

2019 ANNUAL
REPORT



Paul Bunyan
COMMUNICATIONS[®]

POWERED BY
GIGAZONE[®]

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KATHY PETERSON
DISTRICT 3



MARK MATTESON
DISTRICT 4



RANDY FRISK
PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5



GLENDA MARTIN
DISTRICT 6



BRUCE CAMPBELL
SECRETARY
DISTRICT 7



JIM SUTTON
VICE PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 8



TIM HINS
TREASURER
DISTRICT 9

MINUTES FROM THE 63RD PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the members of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative was held at Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Headquarters on May 22, 2019, commencing at 3:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Director Kathy Peterson who presided as Chairperson throughout the meeting. Director Peterson announced that a quorum was present with 58 members in attendance.

Bruce Campbell acted as Secretary throughout the meeting.

Reverend Genelle Netland from Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji gave the invocation.

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 Kathy Peterson introduced the current board of directors.

Director Kathy Peterson presented the Report of the President.

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 Kathy Peterson called for unfinished business, there was none. She reported that the incumbent director for District 5, Randy Frisk, was uncontested at caucus, and was therefore reelected.

There was no new business.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn.



Message from CEO/GM **GARY JOHNSON**

2019 was another great year for your cooperative!

We continued to expand our all-fiber optic network to extend our communication services to hundreds of additional locations which, until now, lacked the services our members have. We also continued replacing our copper network with fiber optics in our current service area, a project that is nearly complete. As a result of our efforts, Beltrami County was rated the number one Minnesota county with access to Internet speeds of up to a gigabit per second (Gbps). More than 98% of Beltrami County now has access to gigabit speeds. The other counties we serve are also seeing increasing access to gigabit service as we continue to build and expand our all-fiber network as aggressively as possible. In contrast, currently less than 25% of the state has access to Gigabit Internet speeds, and nine counties have no gigabit access at all. We are very proud to put our members at the forefront of technology.

More than ever, legislators and policy makers now recognize the critical importance of delivering effective, high-speed Internet access to all of rural America. A key initiative to support these efforts was enacted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in May of 2019. The Alternative Connect America Model II, or A-CAM II, provides support for companies like Paul Bunyan Communications who commit to provide high-speed services in their current rural service areas. This funding recognizes the decades of effort and the millions of dollars our cooperative

has invested annually to ensure the best possible Internet access is available across our rural service area. Additionally, it will help our efforts to continue to expand to those outside our current service area still desperately in need.

While our core services remain broadband internet, voice, and television, we offer many additional services to help our members. These services continued to flourish in 2019.



The certified Apple Service Center on the first floor of our Bemidji headquarters services Mac products and PC computers. Our team earned Apple Premium Service Provider status again in 2019 given by Apple in recognition of their unparalleled commitment to technical excellence and customer service.

A growing number of area businesses are leveraging the technical talents of our cooperative employees through our Business I.T. professional services. Your cooperative provides networking services, website development, data storage, data security, managed Wi-Fi, managed voice, and

much more to businesses of all sizes.

While we talk a lot about our advanced technology and infrastructure, as a cooperative Paul Bunyan Communications continues to give back to the communities we serve as well. This takes on many different forms including scholarships, sponsorships, donations, employee volunteers, and special events.

One such event is the GigaZone Gaming Championship which has grown exponentially each year over its four-year history. In November of 2019 the event saw more than 4,000 take part in the fun. This one-of-a-kind regional e-gaming event has received national awards and recognition and showcases our IT and web development team and GigaZone Internet speeds.

The state of the cooperative is very strong. Our all-fiber optic rural gigabit network is one of the largest in the country and is revolutionizing the way members can work from home, distance learn, use telehealth services, watch streaming video, and much more. This advanced infrastructure positions us very well for the future. At the same time we're financially strong, and we were able to return more than \$2.8 million to our cooperative members in August. It is rewarding to provide high quality services and also return our profits to members. It pays to work together.

Thank you to our incredibly dedicated team, our engaged and effective Directors, and all our valued members. Together, we had a great 2019!

EMPLOYEES

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

TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE MANAGER

Leo Anderson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kalsie Vanasse

DATA & VIDEO SERVICES

Josh Almendinger

April Azure

Aurora Baker

Kim Capra

Nelson Castillo

Lisa Geerdes

John Harty

Adam Hellquist

Grant Hicok

Aaron Huls

Carly Huls

Garrett Johnson

Kristopher Kolkin

Russ Krook

Maria Kuechle

Jonathan Lundstrom

Dan Maloney

Crystal Mattfield

Jesse Mix

Nate Nolting

Brandon Odegard

Isaiah Olson

Beau Seeger

Loren Scramstad

Darryl Sobey

Stacy Trask

Daniel Walden

Adam Washburn

Barb Zdenek

MAINTENANCE

Pat Dockendorf

Travis James

Chad Netland

ACCOUNTING

Jackie Bergerson

Terri Crews

Jon Danker

Karen Gaasvig

Brian Kuhrke

Crystal Peterson

Bonnie Wichern

HUMAN RESOURCES

Heather Hanson

Amanda Sande

ENGINEERING

Chris Battista

Tiffany Falk

Andy Fisher

Patti Horazuk

Tonya Jaycox

Ryan Maher

Brian Mustonen

Matt Proulx

Sharon Swanson

Ron Vold

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jennifer Baker

Zach Bodien

Wendy Britton

Jennifer Deeds

Dawn Drotts

Tia Graham

Bobbi Gunderson

Melinda Hall

Leah Hendricks

Mary Jane Knapp

Katie Knight

Madison Liapas

Craig Maas

Meghan McDonald

Liz Meade

Jenny Miller

Stacey Nelson

Cindy Nyhusmoen

Noel Peck

Gail Pederson

Tonya Place

Wanda Rieger

Shawn Sauer

Terri Schaubhut

Jackye Severts

Micha Smith

Judy Stacklie

Jen Tomlinson

Brenda Williams

MARKETING

Brian Bissonette

Don Dale

Bob Lindberg

DISPATCH

Deanna Black

Tammy Eidenschink

Sarah Gillman

Corina Pafko

Mike Plotts

Meggen Solheim

Alison Voss

OUTSIDE PLANT

Kent Aker

Tog Anderson

Jeremy Arlt

Kyle Christianson

Dwight Crandall

Casey Fering

Tyler Fisher

Brett Folland

Randy Garrigan

Mike Gregg

Ryan Hopke

Mark Howard

Thane Jansen

Tim Karas

Trent Larson

Chris Lucia

Tadd McFarren

John Nistler

Ryan Otting

Dusty Reul

Ted Rutherford

Danny Samson

Jeffrey Schaper

Mike Smith

Gary Storlie

Travis Tyler

Wayne Vredenburg

CENTRAL OFFICE

Daryl Bjerke

Darren Bock

Bradley Hess

Stephen Mathias

James Novak

Cheryl Pauly

BUSINESS SALES

Rosie Berg

Kari Gregg

Chuck Hildebrandt

Lorie Karas

Chloe Keprios

Jacob Lien

BEMIDJI

Cooperative Headquarters

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

GRAND RAPIDS

Customer Service and Technology Center

510 SE 21st St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

PAULBUNYAN.NET

