

NORTHERN

L I G H T S

April 2022

Lineworker Appreciation Day

In the forties, our lineworkers **raised lines** for farmers and rural towns in the region, **blurring the line** between the world that was and the world that could be.

Now, with the future of energy **on the line**, their work is as critical as ever.

These heroes push through the harshest conditions to provide reliable, affordable, responsible electricity for your family.

They put it all **on the line** – for you.



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



April 11, 2022
#ThankALineworker

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

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami County

Wade Koons

218-255-3011 - wade@koonsinspections.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Brandon Disselbrett

218-640-0187 - disselbrett@hotmail.com

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 email as indicated.

Gopher State One Call 811
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.

Mission of Beltrami Electric Co-op

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Striving for electric grid resiliency

by Jared Echternach, president and CEO

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept often makes headlines in the wake of natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes and more familiar to us (and oddly enough to Texans), winter storms. Here in Minnesota, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Here's what it means to us. Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. Back in the 1970s, your cooperative made the business decision to begin installing power lines underground. This proved to be a wise decision as your



distribution system is now nearly 75% underground and we're leading the state. As such, over the last 50 years we've focused on building and maintaining a resilient distribution system to benefit our members through improved reliability.

A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types

of generation – such as wind, solar, coal and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology – from demand response investments such as our load management program, to serving the future needs of electric vehicles – all factors into the resiliency of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. That's why we continually invest in your distribution system and take a proactive approach to maintenance.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites or bears, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in Minnesota, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter spring and summer storm season. Because we continue to invest in construction and maintenance, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out!

ANATOMY OF A

LINEWORKER

HAND LINE BLOCK

Lineworkers can't carry everything up on a pole, and the pulley block – the signature component of the hand line – is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

HARD HAT

A hard hat provides insulated protection against electrical hazards and shields the head from blows and falling objects.

WOOD POLE FALL PROTECTION BELT

Before a lineworker starts climbing a pole, they loop a safety strap around the pole and rehook the strap to their equipment belt. This serves as an added safety precaution and allows the lineworker to work with both hands free.



DITTY BAG

This canvas bag hangs from the equipment belt and holds the materials that lineworkers need at the ready for any number of jobs.

BOOTS

These boots help prevent lineworkers from gaffing themselves in the leg. Serrated heels provide a better grip and steel shanks provide extra support on the pole.



HAND LINE

This is a lineworker's lifeline. Complete with steel clips and a pulley block, this rope, which hangs from a pole's cross arm, is strong enough for any job – from the routine hoisting of equipment to lifesaving missions.

TOOL POUCH

This bag hangs from the back of the equipment belt and carries a wide variety of tools, such as pliers and wrenches.

GAFFS

Razor-sharp steel points are strapped to boots for climbing poles. Only the tips dig into wood, helping lineworkers climb more safely and efficiently.

April is Lineworker Appreciation Month, so be sure to #ThankALineworker in your life.

Beltrami Electric's Indoor Garage Sale

coming soon to benefit

United Way
of Bemidji Area



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022

Booth reservations for vendors will be open starting on Thursday, April 14, 2022, and will be accepted until all 91 booths have been filled. If interested, come into our office at 4111 Technology Dr NW in Bemidji and sign up or contact Cammie at **218-444-3675** or cvogel@beltramielectric.com.

Your energy. Your choice.

The Infinity Renewable Energy program allows consumers to decide how much of the electricity they purchase is generated by renewable resources. By enrolling in the Infinity program, cooperative members can choose a designated number of kilowatt-hours or percentage of electricity used that they would like to be derived from renewable resources. While it is not possible to direct where electrons are specifically delivered on the electric grid, it is possible to ensure that the renewable energy purchased is from a resource connected to the Minkota transmission system. The record of that purchase and the proof that it was reserved for a specific consumer is done through a renewable energy credit.



Renewable Wind Energy is available at two levels:

Option 1: Purchase blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours for 50 cents/block. For each (100 kWh) block you purchase, there is an additional charge of 50 cents on your bill for renewable wind energy.

Option 2: Purchase 100% of your monthly consumption and pay an additional \$0.005 per kWh on your bill for renewable wind energy.

Signing up for Infinity is easy!

It takes a matter of minutes, and all information is automatically incorporated into your billing statement. Members may contact us at (218) 444-2540 or (800) 955-6083 or sign up at beltramielectric.com/infinity-renewable-energy.

April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

Calling is critical

Installing a mailbox?
CALL 8-1-1.



Planting a garden?
CALL 8-1-1.



Building a deck?
CALL 8-1-1.



The process is easy

1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit call811.com.



PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW HOME THIS YEAR?



LET US HELP YOU

One of the many decisions you will make when building your new home includes your heating/cooling system. It's easy to budget your mortgage, but it can be difficult to predict what your utility costs will be. Let your electric cooperative help you!

- Bring in your detailed building plans and let our energy experts complete a comprehensive heat loss calculation (HLC) of your new home.
- We will assist you by providing options for different heating systems to help you save money on your heating bills.
- Receive an annual estimate of what it will cost to heat your home based on various systems and fuel types.
- We will work with you to take advantage of all available rebates as well.

A good heating system should combine comfort and value to keep your heating costs low and your new home warm.



CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER



By now, consumers are familiar with supply chain issues occurring throughout the pandemic. We are experiencing it firsthand, with exceptionally long lead times for equipment and significant increases in material costs.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- We have been working diligently to stay ahead of these challenges and have ordered materials far in advance; however, long lead times have made it hard to predict what we will be able to obtain.
- Items like transformers have been scarce, and to ensure we are able to meet our co-op members' needs, we are attempting to re-use transformers from locations that have been inactive for many years.
- Rising costs for materials, equipment and fuel have been impacting electric rates for utilities across the state, but Beltrami Electric continues to manage rising costs and member resources wisely. We are pleased to report your electric rates will remain stable for the fourth consecutive year.

If you're planning a new service installation or service improvement this year, supply chain issues will have a first-hand impact. Getting an early start is important. Please let us know in advance to ensure we have equipment available when needed and avoid any delays in service construction. Because of escalating costs for fuel and materials, costs for new service installations and service upgrades are expected to increase this year. New service construction and service improvement costs will be available in April for the 2022 season. Please call or visit our website for line construction information and applications.



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
 - o Ads submitted by April 1 will be published in May issue.
 - o Ads submitted between April 2 and May 1 will be published in June issue.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.com. (preferred)
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- 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.
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.

For Sale:

Queen size mattress barely used, need something a little more firm. \$250. 218-766-8781.

1981 Troy-Bilt Horse model rototiller, new tires, carburetor, overhauled transmission, original Briggs & Stratton engine, with good compression, \$600/obo. 218-333-3552.

Steel roll-in dock with solid decking, 64 feet w/8-ft extension. Good condition. \$650. Call 218-335-2075 between 4-6 p.m.

Yamaha P95 88 key digital piano, on stand, with bench, used little. Excellent condition. \$450. 218-444-2336.

Guns for sale: 300 Win Mag model 111 Savage with 2 clips, with 3x9 Leopold VAR X II, 55 rounds of ammo. \$800. 54 cal. Muzzle-

loader Rem. model 700 ML, stainless, with scope mounts, bullets, and powder. \$300. 303 British rifle No.4 Lee-Enfield, with instructions and bullets. \$500. 218-766-4210.

Heartland DVDs, seasons 1-11, \$75/obo. Outback Bush Ranger jacket, size XL, \$125/obo. Giant Hunk of Love Vermont Teddy Bear, \$100/obo. Fifty Shades of Grey Vermont Teddy Bear, \$30/obo. 218-759-0186.

Two 30-amp RV extension cords. A 25-foot for \$25 and a 50-foot for \$50. 218-760-3800.

Hewitt aluminum vertical boat lift with a 20-foot by 110-inch tan canopy, 2,600 lb., 102 inches wide, no wheels, \$2,800. Located on Gull Lake near Tenstrike. 701-772-0892.

Alum. extension ladder 32 feet long, \$200. Treated posts split in half 8' long 8" inches wide each post \$15, stationary sofa gray in color, new condition \$300. Great selection of additional furniture, must see. One-ton rotating engine stand new in the box \$200. 218-224-2483.

Showing cattle? We have what you may need! Sullivan Air Express III blower/dryer, \$200. Sullivan 24" turbo fan 1/2 hp with stand, \$250. 3/8" Tattoo Kit A-Z and 0-9 digits included holds up to 5 digits, \$60. Portable grooming chute, \$150. Guillotine headgate. \$300. Call 218-556-8593 or 218-835-4376.

1955 Ford Sunliner convertible, very good condition, power steering, windows, top, seats, and brakes. Continental kit. \$35,000 cash. 1950 Chevrolet Deluxe convertible, believed to be 52,000 original miles, original tire in trunk as spare, has all available accessories. \$35,000 cash. Pictures available upon request. 218-760-1095.

AKC registered Pembroke Welsh Corgi pups. Beautiful and intelligent. Ready for new homes by May 1. Call to reserve 218-224-3688.

Ladies Browning low profile irons, 3-pw \$50. Golf GPS wristwatch \$200 new, now \$100. 21 new and used men's golf shirts L and XL, all colors \$1 to \$10. Large golf umbrellas \$10 each. Used golf balls \$0.10 each. Fishing rods and reels and lures and landing nets. 218-586-2884.

14' Aluminum fishing boats: Alumacraft, Lund, and Mirrocraft. Asking \$275-\$500

each. Also 14' Crestliner boat, 6 hp Johnson Seahorse outboard motor, and Snowco trailer. Boat, motor, trailer package \$1,150. Call 218-760-8266.

Oats for sale, 2021, kept dry, \$275/bushel. 218-766-8167.

Two, like new sleeping bags. Heavy weight and flannel lined. Used only a few times. \$50 each. Smoke free and pet free home. 218-556-8507.

Wanted:

Looking for OLD issues of Beltrami Electric Cooperative's Northern Lights newsletter, between the 1940s-1960s. Old lineworker tools or memorabilia. Please contact Angela at Beltrami Electric or call 218-444-3689.

Free rendered lard to make soap. 218-556-2743.

Reloading equipment for high-powered rifles, including powder, bullets, primers, brass, etc. call 218-760-8266.

Would you like a keepsake of a lost loved one? I would be honored to make a memory bear or other animal for you from an item of clothing from your lost loved one. 218-766-6510.

Dachshund female puppy wanted. Our Min Pin was 18.5 years old and has been gone a couple of years. It's time for another little dog. Loving family with other pets. Contact planecrazzy@yahoo.com with pictures or call 218-224-2959.

Tiffany table lamp. Must have glass shade and heavy base. 218-444-6288, please leave message.

Looking for used duck decoys. Text, or call Luke at 218-556-0553.

Over & Under rifle shotgun. Left-handed rifles, two-wheel trailer. 218-340-9040.

Free:

Wooden dock, 7 sections (56 feet) 14 poles, 1 - L, 4 poles, a can bolts. 219-902-3210.

Seegerstrom Concert Grand, Minneapolis, upright piano and bench. Please call 218-751-9357.

Home, gardening, and nature magazines. Misc. golf club head covers. 218-586-2884.



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.)

Bi-CAP in Bemidji

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

Bi-CAP in Walker

8245 Industrial Park Rd NW, Walker, MN 56484
218-547-3438

KOOTASCA

201 4th St. NW, Suite 130, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-999-0824

Leech Lake

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

MAHUBE-OTWA

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

Red Lake

15809 High School Dr., Red Lake, MN 56671
218-679-3350

2022 Maximum EAP Income Guidelines

Household Size	3-month Maximum	Household Size	3-month Maximum
1	\$8,809	4	\$16,941
2	\$11,520	5	\$19,651
3	\$14,230	6	\$22,362

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

COMING SOON!

UPCOMING UTILITY EQUIPMENT AND TOOL AUCTION!



1-800-373-7652

When: Friday, April 8, 2022, beginning at 10 a.m.
Where: 4190 River Road, Grand Rapids, Minn.

For more information or to view items up for auction, visit: www.mc-bid.com.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Beltrami's board conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. A quorum of directors was present.

The following reports were given:

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes and observations.
- President and CEO Echternach gave his monthly report, including the legislative issues affecting the cooperative, statewide redistricting, Bemidji's Legislative Day meeting and a letter to the EPA supporting electric school buses.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the cooperative's Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- Angela Lyseng presented the social media and website analytics report.

- Jeremy Seibel and Derek Peldo presented on cybersecurity.
- President and CEO Echternach reviewed the cooperative's Succession Plan.
- President and CEO Echternach reviewed the cooperative's Political Action Plan.
- Murl Nord reported on Square Butte.
- Rick Coe reported on Minnesota Rural Electric Association and Minnkota Power Cooperative.
- Chair Lund appointed Jared Echternach as the CRC delegate with John Lund as the alternate.

- Chair Lund appointed Rick Coe as the CFC delegate with John Lund as the alternate.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Nominated Rick Coe as the Minnkota Power Cooperative director.
- Nominated Murl Nord as the Square Butte director.
- Approved the director and president and CEO expenses.

The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Co-op Connections Featured Business Offers



\$3 OFF ANY PIZZA, ANY SIZE
(NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS)

512 PAUL BUNYAN DR NW, BEMIDJI
218-444-7025
PAPAMURPHYSBEMIDJI.COM



10% OFF PLANTS OR FRESH FLOWERS

2401 HANNAH AVE NW, BEMIDJI
218-751-0850
BEMIDJIFLORAL.COM

connections.coop



Subscriptions
available or choose
to pay as you go!

Community solar provides interested
members an opportunity to purchase
locally-produced, solar energy

Join the Northern Solar Community today!

beltramielectric.com/northern-solar
218-444-2540 | 800-955-6083

SAFELY connect a portable generator to your home with

When you have lost power, a portable generator can temporarily provide needed electricity. However, it may present serious hazards if not used properly.

NEVER plug a portable generator directly into your home. This can cause electricity to feed back through your home onto the utility's system. This **"backfeed"** can be deadly for lineworkers working on lines that they believe are off and anyone near downed power lines.



The GenerLink is a 200-amp UL listed transfer switch to safely connect a generator to your home.

Purchase a generator that can provide the amount of power you expect to need during an outage.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's technicians will install the device at your electric meter.

GenerLink allows you flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's circuit panel.



Contact our Energy Services Department today for more information and current pricing at 218-444-3622.

*Good
Friday*

*Beltrami Electric
Cooperative will be closed
Friday, April 15, 2022,
in observance of
Good Friday.*

**We are looking
for you!**



Beltrami Electric Cooperative is looking for Thomas J. Kellum (*Blackduck, Minn.*). Please call **218-444-2540** if you have any information.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

®

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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YOUR CO-OP CELEBRATES ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ON EARTH DAY

Environmental stewardship is a core value of Beltrami Electric Cooperative and our wholesale power provider Minnkota Power Cooperative. As local energy providers, we operate facilities that run 24 hours a day in the communities where we live, work, raise families and enjoy the great outdoors. Simply put, we have a personal stake in ensuring our air, land and water stay in pristine condition for future generations. On Earth Day, April 22, we're reflecting on the ways we've helped make the generation and delivery of electricity more responsible, while also helping you – our member – use energy more wisely.



GENERATION

Beltrami Electric Cooperative utilizes a diverse mix of energy resources, including coal, wind and hydro power, to meet your 24/7 needs. About 42% of the generation capacity available is derived from carbon-free resources. Efforts are currently being explored to further reduce CO₂ emissions at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station through Project Tundra. The project would install technologies capable of removing approximately 90% of the CO₂ from either generator at the facility. The facility already operates cleanly thanks to \$425 million in emissions control technologies, while strict reclamation standards require that all land mined must be restored to original condition or better.



POWER DELIVERY

The routing of power lines takes into account environmentally sensitive areas and the migratory patterns of birds. Through its blink outage mitigation efforts, Minnkota has installed technologies on its power lines to help prevent birds from perching and other animals from climbing poles where they may encounter danger. Other technologies are installed when necessary to make lines more visible for birds. When viable, Beltrami Electric lines are converted from overhead to underground in an effort to limit power outages and reduce environmental impacts.



AT HOME

Beltrami Electric has the energy experts available to help you save money and use electricity wisely. In addition to advice and energy-saving tips, you also have access to great rebates on highly efficient technologies. This includes at-home electric vehicle chargers and highly efficient heating and cooling systems, like air-source heat pumps. Members who wish to receive up to 100% of their electricity from renewable resources can also sign up for the Infinity Renewable Energy program. Check out our website for the latest incentives and offerings.