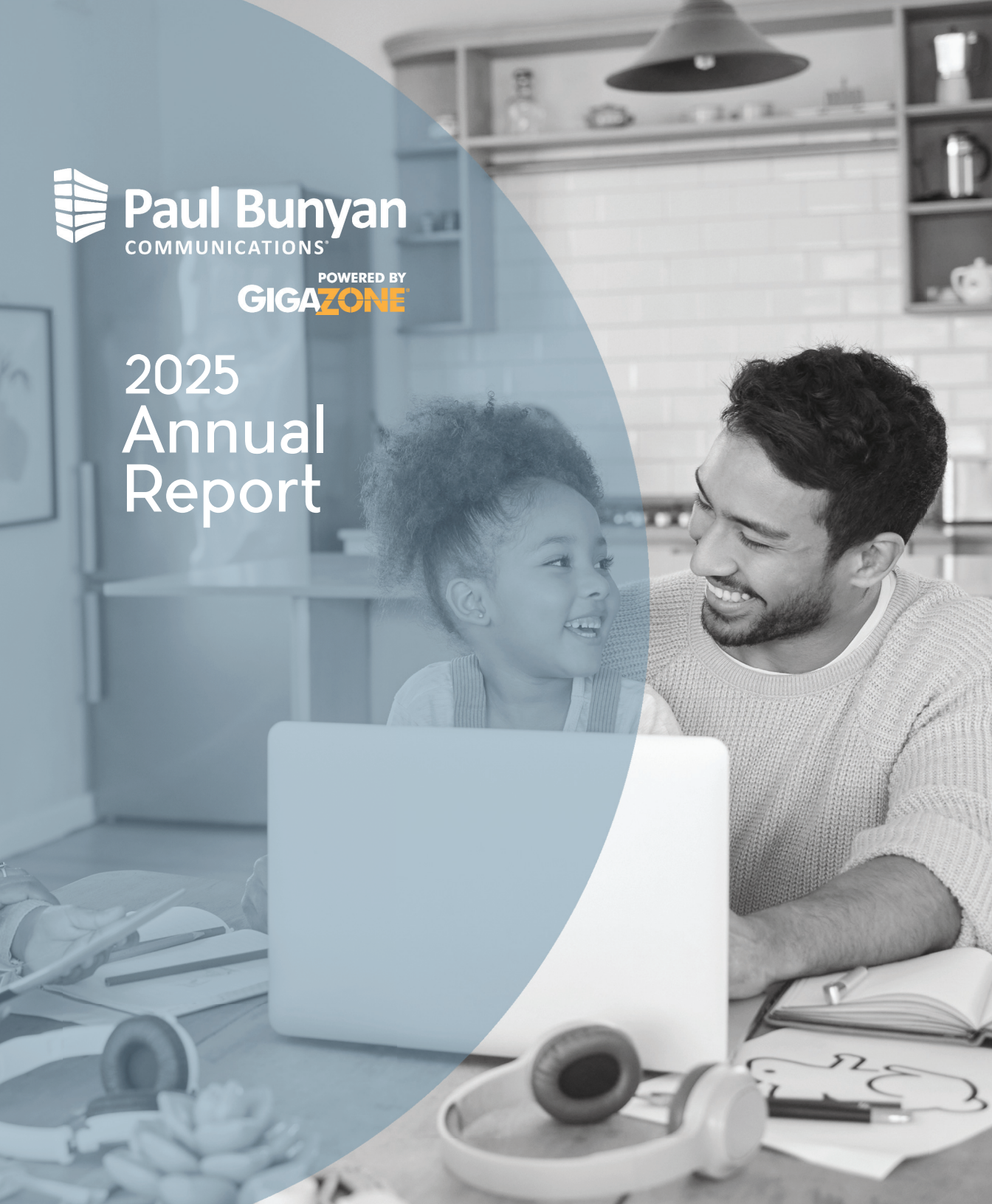


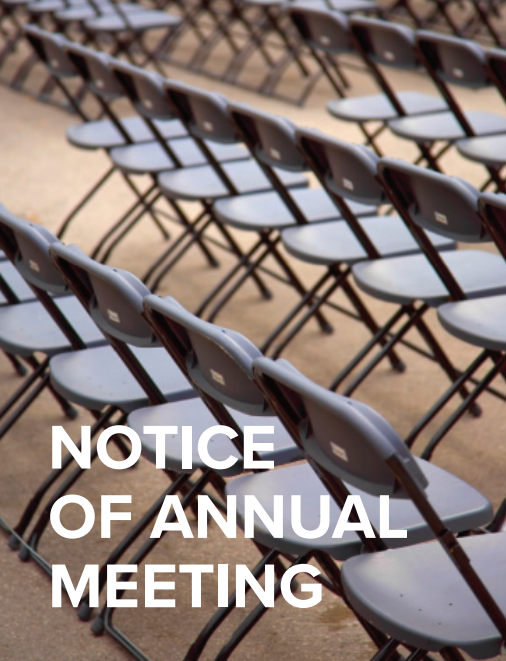


Paul Bunyan
COMMUNICATIONS™

POWERED BY
GIGAZONE™

2025 Annual Report





NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

69th Annual Meeting of Paul
Bunyan Rural Telephone
Cooperative

Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Sanford Center
Bemidji, Minnesota

Business Meeting 3:30 pm

FINANCIAL REPORT

Craig Boyer,
Chief Financial Officer

OPERATING REPORTS

Randy Frisk,
Board President

Chad Bullock,
CEO & General Manager

MINUTES FROM THE 68TH PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

The 68th Annual Meeting of the members of Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative was held at the Sanford Center in Bemidji on May 22, 2024, commencing at 3:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Director Randy Frisk who presided as Chairperson throughout the meeting. Director Frisk introduced the current board of directors as well as special guests in attendance including Sylvia Wildgen and Tiffany Paine from Security Bank USA, Scott Turn from Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce, and Mike Birkeland from Beltrami Electric.

A quorum was present with 61 members in attendance.

Pastor Jeremiah Holst from Calvary Lutheran Church in Bemidji gave the invocation.

Director Bruce Campbell 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 read-

ing of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting and approve them as presented.

Director Randy Frisk presented the Report of the President.

The Annual Financial Report was given by Chief Financial Officer Dave Schultz.

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

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

Director Bruce Campbell announced the following election results: Incumbent director for District 5, Randy Frisk, was uncontested at caucus, and was therefore elected for a fiveyear term concluding in 2029.

There was no new business.

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

2025 YEAR in REVIEW

Chad Bullock - CEO/General Manager



As we close the books on 2024, we reflect on a year marked by connection, innovation, and community. Our mission to deliver high-quality communication services to Northern Minnesota has never been more important — and this year, we've made significant strides to expand our network, serve our members, and support the communities we call home.

Expanding Access: More Miles, More Members.

In 2024, we completed several major broadband expansion projects, extending our all-fiber GigaZone® network to over 3,600 new locations across rural areas of Aitkin, Itasca, and St. Louis counties. Our commitment to closing the digital divide remains strong, and every new connection helps bring opportunity, education, and economic growth to our region.

GigaZone Gaming Championship & TechXpo: A Community Favorite.

The 2024 GigaZone Gaming Championship & TechXpo was another big success, drawing thousands from all over the region. The event continues to be a celebration of gaming, innovation, and community engagement.

Supporting Our Communities.

Since the very beginning, our cooperative has been committed to supporting the communities we serve. This comes in many different forms including donations, scholarships, and sponsorships. We continue to strive to make the regions we serve a better place to live and work.

Recognition and Thanks.

In 2024 we were honored to receive two prestigious NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association National Excellence Awards. Our CEO Gary Johnson received James L. Bass Manager Life Achievement Award and Chief Technology Officer Leo Anderson and Marketing Supervisor Brian Bissonette received the Innovation Award for the GigaZone Gaming Championship & TechXpo.

A Year of Change.

Every year brings change, but 2024 was unique. After decades of dedicated service, our Chief Executive Officer Gary Johnson, Chief Financial Officer Dave Schultz, and I.T. & Development Officer Steve Howard each announced their retirements, marking the end of an era. Their collective leadership guided us through transformative growth—from the expansion of our GigaZone® fiber network to becoming a national model for rural broadband innovation. We are deeply grateful for the legacies they leave behind and the strong foundation they've built for the next generation of leadership.

As a result of those retirements, a new leadership team for the cooperative was announced at the end of 2024.

Christie Turn - Chief Operating Officer, oversees the research, development, implementation, and coordination of PBC's processes and procedures.

Rob St. Clair - Promoted to Chief Network Officer, will oversee the cooperative's expansive fiber network.

Leo Anderson - The new Chief Technology Officer, continues to drive innovation and technical services.

Craig Boyer - Chief Financial Officer, joins with extensive finance leadership experience, most recently in healthcare.

Ryan Otting - Promoted to Network Operations Manager, leads our outside plant operations.

Lisa Geerdes - Network Technology Manager, oversees network planning and development.

Chad Bullock - I am very excited to join the team as CEO. I want to thank our Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors for their leadership through this transition and express my thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of this exceptional cooperative!

Looking ahead, we have a very busy and exciting 2025 in the works.

We're already gearing up for more network upgrades, more fiber build-outs, and exciting community events in the year ahead. With your continued membership, we'll keep growing stronger — together.

From all of us at Paul Bunyan Communications, thank you for a fantastic 2024!

Chad Bullock
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 2024 school year!

HIGH SCHOOLS

BEMIDJI

Anna Stish
Carson Turn

BLACKDUCK

Ridge Flatness

BIGFORK

Keegan Hennessy
Oakely Rahier

BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG

Trenton Guinn
Kiera Matthews

CASS LAKE/BENA

Gavin Brown
Sean Gotchie
Tylicia Graves-Desjarlait
Connie White

DEER RIVER

Owen Schedin
Tia Schultz

GRAND RAPIDS

Eric Linder
Jessika Lofstrom

GREENWAY

Gage Garske
Naesa King

INT'L FALLS

Jadon Frank
Gracie Swenson

KELLIHER

Gavin Adelman
Ella Thayer

LAPORTE

Anna Katzenmeyer
Emmanuel Walker

LITTLEFORK/ BIG FALLS

Andi Williams

NORTHOME

Kenley Hallstrom
Kierra Waller

NASHWUAK/ KEEWATIN

Olivia Nagler
Lakima Steele

PARK RAPIDS

Derek Ackerman
Noah Morris

RED LAKE

Gerald Kingbird Jr.
CeAngela Pemberton

WALKER/HACKENSACK AKELEY

Gretchen Turney

POST SECONDARY SCHOOLS

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY

Claire Derby
Matia Erickson
Ethan Henrickson
Ava Kissel
Jack Kouba
Cassidy Paumen
Shakyia Smith
Dominic Staples-
Fairbanks

MINNESOTA NORTH - ITASCA

Jada Serfling

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Joshua Olorunyemi

OAK HILLS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Anna Zachow

RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE

Mitchell Johnson Jr.



EMPLOYEES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL MANAGER

Chad Bullock

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Craig Boyer

CHIEF NETWORK OFFICER

Rob St. Clair

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Christie Turn

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Leo Anderson

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

Sarah Hart
John Harty
Grant Hicok
Aaron Huls
Garrett Johnson
Kristopher Kolkin
Russ Krook
Maria Kuechle
Chris Larson
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

Stephanie Karl
Brian Kuhrke
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
Cherry Brands
Wendy Britton
Kirsten Bushnell
Amanda Davenport
Jennifer Deeds
Charlene Draper
Dawn Drotts
Gracie Ellingson
Abbey Fox
Tia Graham
Samantha Haugan
Mallory McCartney
Meghan McDonald

Cindy Nyhusmoen
Noel Peck
Jaslyn Pemberton
Megan Pilecki
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
Mike Gregg
James Novak
Lane Skerik

DISPATCH

Deanna Black
Sarah Gillman
Stephanie Kavanagh
Craig Maas
Corina Pafko
Meggen Solheim
Ashley Tran
Alison Voss

OUTSIDE PLANT

Kent Aker
Chris Anderson
Tog Anderson
Jeremy Arlt
Ethan Beckman
Joe Best
Wendy Bittman

Jason Bowles
Brett Carlson
Kyle Christianson
Dwight Crandall
Tyler Fisher
Brett Folland
Randy Garrigan
Scott Geerdes
Ryan Hopke
Mark Howard
Thane Jansen
Ross Johnson
Tim Karas
Trent Larson
Jake Mechtel
Tadd McFarren

John Nistler
Mike Plotts
Kevin Preble
Dusty Reul
Danny Samson
Mike Smith
Sean Stenberg
Gary Storlie

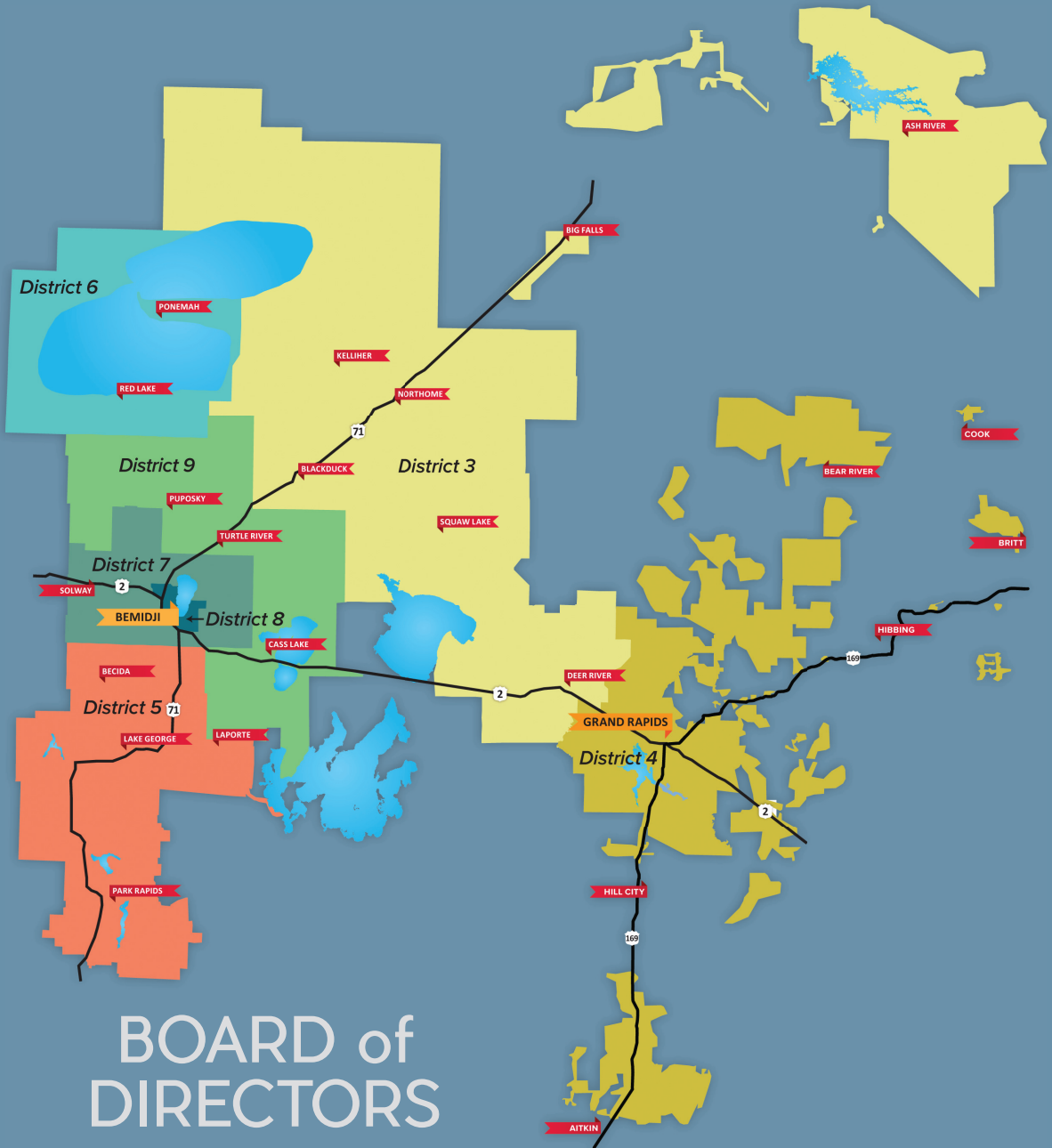
Travis Tyler
Brea Varda
Wayne Vredenburg

BUSINESS SALES

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

MARKETING

Rosie Berg
Brian Bissonette
Bob Lindberg



BOARD of DIRECTORS



TRACY
MISTIC-SCHAAR
District 3



BRIAN
NICKLASON
District 4



RANDY FRISK
PRESIDENT
District 5



GLEND A MARTIN
District 6



BRUCE CAMPBELL
SECRETARY
District 7

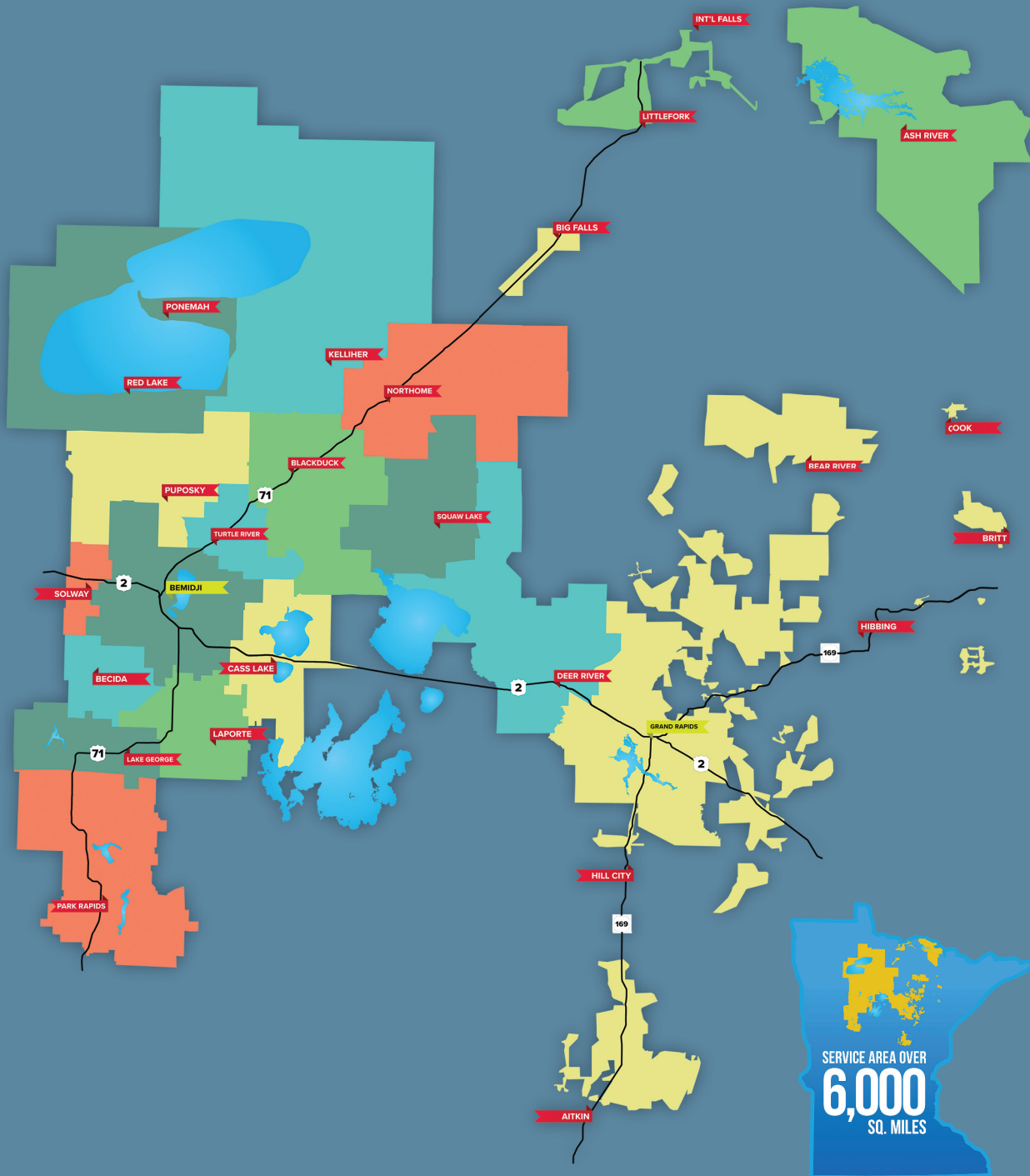


JIM SUTTON
VICE PRESIDENT
District 8



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.

BEMIDJI

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
218.444.1234
888.586.3100

GRAND RAPIDS

510 SE 21st St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218.999.1234
888.586.3100

