# NORTHERN

L I G H T S



January 2020



# BELTRAMI ELECTRIC NAMES 2019 TOUCHSTONE ENERGY® COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

Beltrami Electric Cooperative has selected Village of Hope as the winner of the local 2019 Touchstone Energy\* Community Award from a pool of excellent and worthy nominations. The award recognizes Village of Hope for showing a strong commitment to our community and comes with a \$500

cash award and an engraved Touchstone Energy Community Award plaque. Village of Hope was nominated by Riki Scheela of Bemidji.

Village of Hope is a nonprofit organization that provides a 24-hour emergency shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness. The organization focuses on three outcomes: breaking the cycle of homelessness, acquisition of housing and family stability.

Article continued on page 3

### **NORTHERN**

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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**

Chair Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6
(Minnkota Director)
Vice Chair John Lund, DISTRICT 7
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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@koonsinspections.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

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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Visit our YouTube channel

### An excellent year

Jared Echternach, President and CEO

our cooperative had an excellent year in 2019. We completed the third year of our four-year construction work plan, including projects on Minnesota Island, along North Plantagenet Road and near Blackduck and the Scenic Highway. Crews constructed nearly 300 new services and performed nearly 170 service improvements for our membership as our communities continue to grow. We experienced modest service growth in 2019 and increased energy sales due to a long, cold winter and the expansion of small commercial businesses in our service area. As you've heard me say before, this helps spread our costs over more kilowatt-hours sold.

We experienced no major storms in 2019, and of the outages we did experience, our crews did an outstanding job restoring power as safely and quickly as possible.

I'm very proud of our employees for all they accomplished in 2019 in terms of our construction work plan and for their dedication to serving our members. Most importantly, our employees operated safely with zero lost time injuries since 2016 – a true testament to their dedication to safety.

#### **Budget approved – rates stable**

I'm pleased to announce that your board of directors approved the 2020 budget last month with no rate increase planned for 2020. This is the second consecutive year rates have remained stable as your board and employees work hard to control internal costs for our members. The rates we pay our wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, will remain stable in 2020 and account for 70% of our total costs.

This year will be another busy year for your cooperative, including projects on Star Island, Cass County Road 100, Cass County Road 143 and Cass County Road 145. We expect to build another 250-300 new services and perform 100 system improvements. These projects will keep our employees busy throughout the year.

#### **Strategic planning**

Your board and employees recently took part in a strategic planning process to update our current strategic plan. We embark on this exercise every three years. The result was an affirmation of our existing vision and mission statements and a focus on four strategic themes resulting from our planning sessions. These include:

- Enhance Beneficial Electrification To Control Costs
- Increase Positive Member Engagement
- Leverage Technology for the Benefit of Our Members
- Continue To Improve Our Safety Culture
  Over the next three years, we will
  focus our efforts in these core strategic
  areas to help us improve as a cooperative
  and bring additional value and service to
  our membership.

## Mission of Beltrami Electric Cooperative:

"To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices."

#### Touchstone Energy® Community Award

Congratulations to Village of Hope on winning our local Touchstone Energy® Community Award. What a remarkable organization. Their dedication to making our community a better place to live is extraordinary and we're pleased to recognize them in some small way for all the big things they do for families in our area.



# Village of Hope (CONTINUED)

Ours to Serve House of Hospitality opened its doors in 1983, when a group of community members decided to create a place for homeless individuals to receive a new start. The staff served from a small house located in Bemidji. Due to a rising number of homeless families, a new shelter, the Village of Hope, was built in 2011 to serve families and pregnant women.

Village of Hope is one of only four emergency shelters for families in the Northwest Continuum of Care region, which encompasses 12 counties and 75,180 square miles. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has evolved from a shelter that provides food and a bed to a shelter that identifies the root causes of homelessness and works collaboratively to break the cycle of homelessness.



Homelessness is a devastating experience that significantly impacts the health and well-being of families in the community. Children who are homeless may live in chaotic

or unsafe environments where they may be exposed to various forms of violence. Village of Hope provides a safe environment to build skills that transfer to school and jobs.

Village of Hope engages in a twogeneration approach for combating homelessness and poverty. This approach provides opportunities for parents and children to grow together. The impact of no education, economic support, social capital or lack of health and well-being can last a lifetime and be passed on to the next generation. Creating an environment where families can see a future and be given the skills and support to move toward that future impacts families, and in turn, impacts our communities.

Seventy-four percent of families who receive services at Village of Hope leave with safe, secure housing. When families are safe and secure, children go to school and parents go to work.

The barriers to providing an emergency shelter are numerous, and due to current state and federal budget cuts, the funding sources are limited. In 2019, Village of Hope served a total of 162 people, 82 of whom were children. Unfortunately, due to limited space and resources, they had to turn away 318 people.

Village of Hope was instrumental in developing and providing the Getting

Ahead-Bemidji class, which is based on research from the Bridges Out of Poverty program. Getting Ahead-Bemidji is a collaboration between the Village of Hope and St. Vincent de Paul, and is a 16-week workshop that provides a meal as well as trained volunteers to mentor families. Mentors help economically vulnerable families in developing life skills, connecting with community resources, nurturing and supporting their children and overcoming the enormous stress and challenges of homelessness. When families are housed and self-sufficient, it benefits the entire community.

For members wishing to learn more about Village of Hope, visit their website at www.villageofhopebemidji.org or find them on Facebook at Village of Hope.



The Village of Hope 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 2020 during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul.

The Touchstone Energy Community Award recognizes organizations for outstanding contributions to their community. For a complete list of previous years' winners, please see our website: www.beltramielectric.com.



Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

### **Beltrami Electric Cooperative scholarships**



Once again, it is time for high school seniors to apply for Beltrami Electric's college scholarships. Beltrami Electric Cooperative funds college scholarships with unclaimed capital credit dollars that, per Minnesota state law for unclaimed property, would otherwise be forfeited to the state.

As we all know, a college education can be expensive. Beltrami Electric and its board of directors are pleased to offer \$1,000 in scholarship money to deserving students of BEC members 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.

If you are a high school senior who attends one of the schools listed below and are interested in applying for a scholarship from BEC, please contact your high school's designated guidance office or scholarship committee for additional information and applications. The scholarship selection process is handled through each school's designated career guidance offices or scholarship committees.

- ► Bemidji High School
- ► Blackduck High School
- ► Cass Lake High School
- ► Kelliher High School
- ► Laporte High School
- ► Red Lake High School
- Walker-Hackensack-Akeley High School

**Beltrami Electric Cooperative At-Large Scholarship information** 

Beltrami Electric will award one \$1,000 **At-Large Scholarship** to Beltrami Electric Cooperative members or dependents of Beltrami Electric members who plans to enroll as a full-time student in their first year in an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. The At-Large Scholarship program is for students who **do not attend one of the seven schools** listed under Beltrami Electric's High School Scholarship program. Applications must be received by April 1, 2020, for consideration.



## This summer, go on a Power Trip!

### JUNE 20-25, 2020

- To enter the contest, you must be a junior in high school (will be a senior in the fall of 2020).
- Candidates must submit an application, write a 500-word essay and submit two letters of reference from teachers, group leaders or community leaders.
- You and your parent(s) or guardian must be a member of Beltrami Electric Cooperative.
- Applications are available in your school counselor's office or via download at www. beltramielectric.com.
- If you have questions, contact Angela Lyseng, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, at (218) 444-3689.



- The deadline is Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. You can email entries to Angela Lyseng at <u>alyseng@beltramielectric.com</u> or mail a hard copy to Youth Tour Contest, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619-0488.
- Check out pictures from the 2019 Youth Tour at https://tinyurl.com/ y3v8nq37 and learn more about the Youth Tour at NRECA's National Youth Tour website: www.youthtour.coop.

<u>ESSAY QUESTION</u>: Describe the cooperative business model and how electric cooperatives are different from other electric utilities. Give examples of why this model works for the members it serves.

# Save money and energy in 2020



# with energy efficiency rebates!

Residential rebates for 2020 are listed below. The residential rebates for LED lighting and Energy Star® appliances have expired, as consumers now choose these energy-saving technologies without the rebate incentives. There were no changes to the business rebate program for 2020. All rebate applications are available on our website and in our office.

#### \* Restrictions and requirements apply. Please contact Beltrami Electric for more information.

Equipment	Powerful Value	PowerSavers	Beltrami Electric					
WATER HEATING*								
55 gallon or less 80-99 gallon	\$125/unit \$200/unit	\$125/unit \$200/unit	\$100/unit					
100 gallon or greater  New construction  Conversion from gas/propane	\$300/unit \$100/unit \$250/unit	\$300/unit	\$200/unit					
ELECTRIC HEATING EQUIPMEN	<b>T</b> *							
Baseboard/cove heater, plenum heater, hanging unit heater, radiant underfloor heat	\$25/kW	Rebates can be combined for greater						
ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE	HEATING*	savings!						
Electric boiler, brick storage room unit, brick storage electric furnace/boiler, slab storage - electric cable	\$45/kW		\$30/kW					
HEAT PUMPS*		<u> </u>						
Air-source heat pump (ASHP)* Mini-split heat pump* Supplemental heating source ASHP* Ground-source heat pump*	\$150/ton \$150/ton \$250/ton	\$300/ton (<17SEER) \$500/ton (>17 SEER) \$500/unit \$200/ton (16.2 EER/open loop) \$400/ton (14.1 EER/closed loop)						
THERMOSTATS*								
Programmable thermostats*  Energy Star® smart thermostats*		50% of purchase price, up to \$25 50% of purchase price, up to \$50						
ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION R	EBATES*							
Level 2 or Level 3 charger (EV, hybrid, forklifts, zambonis, delivery van/truck)	\$50/kW							
HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) MEASURES*								
Tune-up for central A/C (not window units)  Tune-up for air-source/mini-split heat pump		\$25/unit \$25/unit						
INSULATION AND AIR SEALING*								
Air sealing only (pre-inspection required) Wall insulation improvement Attic insulation and air sealing improvement (pre-inspection required)	30% of cost, max \$300 30% of cost, max \$500 30% of cost, max \$500							

## CLASSIFIEDS

#### Classified ads rules

- · Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue. Example:
- o Ads submitted by Jan. 1 will be published in the February issue.
- o Ads submitted between Jan. 2 and Feb. 1 will be published in the March
- · Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramielectric.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
- 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
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a 218 area code unless otherwise
- · Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619.

#### For Sale:

Snapper snowblower, 24-inch, 7 hp \$40. 444-4809.

Twin bed w/frame with two drawers underneath, includes mattress. Good condition, \$175, two wing-back chairs, \$85. One corner style 42" TV stand w/glass top and shelf, \$55, one 38x38 in. coffee table, metal/brass look with glass top, \$25, 444-2958.

Snowmobiles for sale. Both in excellent condition. 2006 Yamaha 4-stroke VK Prof. 2-up, reverse, hi-lo range, 20" studded track w/cargo rack, ice auger brackets, built for ice fishing, \$4,200/obo. 2006 Arctic Cat 660 Panther 4-stroke w/hand warmers, reverse, extra belt, cover \$2,995/obo. Call 556-9978.

Darton SL50 compound bow, 45-60 lb, 29½ - 31 inch draw, Mongoose sight with 3 pins, stabilizer, 7-arrow Bear quiver, 5 aluminum arrows with target points, 311/4 inches tip to tail, two camo limb sleeves. \$100.751-6397.

Wather p1. - p38. 9mm very good condition. Price is set at \$450. Call Bill at 444-9929

Black Itech Hockey bag, \$40. Diamond Razor Edge compound bow with accessories \$350. Pelican Colorado 15-foot poly canoe, \$300. Tri-Tonics dog training collar, \$100. Armstrong flute, \$200. 759-0186.

Jonsered 2050 Turbo chainsaw (16" bar). \$50. RAM men's right-handed golf clubs - 1 and 3 woods, 3 hybrid, 4-9 irons, pitching wedge and putter, head covers and golf bag, \$40. Call Steve 444-4931.

1966 Chevrolet Impala SS Convertible, rust free, straight car, excellent chrome, clear title, all numbers match. An excellent car to restore. Call for pictures. \$8,000 firm. 760-1095.

Glass-top table, antique brass base, 80" L x 44" W x 29" H, 1/2" beveled glass, Mfg La Barge. Sugg. retail \$3,150. Asking \$1,000/ obo. Call 586-2875 after 11 a.m. Cash only.

Beautiful oak hutch, \$250. 766-8781

Coleman Evcon 74K Btu central furnace. model# FG9B080124P11A. \$400/obo. 72" x 80" white clad patio door with screen, \$300/ obo. New in box, Kohler bypass shower door for above tub, \$200/obo. 224-3269.

New super-grip tubeless tire, 700-15 for light pickup truck, \$55. 4-5-6" Block, Crazy homemade quilts: twin, \$35; full, \$40; queen, \$55, king, \$60. Sewing machines, \$15 ea. Size 81/2 Durgo white leather boots, like new. 243-2702.

AKC and UKC Registered Hunting Titled Fox-Red shade Lab male, \$4,500. AKC and UKC Registered Hunting Fox-Red shade Lab Proven female, \$3,500. AKC registered Started Hunting Fox-Red shade Female labs, \$600 limited reg., \$800 full registration rights. Text or call 244-7605.

2017 Sun Tracker Fishing 22' DLX Barge pontoon, excellent condition, always under cover. 115 hp four-stroke Mercury engine, double axle Sun Tracker pontoon trailer. Less than 40 hours on motor and less than 15 miles on the trailer. A complete package. \$24,000,651-470-1890.

Kenmore large deep freezer, white. Works well but too big for just one person. Dimensions are about 15 cu-ft. \$350, you haul. Please call 766-7600 if you are interested, located in Bemidji.

#### **Wanted:**

Needed ASAP-hospital bed. Please leave message at 243-3029.

Fender Deluxe guitar amp. Vibrolux or Princeton amp will be considered, must be in good working condition, call with what you have. 444-2958.

Will recane chairs. Please call 444-8689.

Ashley wood-burning stove in good shape. 556-2706.



### **Board Meeting Highlights**

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019. A quorum of directors was present.

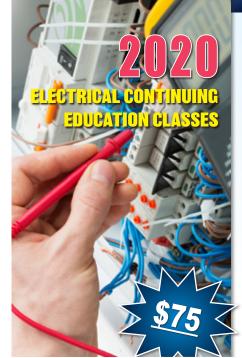
#### The following reports were given:

- · Jeff Nornes, candidate for MREA board of directors, addressed the board
- · President and CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including discussion on October financials, the 2020 Preliminary Budget, policy revisions, 2020-22 Strategic Plan and the electric load forecast study.
- · Arlene Hogquist reviewed the October financial report and reviewed the work order closeouts.
- · President and CEO Echternach presented unclaimed capital credits to be donated as scholarships to area schools.
- Chair Coe appointed Sue Kringen as the NRECA voting delegate and Rick Coe as the alternate.
- · The president and CEO and directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed cooperative opportunities and upcoming meetings and events.

#### The following actions were taken:

- · Approved the consent agenda.
- · Approved proposed policy revisions.
- · Adopted the 2019 Electric Load Forecast Study.
- · Approved distribution of unclaimed capital credit funds
- · Approved an employee year-end

The next regular board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020.



#### **Dates and Locations**

Fargo - Wednesday, Jan. 8 Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700 3803 13th Ave South Fargo, ND 58103

Fargo - Thursday, Jan. 9 Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700 3803 13th Ave South Fargo, ND 58103

Fergus Falls - Tuesday, Jan. 14

Bigwood Event Center, 218.739.2211 925 Western Ave Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Bemidji - Thursday, Jan. 23 Eagles Club, 218.751.9985 1270 Neilson Ave SE Bemidji, MN 56601

Grand Forks - Tuesday, Feb. 4 Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292 5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201

**Grand Forks - Wednesday, Feb. 5**Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292

5301 32nd Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201

#### Class Schedule

7:15 - 8 a.m. - Sign-in 8 a.m. - noon - Workshop Noon - 1 p.m. - Lunch provided 1 - 5 p.m. - Workshop

PKM Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Roseau Electric Cooperative Wild Rice Electric Cooperative

#### **Sponsors**

Beltrami Electric Cooperative Cass County Electric Cooperative Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Nodak Electric Cooperative North Star Electric Cooperative









#### MISTIC ACHIEVES CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF APPRENTICESHIP



President and CEO Jared Echternach presents Logan Mistic with his Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship from the State of Minnesota.

Congratulations to Logan Mistic on completing his four years of apprenticeship training and becoming BEC's newest journeyman lineman! Logan received his certificate from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, which signifies his completion of the apprenticeship program to qualify as a journeyman lineman. The program includes practical training and prescribed course of instruction topics covering overhead, underground, metering, safety, transformers and more.

# **ENERGY SAVINGS**

Did you know there are many ways you can help save energy in your home?





0	Ε	S	P	W	F	W	Α	Т	Ε	R	S	Υ	Ε	S
Α	L	L	R	S	Α	Ε	Т	D	Ε	1	Α	L	S	R
Т	Ε	X	K	Ε	J	Т	0	G	Н	C	Ε	P	X	Ε
L	C	0	0	G	G	Z	Ε	N	X	C	N	M	Ν	W
В	Т	В	F	M	X	R	R	R	T	B	X	Q	K	0
G	R		S	M	M	R	Α	R	Н	C	L	-	D	Н
X		S	Y	K	Y	Ε	0	Н	X	Ε	V	Α	F	S
	C	В	X	X		N	Υ	В	C	N	Α	P	J	
Α		G	Y	Z		Н	F	Н	X	C	F	Т	Y	Ε
U	Т	U	N		W	U	Υ	X	Z	0	M	В	Ε	S
U	Υ	Z	S	Ε	M	F		0	R	V	N	V	Т	R
R	Ε	F	R		G		R	Α	T	0	R	Н	Ε	Q
Ε	V	J	M	Q	S	D	M	D	F	V	G	N	Υ	L
W	M	Ε	0	F	P	N	Т	K	W	1	Н	X	Q	
G	Ν		н	Т	0	L	C	R	L	S	S	В	R	D

- Turn off lights any time you leave a room.
- Keep the **refrigerator** door closed to save energy.
- Wash **clothing** in cold water to reduce the load on your **water heater.**
- Unplug items that consume **electricity** even when they're not in use, like cellphone **chargers** and coffee makers. These are known as "phantom
- Take **showers** instead of baths showers require less **water** use.



### **Need help paying** your electric bill?

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid. (Eligibility is based on energy costs, household size and the three most recent months of income.)

Are you a senior living on a fixed income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall? Then the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill.

#### **Bi-CAP**

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

#### Kootasca

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

#### Leech Lake

115 6th St., Cass Lake, MN 56633 218-335-3783

#### Mahube

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

#### Red Lake

15525 Mendota Ave, Redby, MN 56670 218-679-3350

EAP services may include: payment of energy bills, help with utility disconnections or fuel deliveries, repair or replacement of homeowner's broken heating systems, energy efficiency and more.

#### 2020 EAP Income Guidelines

Household <u>Size</u>	3-month <u>Maximum</u>	Household <u>Size</u>	3-month Maximum
1	\$6,761	5	\$15,084
2	\$8,842	6	\$17,164
3	\$10,923	7	\$17,554
4	\$13,003	8	\$17,944

Visit https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/ consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/ for more EAP income guidelines and program information



4111 Technology DR NW PO Box 488 Bemidji, MN 56619-0488 218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083 www.beltramielectric.com



# INTRODUCING A NEW SMARTHUB EXPERIENCE

New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

The SmartHub mobile app now has a refreshed and enhanced look!

Beltrami Electric's SmartHub online and mobile app provides a lot of features that help you manage your account, from billing and payment info to detailed usage analysis. It's a great tool to help you access your account information on the go or online.

Beltrami Electric has rolled out a new upgrade for the SmartHub mobile application that will help you get to the features you need quickly and efficiently.

First, you'll notice the mobile app will have a fresh, new look. When you open the app, you'll be able to see your usage analysis right up front or you can contact us with the click of a button right from the home screen.

Outage and billing alerts will also be displayed right on the home screen, making it easy for us to communicate important information with you. Billing, payment and other features will be available with one click of a button in a new condensed menu.

Update your SmartHub in the app store to see these changes! We hope these app updates will help provide a more user-friendly and efficient experience. All of the features you love about SmartHub will still be available, just with a refreshed look and an enhanced user experience. New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

SmartHub Mobile 3.0 will automatically occur on your mobile devices using at least Android 5.0 or iOS 9.0. Users with a lower version will stay on the current SmartHub mobile version 2.42.

