



**Bayfield Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

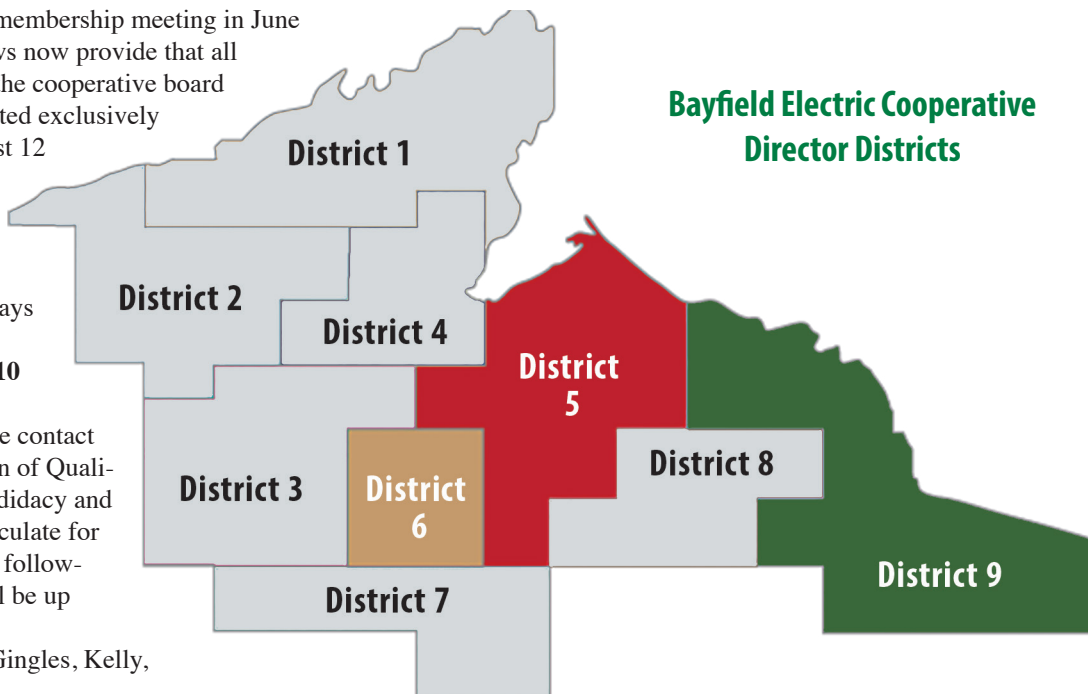
DISTRICTS 5, 6, AND 9 UP FOR ELECTIONS

Bayfield Electric Cooperative seeks director candidates

As approved by the annual membership meeting in June 2019, 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 meeting, which would be by **March 10** this year.

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

- District 5 – Sanborn, Gingles, Kelly, White River, Marengo
- District 6 – Grand View, Lincoln, Shanagolden
- District 9 – Knight, Carey, Oma, Mercer, Winchester, Pence, Michigan, Saxon, Kimball



**Bayfield Electric Cooperative
Director Districts**

MY CO-OP

SAVE THE DATE

Bayfield Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting



**Monday,
June 8, 2020**

Registration at
6 p.m.

Meeting at
7 p.m.



Bayfield Electric Cooperative trucks line up outside the garage at the co-op's former headquarters building on Iron River Dam Road. This building served as the co-op's headquarters from 1952 to 2015.



LET'S TALK DAILY SERVICE CHARGE

Are you looking at your bill wondering what this daily service charge is and why you have to pay it?

This 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." Meaning, it is a minimum charge that has to be paid no matter the amount of usage.

The fixed charge used to be called a minimum. The concept of a fixed charge is still recommended as a separate itemized amount in an electric billing. The fixed (daily service) charge is set to reflect the actual cost of providing and maintaining electrical service to a consumer-member, whether electricity was used or not. By this means of charging, no member would subsidize 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 the fixed cost and is paid by a fixed charge, representing the cost of service.

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 fixed charge for the cost of service (maintenance of the system) to deliver that electricity are reasonable and fair methods of billing for electrical energy. As a cooperative, we are truly a not-for-profit company. Any money collected over and above our actual expenses



is returned to members in the form of capital credits.

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. 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.

Seven Cooperative Principles

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

TAKING A SPRING BREAK?

Keep your home safe and sound while you're away

If you plan to vacation this month, Safe Electricity has tips to lower your electric bill and keep your home safe while being away.


- Unplug some of your household appliances. Your house has many items that use electricity while plugged in, even if they are turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy, but in some cases, can prevent fires in your absence. Some items to unplug are: TVs, cable boxes, microwave ovens, toasters, and unused extension cords.
- If you choose to leave household lights on for security reasons, Safe Electricity suggests putting them on programmable timers so they do not run constantly. Not only does this save energy, but it also prevents lights from overheating while still giving the appearance that someone is home at night.
- Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting—the fridge can be set as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can reach 5 degrees.

On these settings, refrigerators use up to 40 percent less electricity.

- Set the thermostat higher or lower than is typically comfortable while you're away. During the winter or early spring when the outdoor temperatures are still cold, set your thermostat at about 50 degrees, enough to keep the appliances or pipes from freezing.
- Lower the blinds and close the curtains to keep heat from escaping.

- Turn down the water heater. A large percent of the cost of running a water heater comes from keeping the water warm. If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the water heater's temperature to the coolest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month.

Bayfield Electric Cooperative hopes you enjoy your vacation, and keep your home safe while you are away using these simple tips. To learn more, visit safeelectricity.org.



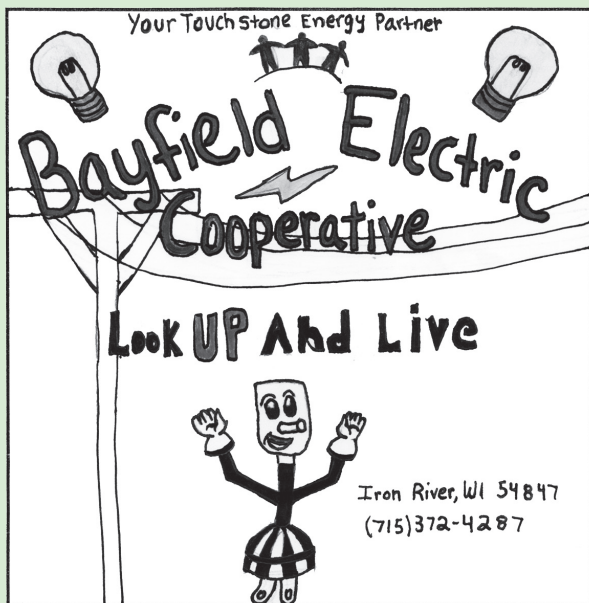
5 EASY WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR Vacation

1. Turn or program **your thermostat** down while you are away.
2. **Unplug** small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power.
3. **Adjust your hot water heater.** For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low. For an electric version turn it off at the circuit breaker.
4. **Shut all your curtains and blinds.**
5. Make sure your **sump pump is working.**




Watt's up, locals?

Do you know of something fun going on in the area? Or are you planning an event that could use an extra push with free advertising? Let us know! We would be happy to share events happening in our area right here in the magazine. Contact Briana at (715) 372-4287 if you would like us to promote any fun events coming up in the future.



NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION WEEK

Bayfield Electric Cooperative practiced the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community, by sponsoring a student-designed ad in the *Daily Globe's* student writing and advertising design contest. Students were invited to complete a writing assignment or design an ad. Teachers forwarded the entrants from their class and Bayfield Electric chose a winner from the finalists. Nicole Lukkan designed the winning ad for Bayfield Electric (pictured). Congratulations Nicole!

MONTH OF
MARCH

Billing date: March 10, 2020
February usage
Bills due upon receipt
Gross due after March 30, 2020
Disconnect date: March 17, 2020



SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 8

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 and click on "Together we Save" for energy saving tips.—*Charles Q. Choi, Scientific American, a Division of Nature*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliances work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Source: energy.gov




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Briana Green, Editor



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