



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS and SERVICE TERRITORY



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MISTIC-SCHAAR**  
DISTRICT 3



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NICKALSON**  
DISTRICT 4



**RANDY  
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DISTRICT 5  
PRESIDENT



**GLEND  
MARTIN**  
DISTRICT 6



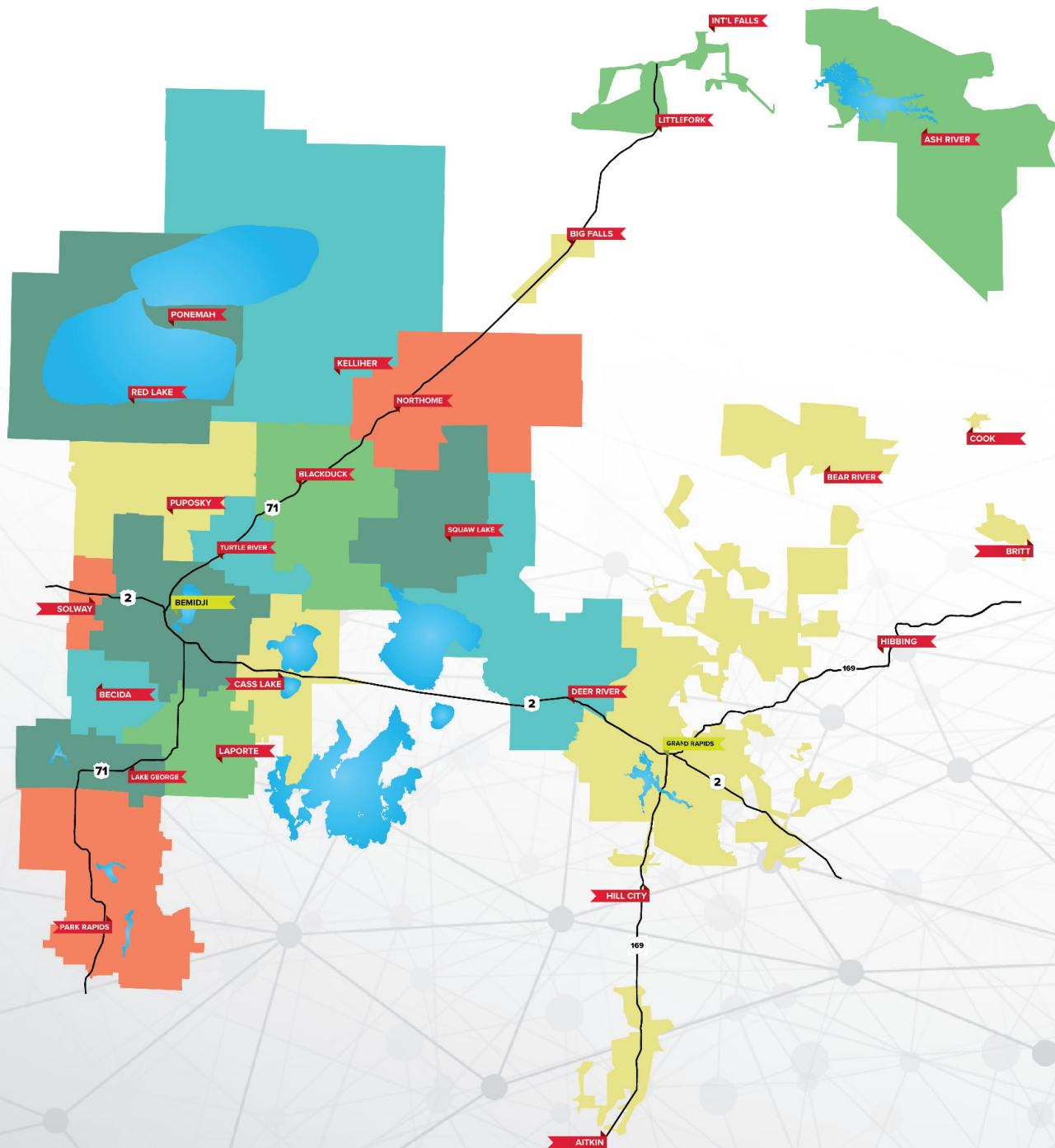
**BRUCE  
CAMPBELL**  
DISTRICT 7  
SECRETARY



**JIM  
SUTTON**  
DISTRICT 8  
VICE PRESIDENT



**TIM  
HINS**  
DISTRICT 9  
TREASURER





*As we reflect on the year 2023, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey we've undertaken together. We have remained focused on our mission to connect, empower, and enrich the lives of our members. In addition to supporting our current members, we continued expansion of our fiber-optic network, bringing state-of-the-art fiber broadband services to even more homes and businesses. This investment not only provides critical communication services to those in need, but also lays the foundation for economic growth and development across our region.*

Behind every milestone, success story, and member served lies the talent and dedication of our exceptional employees. Their tireless efforts, innovative spirit, and unwavering commitment to excellence are the driving force behind our success, expansion, and continued community involvement. It never ceases to amaze me what this cooperative is capable of thanks to them.

At the heart of Paul Bunyan Communications is our cooperative spirit—a commitment to innovation and to the region we serve, all with a member focus. As a cooperative, we exist only to serve our members the best we can. Every decision we make is guided by the best interests of our current and future members.

It is an interesting time for our broadband industry. There are unprecedented levels of federal and state resources available intended to partially fund costly broadband infrastructure construction so that high quality Internet services are ultimately available to all. In 2023, we successfully leveraged a number of these programs to make continued expansion to additional rural areas financially possible. Our service-oriented, not-for-profit cooperative structure combined with a rural focus

and experienced technical team makes us very well positioned to deliver on the goals of these programs.

In addition to aggressive and successful infrastructure expansion, 2023 was notable in a number of other ways. It is still hard to believe that the co-founder of Apple, the father of microcomputer technology as we know it, and my idol, Steve “Woz” Wozniak joined us in Bemidji for our GigaZone Gaming Championship and TechXpo! As a life-long Apple fan and computer programmer since my high school days, having the opportunity to meet the visionary genius and have him present to the thousands in attendance was an unbelievable moment for me, our staff, our cooperative, and our region. It was clear his passion for the potential of technology and its impact on society continues today. Mr. Wozniak has an endless amount of event opportunities across the globe. I sincerely believe he agreed to join us simply because he respects our mission, our cooperative structure, and that we provide technology because it's the right thing to do – a mirror of his personal philosophy.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to pushing the boundaries of possibility and embracing new opportunities. Our vision for Paul Bunyan Communications goes beyond providing internet access; it's about empowering individuals, driving economic growth, and building a brighter future for generations to come.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to our members, employees, Board of Directors, and community partners for your continued support and trust in Paul Bunyan Communications. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones in 2023, and I am confident that with our shared vision and determination, we will continue to thrive for decades to come.

## 2023 **Commitment to Innovation** for All We Serve



CEO/General Manager  
Gary Johnson

# EMPLOYEES

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Johnson

## ASSISTANT MANAGER

Chad Bullock

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Dave Schultz

## CHIEF NETWORK OFFICER

Rob St. Clair

## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Christie Turn

## CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Leo Anderson

## I.T. & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Steve Howard

## NETWORK TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Lisa Geerdes

## NETWORK OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ryan Otting

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kalsie Vanasse

## DATA & VIDEO SERVICES

Josh Almendinger  
David Anderson  
April Azure  
Ethan Bell  
Daniel Burdick  
Kim Capra  
Joey Carter  
Nelson Castillo  
Justin Delaurier  
Samuel Freundshchuh  
Chris Fultz  
John Harty  
Grant Hicok  
Aaron Huls  
Garrett Johnson  
Kristopher Kolkin  
Russ Krook  
Maria Kuechle  
Chris Larson  
Sarah Lemke  
Jonathan Lundstrom  
Dan Maloney  
Roman Martushev  
Crystal Mattfield

Jesse Mix  
Wakinyan Moore  
Nate Nolting  
Isaiah Olson  
Scott Reiser  
Beau Seeger  
Loren Scramstad  
Ryan Speck  
David Thomas  
Stacy Trask  
Aurora Vogt  
Daniel Walden  
Adam Washburn  
Marcus Winters  
Samuel Wolkoff  
Barb Zdenek

## MAINTENANCE

Pat Dockendorf  
Travis James  
Chad Netland

## ACCOUNTING

Jackie Bergerson  
Terri Crews  
Jon Dancker  
Karen Gaasvig  
Patti Horazuk  
Brian Kuhrke  
Jake Mechtel  
Brandon Odegard  
Crystal Peterson  
Chris Tangen  
Bonnie Wichern

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Heather Hanson  
Jared Orgon  
Amanda Sande

## ENGINEERING

Chris Battista  
Tiffany Falk  
Andy Fisher  
Tonya Jaycox  
Lorie Karas  
Ryan Maher  
Brian Mustonen  
Matt Proulx  
Jeffrey Schaper  
Sharon Swanson  
Ron Vold

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jennifer Baker  
Taylor Blooflat  
Wendy Britton  
Kirsten Bushnell  
Jennifer Deeds  
Charlene Draper  
Dawn Drotts

Abbey Fox  
Tia Graham  
Bobbi Gunderson  
Stephanie Karl  
Madison Liapis  
Mallory McCartney  
Meghan McDonald  
Cindy Nyhusmoen  
Noel Peck  
Jaslyn Pemberton  
Tonya Place  
Wanda Rieger  
Bobbi Sampson  
Terri Schaubhut  
Jackye Severts  
Jordan Sweep  
Kelsey Thompson  
Trey Volk  
Melissa Wehland  
Brenda Williams

## CENTRAL OFFICE

Daryl Bjerke  
Darren Bock  
Chris Lucia  
James Novak  
Lane Skerik

## DISPATCH

Deanna Black  
Tammy Eidenschink  
Sarah Gillman  
Craig Maas  
Corina Pafko  
Meggen Solheim  
Ashley Tran  
Alison Voss  
Stephanie Wood

## OUTSIDE PLANT

Kent Aker  
Chris Anderson  
Tog Anderson  
Jeremy Arlt  
Ethan Beckman  
Joe Best  
Jason Bowles  
Brett Carlson  
Kyle Christianson  
Dwight Crandall  
Casey Fering  
Tyler Fisher  
Brett Folland  
Randy Garrigan  
Scott Geerdes  
Mike Gregg  
Ryan Hopke  
Mark Howard  
Thane Jansen  
Ross Johnson  
Tim Karas

Trent Larson  
Tadd McFarren  
John Nistler  
Mike Plotts  
Kevin Preble  
Dusty Reul  
Danny Samson  
Mike Smith  
Sean Stenberg  
Gary Storlie  
Travis Tyler  
Brea Varda  
Wayne Vredenburg

## BUSINESS SALES

Kari Gregg  
Chuck Hildebrandt  
Jake Lien  
Cierra Reed  
Megan Stolte  
Daniel Thoben  
Jen Tomlinson

## MARKETING

Rosie Berg  
Brian Bissonette  
Bob Lindberg





## **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**

