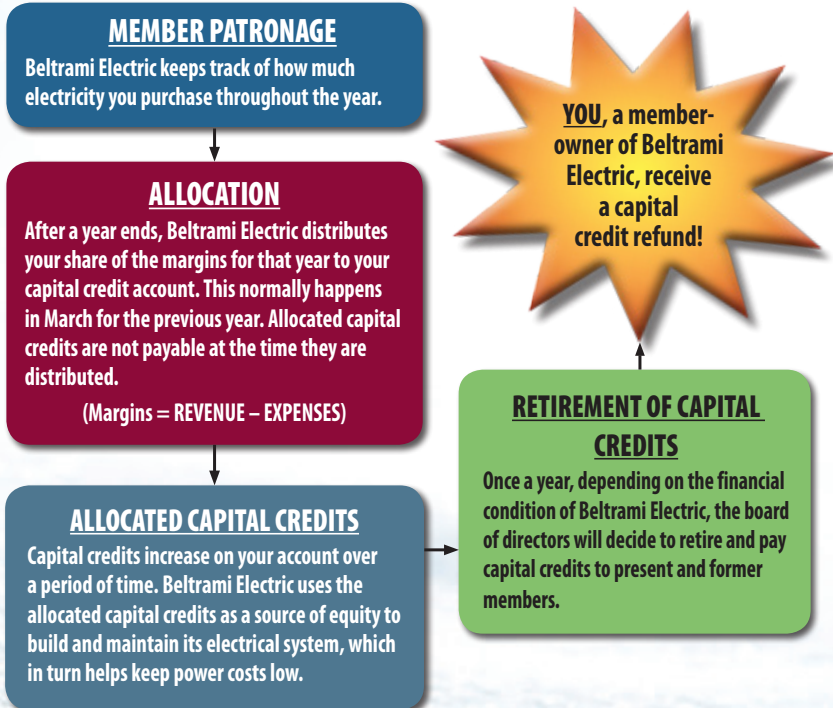
## As a MEMBER of Beltrami Electric,

When you signed up to receive electric service from Beltrami Electric, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return profits to investors and stockholders, Beltrami Electric Cooperative is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, and we allocate excess revenue to members as “capital credits” and retire – or pay – them when the co-op’s financial condition permits.

It **PAYS** to be a member-owner of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc.! Earning and receiving capital credits is just one of the benefits of membership in Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc. This year the board of directors for Beltrami Electric has approved the retirement and payment of more than \$850,000 in capital credits for more than 21,000 present and former members of Beltrami Electric!

# YOU get the credit!

### How do capital credits work?



Present members who receive a capital credit retirement will see a credit on their statement in late November or early December (depending on the billing cycle). A credit applied to a statement will be listed as “Apply Capital Credit Retirement” under the Detail of Charges.

Thank you for your membership!

# NORTHERN L I G H T S

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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

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

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

## Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Ron Ditsch

218-779-6758 • [rjditsch@gmail.com](mailto:rjditsch@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 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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channel



## Capital credits and 2019 outlook

Jared Echternach, *CEO*

### Members to receive more than \$1 million in capital credits

I am pleased to report that your board of directors has authorized a general capital credit retirement of more than \$850,000 and more than \$200,000 in estate retirements to former members, for a total retirement of more than \$1 million in 2018. Credits will appear on the bills



members receive in late November or early December (depending on the billing cycle). Checks to former members are scheduled to be mailed in mid-December, just in time for the holiday season.

Each year since 1984, your board of directors has authorized a retirement of capital credits to the membership. This year your board of directors once again authorized a hybrid method, retiring 100 percent of the remaining co-op allocation from 1993 to wholesale accounts, 100 percent of the remaining co-op allocation from 1994 (excluding wholesale accounts), 100 percent of the co-op allocation from 2017 and 3 percent of the co-op allocation from all remaining unretired years (excluding wholesale accounts). Under the hybrid method of retirement, more members and newer members receive one of the great benefits of membership and experience the cooperative difference.

As a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative, you are also an owner. Any margins realized at the end of the year are allocated to the members based on the amount of electricity

used. We credit this amount on an annual basis to a patronage allocation account in your name. This allocation is held by the cooperative as equity, which allows us to reduce borrowing costs while maintaining your distribution plant. To date, more than \$23 million has been returned to members in the history of the cooperative.

### 2019 outlook

Your board of directors is in the process of reviewing the 2019 preliminary budget and rates. We expect wholesale power costs to remain flat in 2019. This is great news, as wholesale power makes up more than 70 percent of our total costs. We continue to work hard internally to hold the line on controllable costs, and at this point it appears we will not need to increase rates in 2019.

### Congratulations, Rick

Meter Foreman Rick Willberg retired from Beltrami Electric last month, and I'd like to personally thank Rick for his 41 years of dedicated service to our cooperative members. Not many employees can say they have been with the same company for 41 years, and this is clearly a testament to Rick's loyalty and commitment to our members. Thank you, Rick, for your dedication to our members and for being a great employee. I wish you a long and healthy retirement.

### Happy holidays

It's hard to believe 2018 will soon come to a close. On behalf of your board of directors and employees at Beltrami Electric, I'd like to thank you for your patronage and support over the past year and wish you a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe new year!



## Grant application deadline Dec. 31, 2018

To be considered at the January 2019 meeting, grant applications must be received by Dec. 31, 2018. Community organizations and groups may apply for an Operation Round Up® grant by completing and returning an application form. Grant applications are available at the Beltrami Electric office or by visiting our website at [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com).

## Murl Nord receives Board Leadership Certificate

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's Board Director Murl Nord was awarded the cooperative utility industry's Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This certificate acknowledges Nord's efforts in pursuing further education in specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development. Murl is the first Beltrami Electric director to achieve this certificate.



Board Director Murl Nord (left) with NRECA CEO Jim Matheson (right) at the NRECA Regional Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn.

## Karlee Tower joins Beltrami Electric



Beltrami Electric Cooperative has a new face at our front counter! Karlee Tower started full time in October as the cashier/receptionist. Karlee grew up in the Bemidji area, graduating

from Bemidji High School. She attended both Northwest Technical College and Bemidji State University. Karlee lives in Bemidji and enjoys spending time with family and watching sports, especially hockey! Welcome Karlee!



## Congratulations, Ricky Willberg!



Lineman and meter foreman Ricky Willberg retired Nov. 1, after 41 years working at Beltrami Electric Cooperative. Ricky started at BEC in July 1977 as an apprentice lineman. Thank you, Ricky, for

your dedicated service to the cooperative and our members. We wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement, filled with great fishing, hunting and quality time with family.

What's within you is stronger than what is in your way.



**NO BARRIERS  
WARRIORS**

# Jeremiah Freye selected for No Barriers program

*CoBank-partnered program gives back to Beltrami Electric Cooperative member and veteran*

CoBank, a national cooperative bank serving agribusiness, rural power, water and communications providers in all 50 states, has partnered with their customers and No Barriers USA, a Colorado-based nonprofit organization, to give back to our nation's rural veterans in a substantial way. Through this partnership with No Barriers, eligible customers of the bank can nominate veterans

with disabilities from rural communities to participate in a No Barriers Warriors expedition. The No Barriers Warriors program seeks to empower people to break

through barriers, find their inner purpose and contribute their best to the world.

CoBank's sponsorship covers all costs for each veteran participant, giving them the opportunity to challenge their own limitations, both real and perceived, physical and mental. Through successfully completing demanding activities like rafting, rock climbing or hiking, participants become better equipped to overcome the obstacles they face in their daily lives. By sharing the experience with other veterans with disabilities, they build a network of support that can last a lifetime. The expeditions are one part adventure, one part curriculum and one part physical challenge, and they show veterans that what's within them is stronger than what is in their way.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative board member Sue Kringen nominated cooperative member and Navy veteran Jeremiah Freye for the program, and she was excited to hear that he was one of 50 rural veterans selected to participate this year.

Jeremiah was in a horrible accident while stationed in Hawaii. When he woke up from a coma three months later, he was in Minneapolis with a trach tube and was unable to eat or walk. To this day, he has no memory of the accident.

Jeremiah, who now resides in Bemidji with his

wife Andrea and daughters Amelia (10) and Briella (7), said, "After that accident and years of rehabilitation, I no longer take things like being able to walk or run for granted. You might wake up tomorrow and everything could be different."

In August, Jeremiah joined the other selected vets in the Red Feather Lakes region of Colorado, where the group was to trek through the Colorado backcountry. He had heard a little about the program, but wasn't totally sure what to expect. "I was simply excited for an opportunity to get away and go hiking, as I tend to have a busy work and family life," said Jeremiah. At the basecamp, he joined 10 veterans, one service dog and four expedition leaders, where they received food



Navy veteran Jeremiah Freye (left) and Beltrami Electric board member Sue Kringen (right)

and supplies for the week. The group was from all different states and included Army, Navy and Marines veterans. He soon realized that this was going to be more than just a hike in the mountains. It was a comprehensive experience that was going to include three distinct phases: past, present and future.

As they began their trek up the mountain, this group of strangers found themselves quickly developing a camaraderie, speaking freely and really connecting over what each person had experienced. As the team camped on the mountain during a thunderstorm, they boiled water from a creek for coffee and spent time reflecting on things that had happened in their past and what was going on for them presently. At each point of the trek up and down the mountain, they were prompted to continue to think and reflect on different things they were currently facing in their lives. As they hiked out the last day, they put a few minutes of separation between each other and were asked to spend that time to focus on what they were going to do in the future that reflected their past.

Jeremiah said, "The No Barriers program has a pledge, which I still think about today: 'Every person has a purpose, what's your purpose?' This is a great program for veterans, and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to take it. Don't hesitate. One veteran in our group was blind, but that barrier didn't prevent him from hiking up and down a mountain. This program reminded me to be okay with where I am at today and gave me tools to break down some of my own barriers. It was an incredible experience and I am so thankful that Beltrami Electric Cooperative nominated me to participate."



# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS! Apply today for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to **WASHINGTON, D.C.**



## **JUNE 15-20, 2019**

**B**eltrami Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-20, 2019.

Each year the cooperative sponsors one high school junior (will be a senior in the fall of 2019) whose parent or guardian is a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will have the opportunity to meet with elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, discuss the process of government and increase their overall knowledge of electric cooperatives and U.S. history. They will also spend time touring many historic sites, monuments and some of the most famous museums in the world while in Washington, D.C. Students have said that they made friends that will last a lifetime and that the Youth Tour was the best week of their entire summer!

To qualify, candidates must submit an application, write a 500-word essay from a list of selected topics, submit two letters of reference from teachers, group or community leaders and have a parent or guardian who is a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.

Applications must be received by **Friday, Feb. 1, 2019**, and are available at your high school counselor's office or via download at Beltrami Electric's website at [www.beltramielectric.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc](http://www.beltramielectric.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc). Those interested should mail their applications, letters of recommendation and essays to Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Youth Tour, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619-0488. They can also be dropped off at the office located at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji.

For more information, contact Angela Lyseng at Beltrami Electric, 218-444-3689 or visit our website [www.beltrami-electric.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc](http://www.beltrami-electric.com/content/youth-tour-washington-dc), or visit [www.mrea.org/youth-tour](http://www.mrea.org/youth-tour) and [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) for exciting highlights of past Electric Cooperative Youth Tours.



## **This summer, go on a Power Trip!**

# Northern Lights

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the fifth of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
  - o Ads submitted by Dec. 5 will be published in the January issue.
  - o Ads submitted between Dec. 6 and Jan. 5 will be published in the February issue.
- 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 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:

Old records, 35 albums and a bunch of 45s, mix of country, rock and instrumental from the 60's and 70's. Make an offer. 224-2633.

2001 Chevy S10 LS crew cab 4wd. 186,000 miles. Rebuilt transmission, new tires, rear bearings and seals, recent brakes. \$3,800. 766-3207.

Boat and motor for sale: 2000 50 hp 4-stroke Mercury motor on a 1982 Crestliner 16½ ft Fish hawk (new carpet and floor). Includes all roller, Spartan trailer. \$3,500. Please call 556-9418.

Schwinn Comp Strength Training System with Bowflex Power Rods. Excellent condition. \$40. 586-2352.

Thule car top rocket box car carrier. \$150. 28 ft. Werner aluminum extension ladder. \$100. 368-4870.

Apple IIE Computer System, complete w/monitor, printer, game controller and many other extras. \$100. 224-2307.

Firewood, various lengths up to 7' long, seasoned one

year, aspen/popple and pine tops in piles on landing areas of a timber sale. Starting at \$20 per pickup load. Call 760-8266.

Vintage oak dresser with mirror, large, very solid, eight drawers. 58"Wx20"Dx32"H mirror: 48"x32" \$99/obo. 368-2294 after 6:30 p.m.

Green 1997 Ford E350/Club Wagon XLT with V10 engine, hitch - equipped to pull a trailer or a boat, tinted windows and only 138,523 miles. The engine sounds and runs great! Asking price: \$3,500. Please call 553-1110 if interested.

Dining room table with self-storing leaf, four chairs, plus bench. Almost like new. \$750. 444-6213.

Diamond "Nuclear Ice" youth bow, arrows, hard case, exc. cond. \$300. ITECH hockey helmet/face protector sets (3), exc. cond. \$20/set. Vintage Kodak XL33 movie camera w/Kodak Ektar 9mm f/1.2 lens, original instruction booklet, exc. cond., \$30. Norsk Husflid Engros wool slippers, exc. cond., \$40. 368-4834.

2006 Snowmobile Arctic Cat 660 Panther 4 stroke w/ handwarmers, reverse, extra belt and cover. Excellent condition \$2,995. Wall mount refrigerated three-can, coin operated dispenser, cools perfectly, great for man cave. \$140. High quality oval Cherry dining table. 64 inches long with two 18-inch leaves. Has tabletop protectors, comes with four regular and two captain's chairs, \$500 for the set. 556-9975.

All new items: Bandalino boots leather, \$60, size 8; White Mountain Winter 8½, \$35; Earth Origins 7½, \$50; Life Stride shoes 7½, \$22; Ana brown boots 8½, \$50; Laura Ashley silver dress shoes 7½, \$25; men's Bass slip-ons 7½, \$60. Call 368-4973 leave message if no answer.

Toro single-stage 5-horse snowblower. Manual start. Runs good. \$125. 766-7052.

WeatherTech floor liners (mats) for front and back of a 2016 Chevrolet Equinox. Excellent condition. \$100 (new price is \$195). Cash only. Call 760-1095.

Vintage Gulbransen organ. Just need to get tuned and I'd suggest replace the cord. Bench opens up for storage. Pick up preferred. Can deliver if needed. 368-3108.

50-gallon aquarium with stand, filter, heater, gravel and driftwood, \$100/obo. 10-gallon aquarium with filter and heater, \$25; 32" Vizio TV, \$50; 24" Vizio TV \$25; 8' airblown inflatable country snowman, \$25; 5.9' Inflatable snowman \$10; Snowman throw and pillow \$10. Call or text 590-9114.

AKC registered Lab puppies ready for their forever homes. They come with dew claws removed, de-wormed, shots, vet check, AKC paperwork, 6-month health guarantee and out of champion bloodlines. For more information text or call 244-7605.

1,000-lb folding engine stand (\$50). Browning 30-06 A-Bolt rifle, Bushnell variable scope, sling, case, extra ammunition, really nice looking deer rifle with a laminated wood stock (\$495). Browning 7 mm mag A-Bolt rifle w/variable Bushnell scope, sling, case, extra clip with ammunition. Really nice deer or large game rifle (\$425). Both rifles are clean and well-kept with little use. Pittsburgh 300-pound ATV or riding mower front lift jack (\$75). 547-1744.

Lift chair recliner, blue vinyl. \$175. 751-3127.

Norway pine logs for sale, 25-30 feet long, 14" around. 444-4901.

I have a Therapeutic Swing that my son no longer uses. Paid over \$3,000. Asking \$1,500/obo. Picture upon request. Text or call 556-1511.

Dining room table and 6 chairs - Thomasville Ernest Hemingway solid wood rectangular, expandable dining room table and matching chairs. Dark finish. Excellent condition. Perfect for the holidays! \$500. 556-8000.

Two four-drawer, full suspension file cabinets, one black, one brown, \$25 each; two floor lamps w/shades, one brass, one black, \$10 each; all very good cond.; call 444-2336 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

26" Cub Cadet snowblower, 277cc, 2-stage, electric start, like new, stored inside. \$800. 766-9173.

Pellet stove 70,000 Btu that heats up to 2,700 square feet. Selling for \$1,500. 333-8622.

4-Blizzak snow tires, 185/60 R14 82R, 7/32 tread, mounted on Chevy Avail rims. \$200/obo. 759-9713.

Christmas is coming: Homemade quilts are great gifts: Twin, \$35; Full, \$40; Queen, \$55; King, \$60; in Block, Star, Crazy Quilt patterns. Also, sewing machines, \$15 each. 243-2702.

Kenmore washing machine, good cond.; Maytag dryer (needs timer); recliner, good cond.; tan; 3 dog houses (large dogs), large chain link dog kennel. 444-3510.

Cedar chest, \$50. Stainless-steel fish cleaning station, \$80; Antique bed with matching mirror and dresser, \$225; 15-ft camper, newly remodeled, \$1,700. 308-1575.

Senior bow hunter selling deer rifle: Mauser bolt action 300-06, receiver sight w/front ramp, walnut Monte Carlo stock, sling, case, excellent shape. Asking \$400 cash. 760-9608.

Hospital bed w/power pressure air mattress, \$700. Two wood TV stands, curio cabinet, 6-person canvas tent, small glass-top table with alabaster base, push wheelchair with foot rests, black framed mirror (34x22), 556-7001, leave message.

36" Monarch wood cook stove, good working condition, no corrosion, restored nickel plate, \$500. Buyer must transport. 556-6592 or 556-4106, call or text.

New brush guard, fits 2007-2013 GMC or Chevy pickup. \$600/obo. 766-2132.

CVA Black powder rifle, 50 cal., Hunter Bolt, model PR4490 Magnum with all accessories from factory. NEW! Never fired. Includes \$81 of extra accessories. All for \$275. Firm. 751-1229.

Mixed hardwood and Popple firewood, cut, split and delivered in Bemidji. \$64/pickup load. Call or text: 556-8077.

## Wanted:

Looking for a 100+ pound anvil or other blacksmithing tools. Please call or text 209-8213.

Disk in good condition to fit a Ford 9N tractor. 647-8200.

ASAP: independent woman to help me regain control over our home after several non-stop surgeries for my husband and me; as well as several life exchanges for my children's things (which will have to be dealt with soon). References would be great and pay and hours are negotiable. Call between 12 p.m.-8 p.m. 586-2858.

Big things are happening at Great River Rescue and we invite you to be part of it. Volunteer board members are needed! Apply today at [greatriverrescue.com](http://greatriverrescue.com) or call 751-7910.

## Board Meeting Highlights

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. A quorum of directors was present.

### The following reports were given:

- Vicky Swanson with Cooperative Development reported on a project recently completed.
- Jeremiah Freye gave a report on the No Barriers Warriors Program Expedition he attended.
- Representatives from the Bemidji Community Arena and Sanford Health Foundation met with the board to discuss updates and opportunities of their facilities.
- CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including the second floor tenants, new and retiring employees, Operation Round Up® and legislative issues.
- CEO Echternach gave the financial report and reviewed the third quarter balanced performance scorecard.
- CEO Echternach presented proposed 2018 general capital credit retirement.
- President Coe appointed Charles Parson as the MREA voting delegate and Sue Krigen as the alternate.
- CEO Echternach presented revisions to various BEC policies as recommended by the policy committee.
- CEO Echternach reviewed recommended updates to the bylaws suggested by the Bylaw Review Committee.
- 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.
- Approved 2018 general capital credit retirement.
- Approved revisions to BEC policies.

The next regular board meeting will be Friday, Dec. 21, 2018.

## Statement of Operations Year-to-date: September 2018

	September 2017	September 2018
Operating Revenue.....	\$ 37,783,185	\$ 41,089,970
Cost of Purchased Power.....	\$ 27,136,414	\$ 28,279,725
Other Operating Expenses.....	\$ 11,431,583	\$ 11,324,112
Total Cost.....	\$ 38,567,997	\$ 39,603,837
Operating Margin.....	\$ (784,812)	\$ 1,183,133
Interest Income.....	\$ 249,425	\$ 221,804
Other Margins.....	\$ 418,038	\$ 604,221
Total Margins.....	\$ (117,349)	\$ 2,009,158
kWh Sold.....	348,175,324	370,756,643
Meters Billed.....	20,877	21,050

*Celebrate with savings!*  
Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

## LED Rebate

*How to apply:*

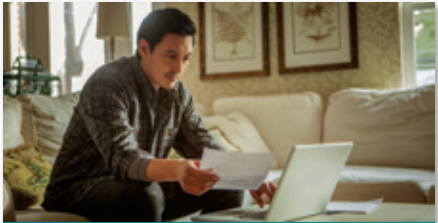
1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2018.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to Beltrami Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2018, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **Rebate cannot exceed 50 percent of cost.** Maximum of five strings per member.

**NOTE: Rebate will be applied as a credit to member's account. NO checks will be issued.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

**Mail to:** Beltrami Electric Cooperative • P.O. Box 488 • Bemidji, MN 56619-0488



## Need help 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**

15533 Main Ave  
 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

## Help us decorate the mitten tree!

**Drop off items at Cooperative Headquarters by Wednesday, Dec. 5**

With the holiday season approaching fast, it's once again time to decorate Beltrami Electric's annual mitten tree! For the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive holiday season, we will be accepting donations of **NEW AND HOMEMADE** mittens, gloves, hats or scarves for distribution to **children in the area Head Start programs.**

Donations can be delivered to the Beltrami Electric office at 4111 Technology Dr. NW in Bemidji. Donations will be accepted until **Wednesday, Dec. 5**, and will be distributed to children the following week.



*If you'd like to help keep our area children warm and cozy this winter, please consider joining BEC in collecting these items.*

**Beltrami Electric will be closed**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 25,**  
**for Christmas Day**  
 – and –  
**Tuesday, Jan. 1,**  
**for New Year's Day.**



# 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

## *Show you care with safety-minded gifts*

*Inevitably someone on your holiday shopping lists qualifies as that “hard to shop” for person. As you create your holiday gift list this year, consider adding safety-minded gifts as a way to show you care. From a smart doorbell to a smoke detector, a gift that keeps loved ones safe gives peace of mind and could help save lives. Safe Electricity offers the following tips and gift ideas to help keep everyone on your gift list safer this holiday season and throughout the year:*

### FOR ADULTS

- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- A gift certificate for a qualified electrician to install them
- A flashlight with extra batteries for emergencies
- A cozy bed blanket to replace an older electric blanket; those more than 10 years old are often unsafe
- A roadside emergency kit
- Reflective clothing for runners or walkers
- Aftermarket safety systems for cars that don't have them, which include features such as forward-collision and lane-departure warnings
- Gloves with LED lights or hand-held “knuckle lights” designed for runners
- For vehicles not equipped with them, a rear-view camera and dash cam
- A smart doorbell to see who's at the door while at home and away
- A pet harness for use in a vehicle; make sure it has earned crash-test certification
- Gift certificates for home services (home maintenance such as HVAC inspection or chimney sweeping)
- Heavy-duty extension cord
- A fire extinguisher for the kitchen
- Power strip with a built-in circuit breaker
- A pack of GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets and

### FOR KIDS

- Buy age-appropriate gifts (see recommendations on box or toy); children younger than age three should not have access to toys with small parts
- Don't forget proper safety gear such as helmets and knee and elbow pads when gifting scooters, roller blades, bikes and other riding toys
- Also avoid marbles and small balls for small children
- Many gaming consoles are equipped with internet browsers and chat features that allow players to communicate with each other, so be aware of these capabilities in any game or electronic device
- Hoverboards – although not considered a toy, these units should be compliant with UL safety standards

*For more safety tips and information,  
visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*

*Wishing you a **safe & happy** holiday season!*