



Paul Bunyan
COMMUNICATIONSSM

2017 Annual Report



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

61st Annual Meeting of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative

Wednesday, May 24, 2017
Paul Bunyan Communications
Headquarters
Bemidji, Minnesota

Business Meeting 3:30 pm
Coop Celebration 4:30 pm

You need not be present at Business Meeting to be eligible for door prizes. Dinner will be served continuously during the Annual Cooperative Celebration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Schultz,
Chief Financial Officer

OPERATING REPORTS

Kathy Peterson,
Board President

Gary Johnson,
CEO & General Manager

MINUTES FROM THE 60TH PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The 60th Annual Meeting of the members of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative was held at the Bemidji headquarters on May 25, 2016, commencing at 3:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Director Randy Frisk who presided as Chairperson throughout the meeting. Director Frisk announced that a quorum was present with 65 members in attendance.

Reverend Andrew Ronnevik of Calvary Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

Gary Eklund acted as Secretary throughout the meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading of the official notice and proof of mailing.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and approve them as presented.

Director Randy Frisk introduced the current board of directors.

Director Randy Frisk presented the Report of the President on behalf of President Kathy Peterson who was unable to attend.

The Annual Financial Report was given by Chief Financial Officer Dave Schultz. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the financial report.

The Manager's Report was given by CEO & General Manager Gary Johnson.

Director Randy Frisk called for unfinished business, there was none.

There was no new business.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on motion made, seconded and carried the meeting adjourned.

I am happy to report that 2016 was another very successful year for your cooperative! We've made great progress on expanding the GigaZone, our initiative to grow our state of the art fiber optic communications network into one of the largest gigabit networks in the country. We have also continued to add additional services for our membership including becoming Northern Minnesota's Apple Service Center offering repair on Apple Products and PC's.

As I have noted before, the GigaZone is the future of our cooperative and provides the next generation of broadband Internet services. An important piece of

upon access to critical, high quality communication services. Whether it is for rural health care, education, economic development, or entertainment, there is no doubt your cooperative's advanced GigaZone infrastructure will provide that for decades to come.

Our network capabilities were on full display in October when we hosted our first-ever GigaZone Gaming Championships. This event brought competitive gamers together from across northern Minnesota to compete in a variety of gaming events, headlined by League of Legends. The participants were impressed by the speed and responsiveness of the Internet

designers, programmers, and technicians and uniquely positions Paul Bunyan Communications to offer the region exceptional creative and technical services including website development and design, business IT services, and computer repair. These new services will be on featured in our Bemidji office once our exciting lobby renovations are complete in a few weeks.

The future of your cooperative is bright. Our expansive and growing fiber optic network infrastructure positions us extremely well for the data-centric future we know lies ahead. Our GigaZone services have been well received as hundreds of customers are connected

2016 YEAR in REVIEW

Gary Johnson - CEO/General Manager



the GigaZone experience is our GigaZone Integrated Wi-Fi service which is uniquely capable of delivering the higher GigaZone Internet speeds to all your wireless devices.. As I write this, a majority of our cooperative service area is now in the GigaZone, over 32,750 locations, and that number will continue to grow. This is an amazing accomplishment, especially considering that many rural areas in Minnesota and across the country are unfortunately still trying to gain access to the most basic of high speed Internet services for the first time.

The future of our region and the communities we serve depends

services central to the competition. Planning is already underway for our second annual event scheduled for September 29-30. You can learn more at gigazonegaming.com. New, creative events like this and the recent True North Hackfest show the power of combining our state of the art technology with the region's young tech-savvy talent.

In July, our cooperative reached an agreement with Lueken's Village Foods to purchase TJ Studio and make Paul Bunyan Communications northern Minnesota's Certified Apple Service Center. The acquisition combined the talented crew at TJ Studio with our team of skilled

every month. We are fortunate to have an extremely talented and hard-working team, and a very supportive and forward thinking board of directors. This means we're poised to continue our innovation and growth, continuing our 65-year mission of delivering critical communications and related services to our members across our rural service area.

Thank you for your membership and continued patronage.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary Johnson
CEO/General Manager

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Paul Bunyan Communications reinforces the importance of education by donating more than \$20,000 in scholarships to area high schools and post secondary institutions. We would like to congratulate all students who were awarded scholarships during the 2016 school year!

HIGH SCHOOLS

BEMIDJI

Hannah Gregg
Katrina Marcotte

DEER RIVER

Matt Rautio
Emma Shaw

LAPORTE

Kyle Kloehn
Sydney Bowles

RED LAKE

Leigh Garrigan
Lashana Thompson

BLACKDUCK

Julianna Fernandez
Timothy Schocker

GRAND RAPIDS

Megan Major
Logan Woock

LITTLEFORK/ BIG FALLS

Breanne Cipriano

WALKER

Jarod Marty-Kennedy
Cara Schmidtke

BIGFORK

Jade Kallinen
Rhyley Rahier

INT'L FALLS

Savannah Boe

NORTHOME

Shadow Lievsay
Cal Roosdett

CASS LAKE/BENA

Elizabeth Pemberton
Gabrielle Schmidt
Danica Staples

KELLIHER

Christina Grundmeier
Cole Koisti

PARK RAPIDS

Kylie Higgins
Hunter Utke

POST SECONDARY SCHOOLS

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Erin Deters
Alex Furey
Claire Johnson
Dusty Juve

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Kari Frezel
Michelle Fride

RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE

Shelby Lussier

ITASCA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Baylie Seifert

OAK HILLS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Joseph Weeks

LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

Alana Gross

EMPLOYEES

MANAGEMENT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Johnson

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Dave Schultz

NETWORK OPERATIONS MANAGER

Rob St. Clair

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Steve Howard

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

Christie Turn

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kalsie Vanasse

ACCOUNTING & HUMAN RESOURCES

Jackie Bergerson

Terri Crews

Jon Danker

Julie Geerdes

Karen Gaasvig

Rob Noren

Crystal Peterson

Amanda Sande

Bonnie Wichern

BUSINESS SALES

Rosie Berg

Kari Gregg

Chuck Hildebrandt

Lorie Karas

Chloe Keprios

ENGINEERING

Chris Battista

Tiffany Falk

Andy Fisher

Patti Horazuk

Ryan Maher

Brian Mustonen

Matt Proulx

Sharon Swanson

Ron Vold

DATA & VIDEO SERVICES

Josh Almendinger

Leo Anderson

April Azure

Aurora Baker

Nelson Castillo

Simon Cecere

Lisa Geerdes

Heather Hanson

John Harty

Adam Hellquist

Grant Hicok

Aaron Huls

Garret Johnson

Russ Krook

Maria Kuechle

Jonathan Lundstrom

Crystal Mattfield

Jesse Mix

Nate Nolting

Brandon Odegard

Nathan Peske

Beau Seeger

Loren Scramstad

Stacy Trask

Kim Tyk

Daniel Walden

Carly Walsh

Barb Zdenek

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Deanna Black

Wendy Britton

Jennifer Deeds

Dawn Drotts

Cyndi Fenske

Tia Graham

Melinda Hall

Leah Hendricks

Sarah Hightshoe

Aime Hulbert

Tonya Jaycox

Debra Jensen

Mary Jane Knapp

Liz Meade

Jenny Miller

Stacey Nelson

Cindy Nyhusmoen

Noel Peck

Gail Pederson

Wanda Rieger

Shawn Sauer

Terri Schaubhut

Jackye Severts

Jolene Silk

Micha Smith

Judy Stacklie

Jen Tomlinson

Brenda Williams

MARKETING

Brian Bissonette

Don Dale

Bob Lindberg

DISPATCH

Tammy Eidenschink

Anna Lauer

Corina Pafko

Mike Plotts

Meggen Solheim

Alison Voss

OUTSIDE PLANT

Kent Aker

Tog Anderson

Jeremy Arlt

Darren Bock

Duane Bode

Kyle Christianson

Dwight Crandall

George Daigle

Casey Fering

Brett Folland

Randy Garrigan

Mike Gregg

Thane Jansen

Tim Karas

Trent Larson

Chris Lucia

Tadd McFarren

John Nistler

Chris Oelrich

Ryan Otting

Ted Rutherford

Danny Samson

Jeffrey Schaper

Gary Storlie

Travis Tyler

Wayne Vredenburg

CENTRAL OFFICE

Daryl Bjerke

Bradley Hess

Stephen Mathias

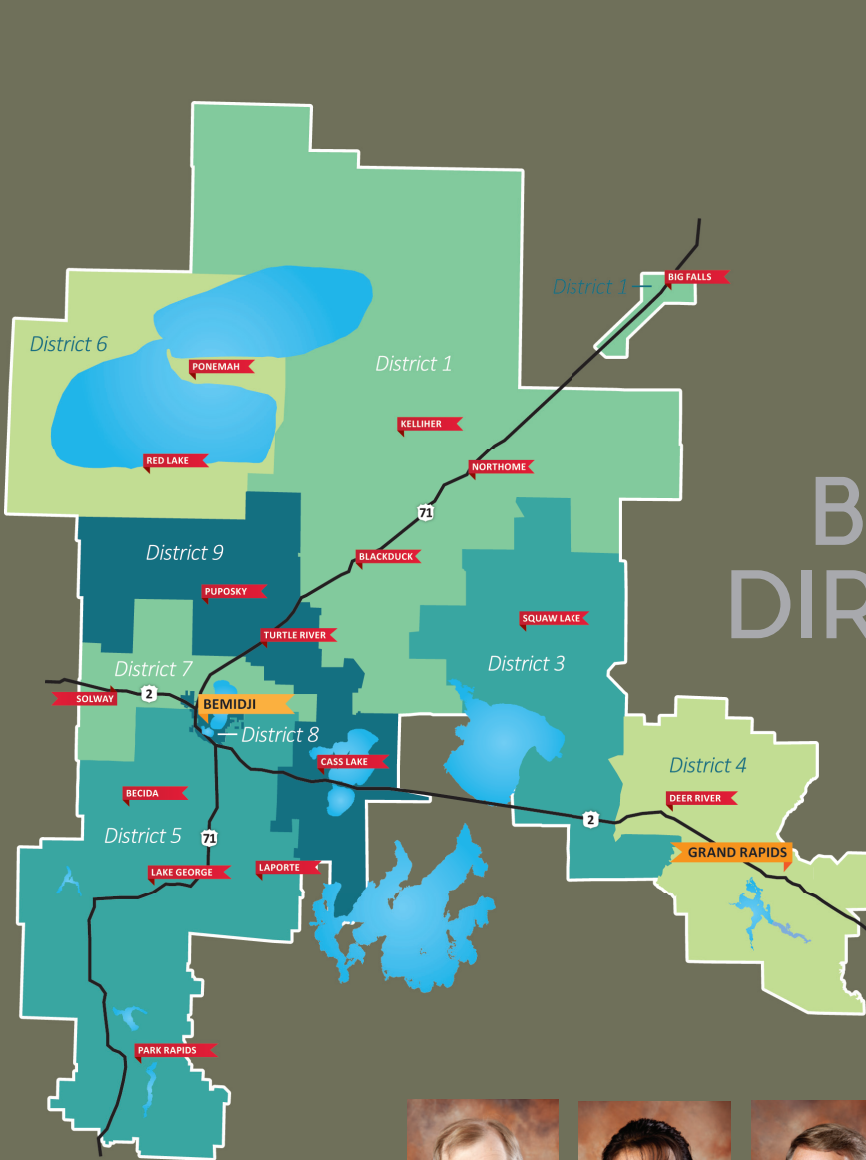
James Novak

Cheryl Pauly

MAINTENANCE

Pat Dockendorf

Bruce Simenson



BOARD of DIRECTORS



GARY EKLUND
SECRETARY
DISTRICT 1



KATHY PETERSON
PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 3



RANDY FRISK
DISTRICT 5



GLEND A MARTIN
DISTRICT 6



BRUCE CAMPBELL
DISTRICT 7

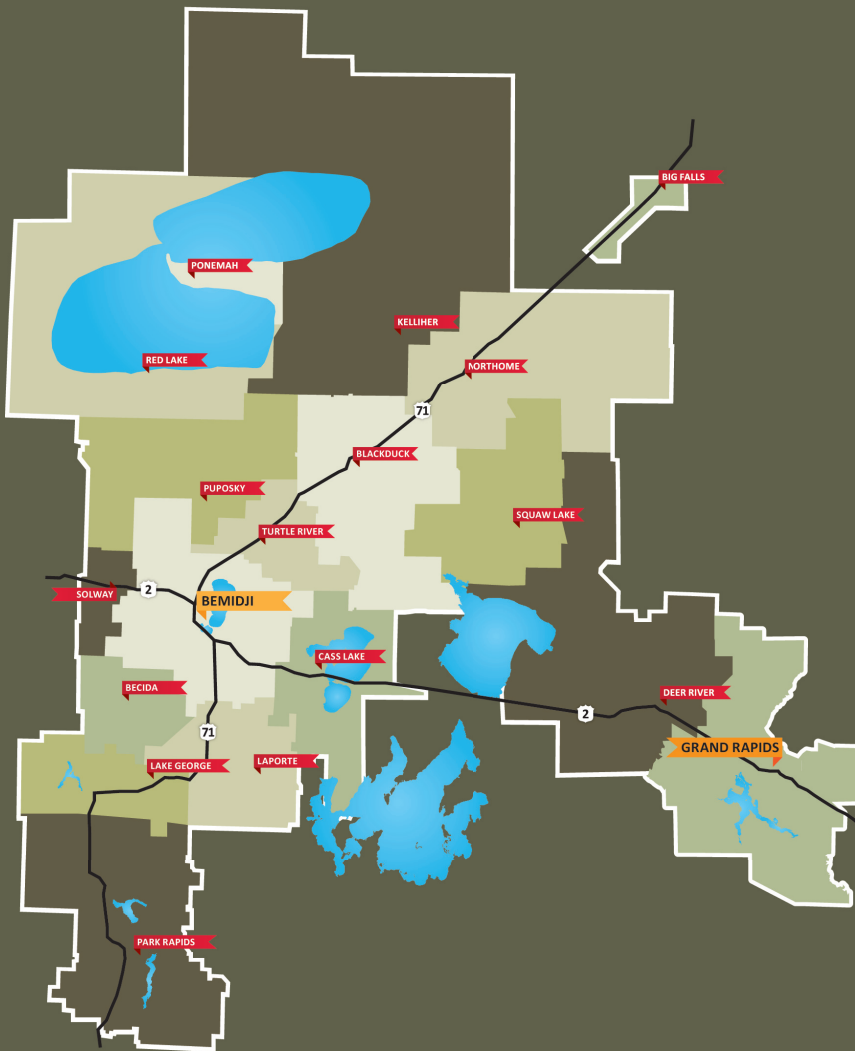


JIM SUTTON
DISTRICT 8



TIM HINS
TREASURER
DISTRICT 9

SERVICE TERRITORY



MISSION STATEMENT

Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative is committed to meeting the needs and expectations of our members and other customers by providing quality innovative communications services.

We commit ourselves to caring, cooperation and respect in our relations with members, customers, employees and our communities.

We strive to enhance the quality of life in our service area by accepting a leadership role in rural communications and economic development projects.

We operate in the highest tradition of the cooperative philosophy, as stated in our by-laws, while providing for the financial well-being of the cooperative and its members.