

Happy New Year FROM BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Going into 2021, we will be implementing a new metering system. Our old system is 15 years old and due for an upgrade. Throughout the new year there will be someone at your residence changing out the old meter and putting in the new. The new metering system will be automated and will eliminate the manual first-of-the-month meter reads. At this time we will also be inspecting meter sockets. Please watch for meter updates throughout the year.

We will continue our aggressive brushing program. Eliminating trees and branches along the power lines helps with blinking lights and power outages.

Recently, an EV charging station was installed near the beginning of the Birkebeiner Ski Race. Bayfield

Electric donated the EV charger, and American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) provided the space and provides the power to the charging station. We feel the American Birkebeiner is a perfect site for the EV charging station, as it is a popular winter destination for tourists and locals. Now visitors are able to drive an electric vehicle and recharge while they are spending time on the trails. It has only been installed for a short period of time and it has already been used by an EV driver. As more and more people start driving electric cars, the consumer demand for destination chargers like this one will only increase.

The goal is to facilitate the adoption and use of electric vehicles and promote tourism in our area. Also, they use electric energy and we do sell that. 😊

We are here to help you, the member, find ways to save energy at your home, apply for assistance programs, qualify for rebates, or even update personal information. Sign up for Smart Hub today—it can be used as a tool to watch your energy consumption or pay your bill, along with many other tools right at the end of your fingertips.

We look forward to another year of serving you, our members.

Left: This is how the power lines look after being brushed.
Below: BEC donated the EV charging station near the Birkebeiner race course. Pictured below right are (l-r) Ben Popp, executive director of ABSF; Diane Berweger, CEO; and Jake Hipsher, director of member services.





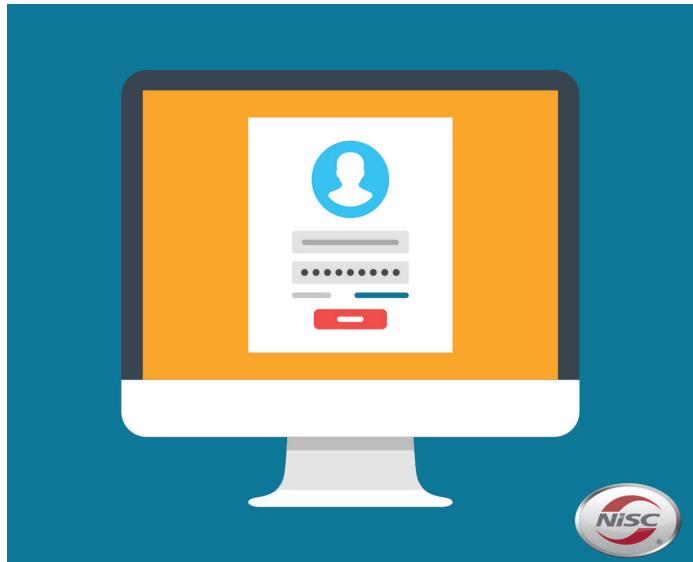
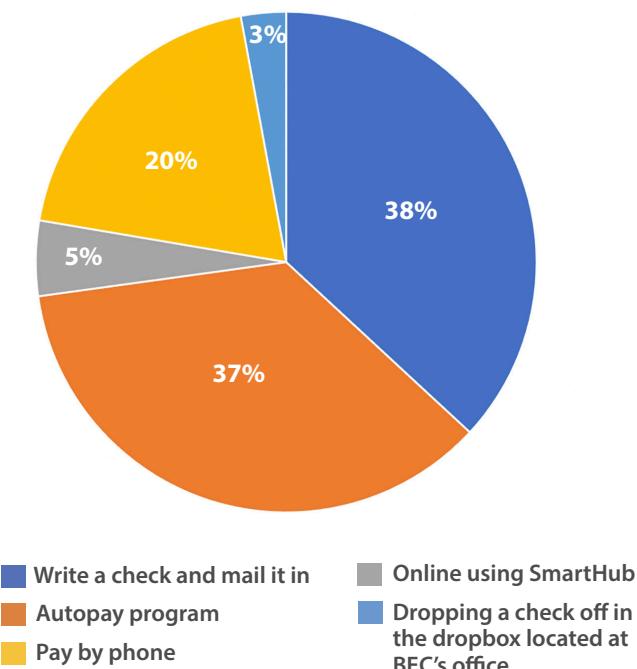
BEC GIVES BACK

Board members and inside employees of Bayfield Electric Cooperative recently filled one heaping truckload containing non-perishable food items, clothing, and household items that were donated to "People in Need" located in Ashland County.

SURVEY RESULTS

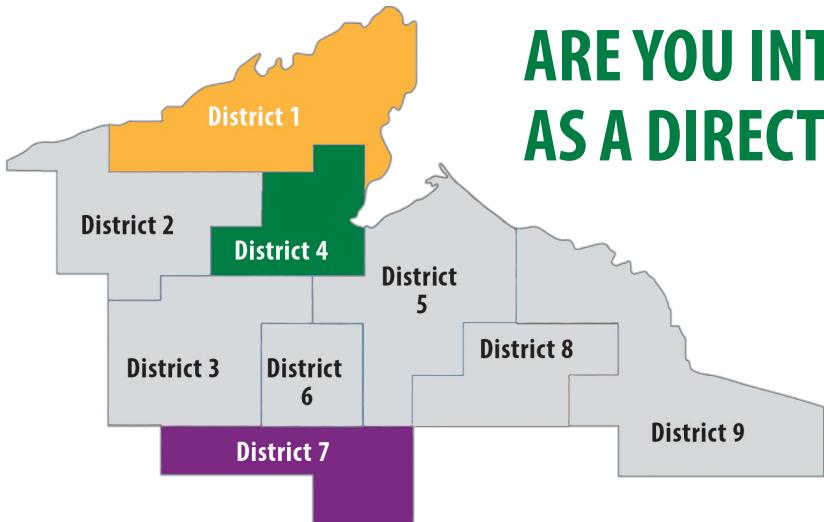
Your preferred bill pay method is...

We recently asked our members what their preferred bill pay method was and had a great response rate. Thank you to all who participated! If you would be interested in enrolling in autopay or budget billing, our billing department would be happy to assist you with that. Congratulations to the three randomly selected winners Judy Buran, Jennifer Rivers, and Richard VerKinderen. Please see the pie graph below for the results of the survey question.



PASSWORD CRACKING

Creating and remembering complex passwords can be daunting. To help make this easier to manage, think of a passphrase rather than a password. ILove!ceCr3am would be a good passphrase/password but very hard for an attacker to guess. And avoid using the same password for all your online accounts.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A DIRECTOR FOR YOUR CO-OP?

The following districts are up for re-election in 2021:

District 1 – Orienta, Port Wing, Clover, Bell, Bayfield, Russell, Bayview

District 4 – Washburn, Barksdale, Pilsen, Keystone, Eileen

District 7 – Cable, Namekagon, Spider Lake

Qualifications:

- You must be a member of the cooperative within the district you are seeking to represent. This means you must take electric service at either a permanent residence, a seasonal residence, or a commercial location within the district.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must not be employed by, or have a financial interest in a business that competes with, the cooperative, or a business selling energy, supplies, services or equipment to the cooperative.
- You must not have any outstanding debts to the cooperative, or brought a claim against the cooperative or its employees, officers, or directors in the previous five years.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Board members are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the cooperative, including: strategic planning, fiduciary responsibility, setting policy and direction, corporate duties, governance, and other general duties relating to the business of the cooperative.
- Directors are expected to personally attend:
 - Monthly Board Meetings
 - Annual Meeting
 - Occasional District Meetings
 - Occasional Committee Meetings
- Directors are required to review, acknowledge, and abide by the cooperative's Code of Ethics.
- Board members are provided with a preliminary agenda in advance of each board meeting.
- Directors represent Bayfield Electric in the community, which may include making public appearances.
- Directors may be eligible to serve on boards of companies or organizations affiliated with Bayfield, such as the cooperative's power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Nomination Process

- Nominations shall be made by petition.
- The petition must be signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing from the district you are seeking to represent.
 - A member in good standing is defined as one who is receiving electric service from the cooperative, is current on their electric bill, and does not have any bad debts with the cooperative.
 - Note: it is a violation of privacy laws for the cooperative to provide candidates with payment or debt

information about members. Candidates will have to do their best to verify the standing of a member signing the petition. Candidates are encouraged to get more than the minimum number of signatures.

- Joint members (for example: a husband and wife) shall count as one signature.
- The completed petition shall be submitted to the cooperative at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting at which the election is held.
- For complete details on director nomination and election procedures see Article IV of the cooperative's Bylaws or contact our office.



ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE THERAPY

CHOICE



Choices are difficult. As part of the healthcare community, our goal is to educate our patients as well as the community about choice. Being an independent physical therapy clinic, Orthopedic & Spine Therapy strives to educate individuals on their healthcare choices. Just because the hospital points you in one direction, doesn't mean that you should blindly follow.

When the doctor recommends that you need minor surgery, physical therapy, or specialized medical procedures, look into private practice clinics. You have the choice to go elsewhere, even if it's outside of the hospital walls. Educating patients on their healthcare choices saves patients time, money, and provides them with the highest level of care on a personalized level.

**ORTHOPEDIC
SPINE THERAPY**

www.ostpt.com

Ashland 715-685-9656
Bayfield 715-913-0400
Iron River 715-685-9656

BOARD BRIEFS

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on December 3 in the Iron River headquarters building. All directors were present.

- The meeting was called to order by President Mark Santikko at 10:48 a.m.
- A safety message was provided to watch for ice on sidewalks and blacktop, and to continue taking COVID-19 precautions with the rising number of cases in our area.
- The agenda, expenses, and the minutes of the November 2020 meeting were approved.
- Operations Department Report – 85 new services YTD

MONTH OF JANUARY

Billing date:
January 8, 2021
December usage
Bills due upon receipt
Gross due after
January 28, 2021
Disconnect date:
January 13, 2021

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov



Diane Berweger, CEO

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Briana Green, Editor



Bayfield Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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