

*A message from your CEO*

## KEEPING YOU SAFE AND ENERGIZED THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



**Bayfield Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Diane Berweger  
General Manager

**T**he coronavirus and efforts to help prevent its spread have temporarily upended life as we know it, with schools emptied out, businesses and restaurants closed, and people staying close to home. Through it all, Bayfield Electric Cooperative has and will continue to provide you with safe, reliable electric service.

Our number-one priority is the safety of our employees and members.

With that in mind, we have taken the following steps to keep our employees and members as safe as possible as we continue to provide this essential service:

- Our lobby is currently closed to the public to prevent the spread of germs. We love to see you, but we'd rather see you safe. Instead of stopping in, we encourage our members to pay their bill safely via SmartHub, our online bill-management system, or by calling 1-855-385-9978 for our automated secure pay system.
- To keep personal contact to a minimum, most of our staff is working from home, with only one or two employees working in the front office at any given time.
- Our linemen are also working from home, reporting to the jobsite from their houses.
- Each lineman is assigned his own truck to limit exposure.
- Materials are delivered to work sites by one person instead of having multiple employees enter and exit the garage and warehouse.

- If linemen must work together on a job site, they are practicing social distancing by staying 6 feet apart from one another.
- Everything that is touched—from tools to office equipment—is diligently wiped down daily.

Bayfield Electric Cooperative is committed to providing you with safe and reliable energy, and we want to work with you through these uncertain times. If you're having difficulty paying your energy bill, please contact us so we can work with you in making payment arrangements, or help direct you to other resources.

### STRUGGLING WITH PAYMENTS?

#### LET US HELP!

Ashland County Housing Authority is the administrator for Bayfield Electric's "Commitment to Community" program. A yearly payment can be applied to a Bayfield Electric member's electric account if the member qualifies for the Wisconsin Energy Assistance Program (WEAP) and meets the requirements for the Ashland County Housing program. To see if you may qualify for energy assistance, contact your local Department of Human Services. For more information on this program, please contact Eva at 1-800-274-8311.

MY CO-OP

**The most important thing  
we can do is keep your  
power on!**



#### COVID-19 Response

As our nation responds to COVID-19, we want to assure you that we have plans in place for the **continued delivery of reliable power** to your homes, businesses, farms and families.

We are following CDC guidelines and are taking steps to reduce face-to-face contact to help **protect our community and keep our employees, linemen and member service representatives safe, healthy and on the job for you.**

**We will continue to provide the excellent service you expect!**



## ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED

Our annual meeting has been postponed and we will keep our members informed with more information as soon as possible. Please check in with magazines to come or on our website for updates.

New and updated website.

COMING  
SOON

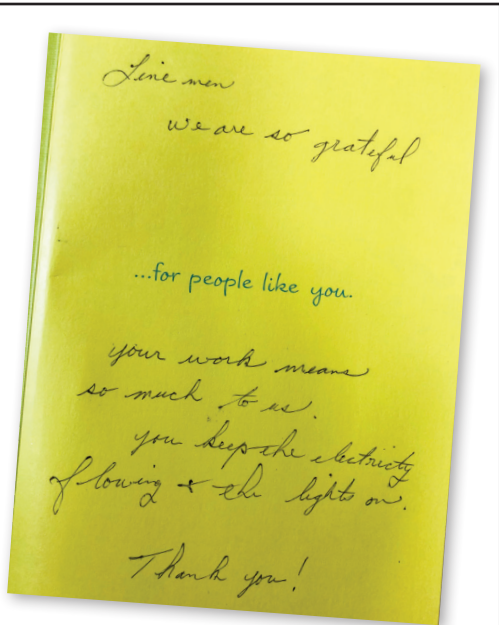


STAY TUNED!

## FOR AS LITTLE AS \$1 A MONTH, YOU CAN SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

If you are interested in protecting our environment and getting more of your electricity from renewable resources, Bayfield Electric has the program for you.

*Evergreen* is a voluntary renewable energy (green power) program available through Bayfield Electric. *Evergreen* is for you if you are willing to pay a little bit more to get some or all of your electricity from renewable energy resources. In addition to your normal monthly electric bill, you pay a small additional charge each month to offset the additional cost it takes to support renewable energy. *Evergreen* comes from solar, wind, and waste-to-energy renewable resources. Your participation in *Evergreen* enables Bayfield Electric to secure additional renewable energy resources above and beyond government requirements. For more information about *Evergreen*, contact Bayfield Electric at 715-372-4287 and ask for Jake.



We are grateful for all our members, especially those who take the time and effort to thank our linemen for the work they do!



In the 1940s, before the days of bucket trucks, our linemen put up polls the old-fashioned way—by climbing!

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

## Meet your director candidates:

**We have three districts up for election this year. Do you live in one of the below districts? If so, YOUR vote matters!**

### DISTRICT 5 – Townships: Sanborn, Gingles, Kelly, White River, Marengo



**Carl Schutte (incumbent)**

Carl lives in Ashland with his wife, Diana. They have two grown children. He is self-employed in logging and farming. He was employed by Northern Clearing from 1968–1988. His hobbies and interests include hunting and fishing.



**Michael Berlin**

Michael and his wife have raised four children, two of whom now have children of their own. Michael and his wife have both been retired for the past seven years from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Michael with 28 years and his wife with 42 years of government service. He currently holds a few positions within the community including: tribal vice-chairman of the Bad River Tribe, chairman of the Bad River Housing Authority, and board member of the Bay Area Rural Transit Authority (BART). He also serves on the Ashland County Commissioners. He has also served as a supervisor for the Town of Sanborn, and on the Ashland County Towns Association, for which his service included the time of the 2016 flooding. He enjoys serving and feels he can bring many good ideas to the table.

### DISTRICT 6 – Townships: Grand View, Lincoln, Shanagolden, Gordon



**Curtis Berweger (incumbent, unopposed)**

Curt has represented this district since 1988. He was vice president for 12 years. He is a retired real estate broker associate. He is involved in the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, Grand View volunteer fire department, St. Anne’s Church as Eucharistic minister, and is a member of the finance committee. He and his wife, Marie, live in Grand View and have a grown son, Cody. Some of Curt’s hobbies include hunting, fishing, golf, yard and garden work, traveling, camping, crosswords, and watching the Packers, Brewers, and Badgers.

### DISTRICT 9 – Townships: Knight, Carey, Oma, Mercer, Winchester, Pence, Michigan, Saxon, Kimball



**Kenneth Clement (incumbent)**

Kenneth is a retired dairy farmer and he lives in Saxon. He has been a member of the board since 2006. He has five grown children. Kenneth enjoys antique tractors and equipment along with making hay. He is a member of the Legion.



**Michael Nelson**

Michael has recently retired and joined the Mercer community. He and his wife have raised two children. Michael worked for Wisconsin Electric Power Company’s

Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant in the engineering department. He holds nine U.S. patents. Michael’s hobbies include fishing, biking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and recently learning how to make maple syrup.

**Not able to join in on the fun at the annual meeting? You can still participate by mailing in a Request for an Absentee Ballot, and we will mail you a ballot to VOTE!**

### ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

Voting for board of director candidates will take place at the Annual Meeting, at a date to be determined, at the Iron River Community Center. If you are unable to attend you may request an absentee ballot by filling out the form below and mailing to Bayfield Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 68, Iron River, WI 54847.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an active member of Bayfield Electric Cooperative and that I am unable to attend the Annual Meeting. My membership is in voting district (check one):

District #5

District #6

District #9

I hereby request one mail ballot to be sent to the above address for my use.

**(SIGNATURE IS NEEDED TO COMPLETE REQUEST)**

Member’s Signature

X \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS

*Youth Leadership Congress is a fun and educational opportunity*

**Y**outh Leadership Congress is an annual event hosted by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) and Wisconsin electric cooperatives. The event engages high school students in activities that emphasize team building, cooperative business knowledge, life skills, and leadership skills. YLC is a great opportunity for students to learn more about cooperatives, while building strong leadership and interpersonal skills. Past attendees have found it motivating, educational, and—of course—fun! Attending YLC also allows you to be eligible to attend the National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., the next year.

**Due to COVID-19 concerns, date is subject to change. Please watch our website for updates.**

- WHO:** High School students with parents who belong to a Wisconsin electric cooperative
- WHEN:** July 14–16, 2020
- WHERE:** UW-River Falls campus
- PRICE TO YOU:** FREE

**SIGN UP TODAY!** For more information and registration materials, please contact our office and ask for Briana. All registrations must be submitted by Monday, June 22, 2020.

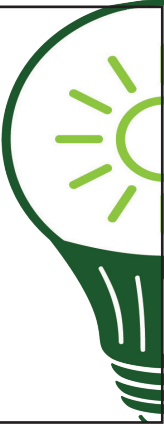


**MONTH OF MAY**

Billing date: May 8, 2020  
 April USAGE  
 Bills due upon receipt  
**GROSS DUE AFTER May 28, 2020**  
 Disconnect date: May 13, 2020

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During warmer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



### Diane Berweger, CEO

68460 District St., P.O. Box 68, Iron River, WI 54847  
 715-372-4287 • Fax: 715-372-4318  
 www.bayfieldelectric.com  
 Payment by Phone: 855-385-9978  
 After Hours Outage: 715-372-4047

### Briana Green, Editor



**Bayfield Electric Cooperative**  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*