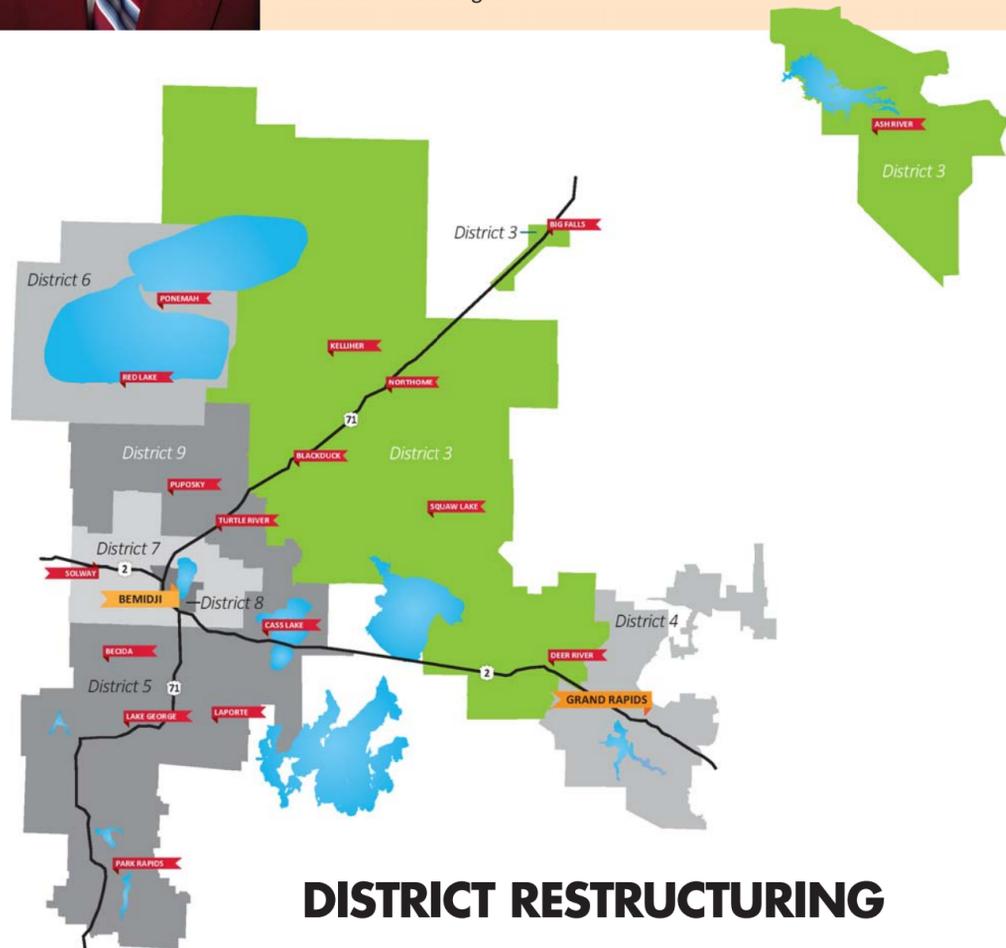




GARY EKLUND RETIREMENT

Gary Eklund who has served on the PBC Board representing the members of District 1 since April, 1997 has announced his intent to retire when his term expires on May 23, 2018.

Gary followed in the footsteps of his father Fridolf Eklund who served on the board from 1987-1997. Director Eklund additionally represented PBC serving on the Cooperative Development board helping guide our unique partnership with Beltrami Electric during a period of substantial growth and expansion. Gary has been a hard working, dedicated board member for over 21 years and we can't thank him enough for his service. We will miss his leadership, kindness, and commitment to our region.



DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING

Gary's retirement has created a vacancy on our Board of Directors for District 1. The current Board of Directors recently reviewed membership numbers by district and determined that in order to better balance board representation while preserving communities of interest, members of District 1 will become part of District 3 represented by Board President Kathy Peterson effective May 24, 2018. This change was adopted by the Board at their meeting on January 19.

Our cooperative continues to grow significantly. This change better balances the per district membership numbers and board representation.

TELE U WHAT

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Published by Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative
An Equal Opportunity Employer

email: info@paulbunyan.net
online: paulbunyan.net



BEMIDJI

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone (218) 444.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Paul Bunyan Net

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
NOTE: No walk-in customers after 6:00 pm, phone support only

GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Square
1220 S. Pokegama Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone (218) 999.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Kathy Peterson, District 3
Inger-Wirt, Squaw Lake

Secretary Gary Eklund, District 1
Blackduck, Kelliher, Northome, Big Falls

Treasurer Tim Hins, District 9
Cass Lake, Puposky, Turtle River

Randy Frisk, District 5
Becida, Bemidji, Laporte, Itasca State Park, Lake George, Park Rapids

Glenda Martin, District 6
Ponemah, Red Lake

Bruce Campbell, District 7
Bemidji, Solway

Jim Sutton, District 8
City of Bemidji



1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

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TELE U WHAT

COOPERATIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION • MARCH 2018

GET READY FOR NCAA® MARCH MADNESS®



TBS, CBS, TNT, AND truTV
MARCH 13 - APRIL 2
WITH PBTV AND EVERYWHERE

March is here and to a college hoops fan, that only means one thing... it's tournament time! Watch live coverage from the First Four® to the Final Four®, which culminates with the NCAA® Division I Men's Basketball Championship on TBS!

Don't miss a single shot on TNT, CBS, TBS, and truTV on Paul Bunyan Television, in high definition with PBTV HD, or on the go with PBTV Everywhere. PBTV Everywhere allows our TV customers access to various network shows, music, and even some live TV from their computer, tablet, or smart phone.

NCAA® March Madness® Live™ on PBTV Everywhere will provide an unlimited viewing experience throughout CBS Sports and Turner Sports' coverage of the entire tournament. Fans will have access to all games on TNT, TBS, and truTV on the digital device of their choice, by signing up and logging in to PBTV Everywhere, and all games broadcast on CBS with no registration required.

Whether viewing on a big-screen TV or a computer, tablet, or smart phone, PBTV subscribers can enjoy the excitement of NCAA March Madness anywhere they are and however they choose. With Turner's commitment to TV Everywhere, passionate fans can use NCAA March Madness Live as either a first- or second-screen interactive experience to enjoy all 67 tournament games.

PBTV EVERYWHERE IS FREE TO ALL PBTV SUBSCRIBERS

VISIT PAULBUNYAN.NET AND LOOK FOR THE PBTV EVERYWHERE ICON TO GET STARTED

Pick the winning teams of this year's college basketball tourney and you could win a credit on your Paul Bunyan Communications account

VISIT PAULBUNYAN.NET TO GET STARTED

1st Place Prize \$500 Credit
2nd Place Prize \$250 Credit
3rd Place Prize \$100 Credit

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Some restrictions may apply.

MAKE YOUR PICKS AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN



Must subscribe to PBTV service to receive PBTV Everywhere. Some restrictions may apply. NCAA, March Madness, First Four and Final Four are trademarks owned or licensed by The National Collegiate Athletic Association. TBS, TNT and truTV are trademarks of Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. A Time Warner Company. All Rights Reserved.

DECEMBER

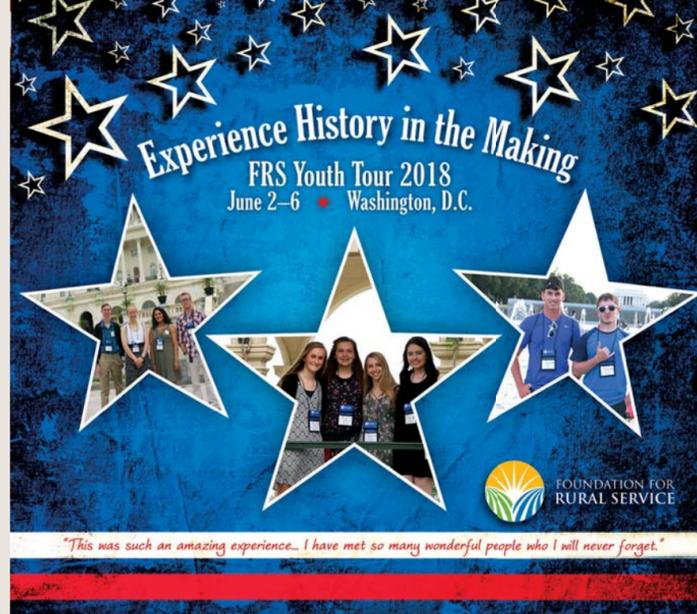
Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on December 11, 2017. Also present were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz, Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The CEO updated the Board on our voice, video, and data services. He provided customer counts and highlights related to our various lines of business and services.
- He provided an update on the status of discussions regarding video retransmission consent authorizations and other ongoing television content negotiations.
- Digital Services Supervisor Leo Anderson and Customer Service Manager Christie Turn provided an update on our upcoming enhancement to our after-hours customer service and technical support.
- The CEO discussed the upcoming Security Summit being held in both the Bemidji and Grand Rapids offices that will provide training and create focus on critical elements of digital and physical security.
- The 2018 Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2018.
- CFO Dave Schultz reviewed the 2016 Excise Tax refund. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the filing for 2016 Excise Tax refund.
- The 2018 MTA Annual Convention will be held March 26-28 in Minneapolis. Attendees for the convention were designated.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings.
- Thank you letters and correspondence were reviewed.

JANUARY

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on January 19, 2018. Also present were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz, Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The CEO updated the Board on our voice, video, and data services. He provided customer counts and highlights related to our various lines of business and services.
- IT & Development Manager Steve Howard provided a recap of the PBC Security Summit recently held in our Bemidji and Grand Rapids offices.
- The CFO provided an overview of the significant increases the television programmers and content providers are charging to carry their channels on PBTv.
- The 2018 Caucus meeting was discussed.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He gave an update on a potential land sale in Bemidji Technology Park.
- Thank you letters and correspondence were reviewed.



FRS 2018 YOUTH TOUR

Area High School Students age 16 to 17 are encouraged to enter the Paul Bunyan Communications Essay Contest for a chance to attend the 2018 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 2 - 6, with all expenses paid by Paul Bunyan Communications.

Students interested in attending the Youth Tour need to submit a short essay, no more than 500 words in length, on why they would like to attend the Youth Tour. Students must be 16 or 17 years of age and in high school with their parent/guardian a member of Paul Bunyan Communications.

Entries can be dropped off at the Paul Bunyan Communications office in Bemidji or Grand Rapids, or they can be mailed to:

Paul Bunyan Communications Essay Contest
1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY, MARCH 16

The trip features a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions affect the industry. The tour allows youth to meet with members of Congress who represent rural constituents. They also participate in educational sessions about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Students visit some of the nation's most historic sites, including Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Museums, and a beautiful night tour of Washington D.C.

This is the 22nd consecutive year that Paul Bunyan Communications has participated in sending a local high school student to the Youth Tour.

Paul Bunyan Communications
PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE
WINNERS

Paul Bunyan Communications is excited to announce the winners of the 3rd Annual Pick-It Bowl Challenge, a free online contest for participants to pick the winners for the 2017 College Bowl games for a chance to win a credit on a Paul Bunyan Communications account.



Jason Bergin

1st PLACE
\$500 CREDIT

Mary Kueber

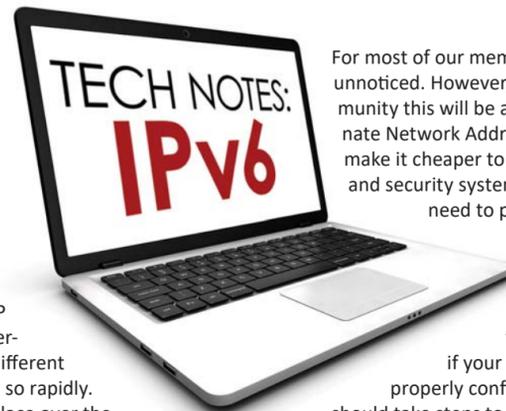
2nd PLACE
\$250 CREDIT

Fred Luckerth

3rd PLACE
\$100 CREDIT

Have you ever thought of the stories we'll tell our grandchildren? The second part of the clause, "When I was your age," has rapidly changed over time. When I was your age, we couldn't go on the internet without tying up a landline phone. When I was your age I didn't get a cell phone until I became an adult. When I was your age it took 40 minutes for a 2 minute video to load. When I was your age 4 billion IP address were enough for the entire internet... we all can fill in the blank with a different statement since our world has changed so rapidly. So much of our day-to-day lives takes place over the internet. It's not just for businesses; in many modern families, everyone has at least one device, perhaps a few, connected to the internet in one location.

Paul Bunyan Communications has continuously worked to build a strong network for reliability and faster internet speeds. Our Cooperative will soon be making more changes. Under the current system, IP Version 4 (IPv4), there are about four billion IP addresses. The simple truth is that IP addresses are running out due to the popularity of the internet. This is a global problem. The industry has been working for many years to come up with the answer, IP Version 6 (IPv6). Continuing with our desire to provide the best services possible in an ever-changing industry, Paul Bunyan Communications has been utilizing IPv6 for several years and will soon start deploying IPv6 to our members.



For most of our members, the deployment of IPv6 will go unnoticed. However, for many in the online gaming community this will be a great change because it will eliminate Network Address Translation (NAT). This may also make it cheaper to deploy devices like home cameras and security systems because, in most cases, you won't need to purchase additional IPv6 addresses.

Additionally, the basic firewall service that is included by default with our IPv4 service is not available with IPv6. This could potentially leave your equipment vulnerable if your firewall or other home devices aren't properly configured and prepared for IPv6. You should take steps to verify that your equipment is ready and secure. The roll-out of this service will happen slowly and may not be available in all areas at once; in the meantime, if desired, members can purchase their own firewall for their home or business that will support IPv6. For the foreseeable future, PBC will be offering IPv4 and IPv6 simultaneously, also known as "dual stack". This means you also have the option of turning off IPv6 if desired and only running IPv4, which provides the traditional basic firewall service for most customers.

Paul Bunyan Communications is prepared for this technology change and strives to be a leader in both customer service and information technology. If you have further questions about this please don't hesitate to contact us. Whatever changes that the future has in store, we will continue to be there for our members.

TO SEE YOUR IP ADDRESS VISIT: <http://paulbunyan.net/ip/>

2018 CAUCUS MEETING DATES SET

There will be two District Caucuses held in 2018. The purpose of the caucus meetings are to nominate a director candidate or candidates to represent the district on the Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors. The caucuses are only open to members from within the Districts.

Directors serve a five-year term, with these district's next term expiring in the year 2023. Once a person or persons are nominated at the district meeting, up to two names are put onto a ballot and voted on by the general membership of the Cooperative. Votes are tallied at the Annual Meeting, and results are announced at that time. Nominees with the greatest numbers of votes from the general membership will be elected Director for the district.

Please be aware of the cooperative caucus voting rules of one vote per membership and how that applies to married couples, businesses, etc. This includes understanding who is authorized on your account and therefore eligible to vote at the caucus. Often times a husband or wife may sign up for service but not put the other spouse on the account and establish "joint membership". In that instance, per the cooperative's bylaws, only the individual who is on the account is authorized

DISTRICT 4 - TUESDAY, APRIL 3
7:00 PM AT TIMBERLAKE LODGE IN GRAND RAPIDS
THIS CAUCUS IS ONLY OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE COOP FROM DISTRICT 4

DISTRICT 6 - MONDAY, APRIL 2
7:00 PM AT RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE
THIS CAUCUS IS ONLY OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE COOP FROM DISTRICT 6

to vote. If you have any questions about your voting eligibility for these caucuses, please call our offices.

The Expectations of a Director for Paul Bunyan Communications can be found on our web site at www.paulbunyan.net/cooperative/qualifications.html or on page 49 of the information section in the 2018 Minnesota Gold Telephone Directory.

Article III, Section 2.(b) of the Cooperative Bylaws states the required qualifications of a Director which can be found on our web site at www.paulbunyan.net/cooperative/articles.html or on page 43-47 of the information section in the 2018 Minnesota Gold Telephone Directory.

Please refer to these qualifications when you consider your nominations for a Director to represent your district or consider becoming a candidate yourself.

In addition to being an opportunity to nominate persons to represent the district, your caucus meeting is also an opportunity for you to ask questions concerning the cooperative. The meeting will be attended by several key management staff.

PB TV NEW CHANNELS

CH 123 | HD 623

Hallmark Drama is a new television network featuring new, original content produced just for Hallmark Drama and movies and series from Crown Media's library of original dramatic content. The content is different and distinct from the content on Hallmark Channel and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries.

CH 185 | HD 685 PBTv EXTRA ONLY

This is the place for awe-inspiring stories, powerful documentaries and amazing entertainment. As a joint venture, Smithsonian Channel combines the storytelling prowess of Showtime Networks with the unmatched resources and rich traditions of the Smithsonian Institution. They create award-winning programming that shines new light on popular genres such as: air and space, history, science, nature, and pop culture.