

## REMINDER TO MEMBERS OF DISTRICTS 1, 4, 7

### Bayfield Electric Cooperative seeks director candidates

As approved by the annual membership meeting in June 2014, the cooperative Bylaws now provide that all candidates for positions on the cooperative board of directors must be nominated exclusively by petition, signed by at least 12 cooperative members from the district for which the candidate is seeking election, and filed with the cooperative at least 90 days prior to the annual membership meeting.

Interested members, please contact our office for the Verification of Qualification and Declaration of Candidacy and Official Petition Form to circulate for the required signatures. The following are director districts that will be up for election this year:

- **District 1:** Orienta, Port Wing, Clover, Bell, Bayfield, Russell, Bayview Townships
- **District 4:** Washburn, Barksdale, Pilsen, Keystone, Eileen Townships
- **District 7:** Cable, Namakagon, Spider Lake Townships

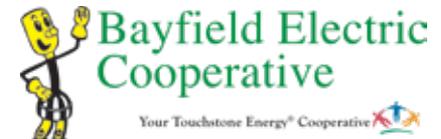
Don't forget that the filing deadline for petitions is **March 6, 2018**.

If you have any questions regarding the board of directors of Bayfield

Electric, you can visit our website, [www.bayfieldelectric.com](http://www.bayfieldelectric.com), go to the "About Us" tab, and click on "Board of Directors." Or you can call our office at (715) 372-4287.

### Mark Your Calendars!

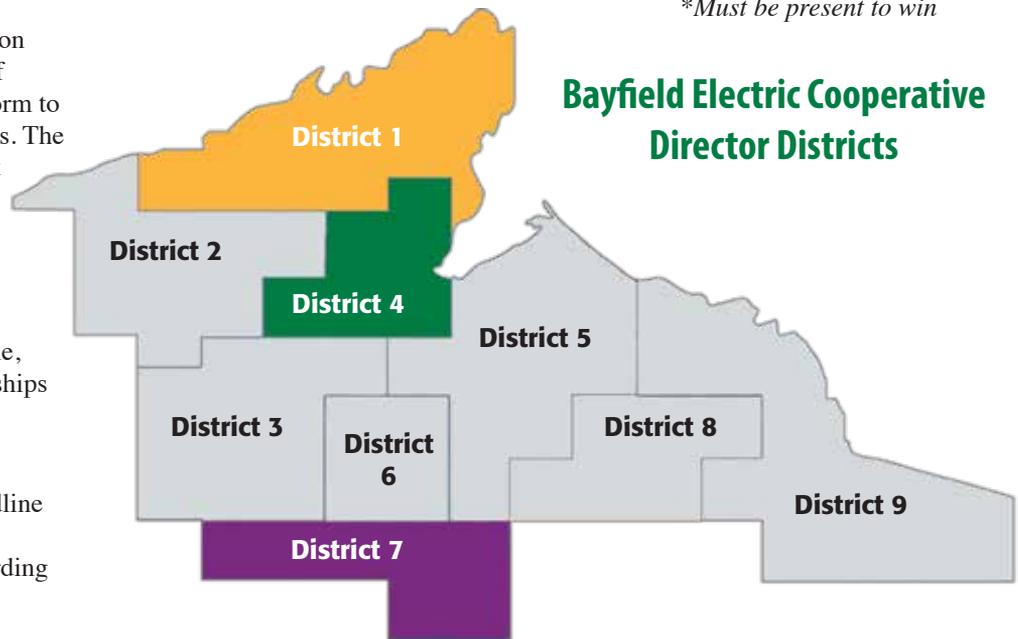
Bayfield Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held Monday, June 4, 2018. Attendees can enjoy a meat and cheese snack provided by Jim's



Meat Market and sweet sugar cookies from the Washburn IGA along with refreshments. Members will also receive a credit on their bill just for showing up!\* As always, children will have an opportunity to win a bicycle, and those under 6 years old can win a wagon.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, come join us at the Iron River Community Center in June and see what it's all about!

*\*Must be present to win*



### Bayfield Electric Cooperative Director Districts

## A THANKS TO OUR LINEMEN!

Bayfield Electric members Paul and Gertrude Kneeland sent a card expressing their thanks to the linemen hard at work. It all took place on an early Sunday morning, around 3 a.m. The Kneelands noticed they were having problems with their electric service and had no idea what could be wrong. They called our after-hours number and said Bayfield Electric had a repairman to their house within the hour. They talked about what the problem could be and decided that they needed to call for an additional crew with a boom truck. Ultimately, they found out the transformer needed work.

"The two men were sure nice, worked quick and got the job done. Checked our power service and everything was working as it should. It is sure nice to know there are people out there, that will work on Sunday, and did an excellent job, and did not complain," the Kneelands wrote.

Thank you linemen, for going out in below-freezing temperatures and having positive attitude!

### MEMBER SERVICES CORNER

## DON'T FORGET TO SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 11



**Did you know...** Daylight Saving

Time can save energy? Experts studied the impact of Daylight Saving Time on overall energy consumption in the United States. They found that the extra four weeks of Daylight Saving Time saved about 0.5 percent in total electricity each day. If you were to study individual states, you may find different results, but overall, the four-week extension of daylight saved 1.3 billion kilowatt-hours. That amount of electricity could power 100,000 houses for a year! If you want to maximize your energy savings this season, visit our website at [www.bayfieldelectric.com](http://www.bayfieldelectric.com) and click on "Together we Save" for energy-saving tips.—Charles Q. Choi, *Scientific American*, a Division of Nature America Inc.



From the Operations Department:

# WATT'S UP WITH THOSE POLES?

You might not pay much attention to the utility poles that line the roads of our territory, but these tall structures are more important than you might think—they're the backbone of our electric distribution. Strong and sturdy utility poles help to ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we do annual pole testing. This allows us to find and solve the problem before it happens. This year, **This year, Bayfield Electric will test 2,000 poles**

Bayfield Electric will test 2,000 poles in one of our service areas. If poles are found to be defective or decayed, they will be removed and replaced.

The number-one cause in our area for damaged utility poles is bears. You might be surprised at the damage a bear could do by chewing on a wooden pole! In efforts to make poles last the average lifespan of 25–37 years, poles are wrapped with mesh when an area is known to have plenty of wildlife. Other



A new power pole is guided into position. Below: New poles are fitted with necessary components.

reasons for pole replacement include strong weather, auto accidents, power line relocation, and upgrades.

When poles are found and rejected, they get replaced. The first step in replacing the bad poles is to frame the new ones. The new poles are fitted with insulators and ground wires, components for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then the hole for the new pole is dug, which is generally next to the pole that needs to be replaced. Poles need to be dug six feet into the ground to ensure stability. The last step of the

process is to actually detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided into position, and the lines are attached. This work is usually done completely energized so members don't experience a power outage during the process.

The next time you're driving down the highway, take a minute to recognize the number of poles it takes to carry electricity to each home. We try our best to maintain quality equipment on the lines so you get reliable power each and every day.



# LET'S TALK FACILITY CHARGE

Note: 50 cent increase effective February 2018

Without a doubt, the most despised part of our electric bill is the facility charge. Members often question why they have to pay it, who has to pay it, and what the money goes toward. With our budget under review, it was determined by the board of directors that Bayfield Electric's facility charge will be raised 50 cents effective February 2018. This change makes the facility charge go from \$35.50 to \$36. We thought this would be a good time to go over everything related to the facility charge, so here are some answers to commonly asked questions:

## What is the facility charge and what does the money go towards?

The facility charge has been part of the cooperative's rate since billing began. Many utility companies, such as gas, telephone, and water, call this charge a "service charge."

The concept of a facility charge is still recommended as a separate itemized amount in an electric billing. This charge is set to reflect the actual cost of providing and maintaining electrical service to a consumer-member, whether electrical energy was used or not. By this means of charging, no member is subsidizing any other member's usage.

Bayfield Electric Cooperative has money invested in electric lines and facilities to serve each individual member of the cooperative. Interest and principal have to be paid on this investment of poles, wire, insulators, and transformers. Service has to be maintained year-round. Right-of-way maintenance, trucks, and equipment must be available whether you, the consumer, use one kilowatt or thousands of kilowatts. This embedded expense represents these fixed costs and is paid by a facility charge, representing the cost of service.

## Why do I have to pay the facility charge if I don't use any electricity?

We are a cooperative, and each consumer-member is expected to pay for the cost of service to his or her account. This is a fair and equitable way of doing business. The energy charge (cost per kilowatt hours consumed) and facility charge for the cost of service (maintenance of the system) to deliver that electricity are reasonable and fair methods of billing for electrical energy.

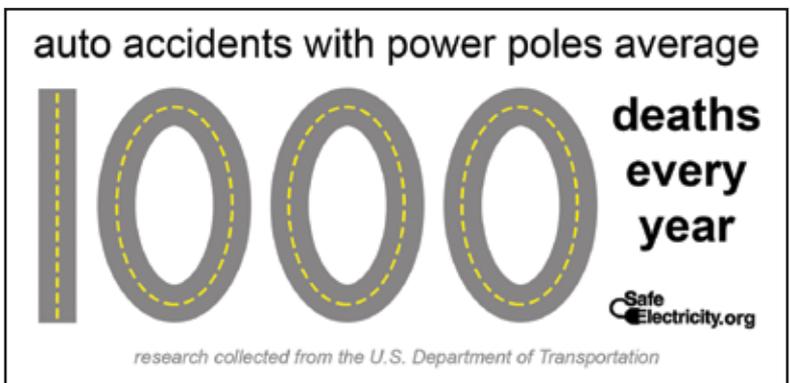
If we eliminated the facility charge, we would need to increase our rate per kilowatt-hour. While we would have enough revenue to pay all of the expenses, there would be some consequences. Those who use at or near average consumption would see little change in their total bill. Minimal users would be getting a free ride, as they would be paying little or nothing for the facilities serving their account, along with the

(Continued on page 18)



Just how much damage can a bear do to a pole? As you can see from these pictures, a lot! This pole was chewed on by a bear and had to be replaced.

MY CO-OP





## Facility Charge (Continued from page 17)

billing and support needed. The free ride would be picked up by the larger users, who would pay more than their share for these costs. Our objective is to create a fair charge for all co-op members.

Please note that the actual kilowatt rate is not increasing—only the facility charge.

### Why is Bayfield Electric increasing the facility charge?

Our current rate structure is not covering our fixed costs. Our member-owners provide the necessary revenues that enable us to make system improvements and perform ongoing maintenance to keep our electrical system safe and reliable. It must continue to stand the test of time by not only meeting the needs of our current member-owners, but those who will rely on our services in the future.

### How can I make my bill smaller?

As always, the cooperative encourages members to make their homes as energy efficient as possible. We offer a lot of helpful information on our website under the “Together we Save” tab. In addition, we have many rebates available. There are also several programs available for members who are having difficulty paying their electric bill. Please contact Bayfield Electric’s billing department for more information.

## CONGRATULATIONS, JOSEPH FOLLIS

Joseph Follis (account no. 110438000) is this month’s winner of a \$50 credit. Please clip the coupon below and send it in with your payment or call the office by the payment due date. The \$50 will then be credited to your account.

 <b>BAYFIELD Electric</b> <small>COOPERATIVE - IRON RIVER, WISCONSIN</small>	ACCOUNT NO. 110438000						
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## BAYFIELD ELECTRIC LINEMAN ACHIEVES JOURNEYMAN STATUS

Bayfield Electric Lineman Dustin McKay was recognized for achieving journeyman line worker status at a special banquet during the MEUW/REC Joint Superintendent’s Conference. To achieve this status, Dustin attended many hours of classes at Chippewa Valley Technical College, safely performed on-the-job training, passed the state-wide line worker test, and earned recommendation by the apprentice’s supervisor.

Dustin lives in High Bridge with his wife, Stacy, and three kids, Tucker (5), Finlee (4) and Oaklee (1). He joined our Bayfield Electric team in July of 2012. Congratulations Dustin!



<b>Month of March</b>	Billing date: March 9, 2018
	February usage
	Bills due upon receipt
	Gross due after March 29, 2018
	Disconnect date: April 16, 2018

**Diane Berweger, CEO**  
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**Marissa Halvorson, Editor**



Office Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday  
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