



YES
you can afford
telephone and
broadband
service

LIFELINE

providing discounts to eligible
low-income consumers to help
them establish and maintain
phone and broadband service

You may be eligible for assistance in paying your telephone bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. For more information or an application form, please contact us at 888-586-3100. They will do the verification process with you over the phone and can provide you with an application.

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit of \$10.00 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

The federal Lifeline Program offers a monthly discount of \$5.25 on some landline telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts on some wireless telephone service plans. In addition, the program offers a \$9.25 discount on some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one telephone service per household.

The federal Lifeline Program incorporates the broadband discount (not applicable to TAP).

If you live on Tribal lands, you may qualify for additional discounts. Tribal Lands Link Up offers a one-time credit of up to \$100 on installation or activation charges. Tribal Lands Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$34.25 on your landline, broadband service, or wireless telephone plan.

The telephone or broadband service must be in your name. You must show proof that you or a member of your household participates in at least one of the following programs or is income eligible:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Food Support/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance and living on Tribal lands
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and living on Tribal lands
- Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income-qualifying standards) and living on Tribal lands
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) and living on Tribal lands

If you do not participate in any of the programs listed, you may qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines: (The federal poverty guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME
1	\$18,347
2	\$24,719
3	\$31,091
4	\$37,463
5	\$43,835
6	\$50,207
7	\$56,579
8	\$62,951
For each add'l person add	\$6,372

**For more information
or to request an
application form:**

PHONE
888-586-3100

ONLINE
**[https://NationalVerifier.
ServiceNowServices.com/lifeline](https://NationalVerifier.ServiceNowServices.com/lifeline)**

TELE U WHAT

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BEMIDJI

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone (218) 444.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Apple Certified Repair

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

GRAND RAPIDS

510 SE 21st St.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone (218) 999.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Apple Certified Repair

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

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COOPERATIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION • DECEMBER 2022

TELE U WHAT

Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
New Year

*Wishing you and your family a holiday season
filled with love, laughter, and good cheer from all
of us at Paul Bunyan Communications.*

Holiday Open House
Friday, December 9
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Bemidji & Grand Rapids

Please join us for hot cider, cookies,
collector ornament, and 2023 calendars.



Emergency 24 hour repair will remain available
and can be reached at 1-800-475-8309.



SEPTEMBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on September 12, 2022. Also attending were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The CEO updated the board on our voice, video, and data services. He provided customer counts, year-over-year trends and highlights related to our various lines of service.
- IT & Development Manager Steve Howard and Data Services Representative Tier III Aaron Huls provided the quarterly Board cybersecurity update.
- CFO Dave Schultz provided an overview of the mid-year financials.
- The management team provided an update on the status of the Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM II) 10-year funding short and long-term priorities and strategies plan.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He discussed upcoming presentations and panels he will be participating on. He provided an update on broadband grant opportunities. He discussed potential future telemedicine and telehealth initiatives.

OCTOBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on October 3, 2022. Also attending were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Administrative Assistant Kalsie Vanasse.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- The 2022 NTCA Fall Conference was reviewed.
- The CEO provided an overview of our penetration rates both in our CLEC and ILEC areas over the last 14 months.
- CFO Dave Schultz reviewed the near and long-term plans and projections for capital credits and patronage payouts.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He discussed upcoming presentations including the annual Calix Connexions Conference. He provided an update on the anticipated second round of the state broadband grant program. He gave an update on the 2023 NTCA health insurance rate increases. He discussed the PBC all staff in-service day planned for October 10, 2022 at the Grand Rapids PBC office.
- Network Operations Manger Rob St Clair and Purchasing Agent Jon Dancker reviewed the 2023 new vehicle bids.
- The 2023 Strategic Planning Session will be held at the Bemidji Office January 19-20.
- The 2023 NTCA Rural Telecom Industry Meeting was discussed. Attendees and voting delegates were appointed.
- The CEO reviewed the current plans for our new regional technology expo. The Expo will be added to the GigaZone Gaming Championship event. The event is planned for April 2023.



PLAY PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE
PICK THE WINNING TEAMS OF THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE BOWL GAMES AND YOU COULD WIN A CREDIT ON YOUR PBC ACCOUNT

1ST PLACE \$500 CREDIT

2ND PLACE \$250 CREDIT

3RD PLACE \$100 CREDIT

VISIT PAULBUNYAN.NET TO GET STARTED GAMES START DECEMBER 16

Must be 18 years of age or older. Limit one entry per person. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Void where prohibited. Some restrictions may apply. See Pick It Bowl Challenge website for complete contest rules.

MEMBER spotlight

BEMIDJI STEEL COMPANY 

Bemidji Steel started in the 1980s as a metal service center for the homeowner, farmer, and local industry. Since then, they've evolved to also offer metal supply and manufacturing including laser cutting, precision forming, bending, and robotic welding to clients across the United States. With the addition of a new, state-of-the-art facility, high-speed broadband is vital for Bemidji Steel.



Alex Grasdalen, Bemidji Steel Company COO states:

"The equipment we have in our facility is state of the art, it's the best that you can get in the world, and it's supported out of countries in Europe and in Japan. So we always are perpetually using broadband to its fullest potential whether that's troubleshooting equipment from an engineer located in Italy to our facility here in Bemidji, or we're working with a customer's engineering department in Germany or Switzerland for example. It's always very, very essential to our business."

"Broadband availability was an essential role in the selection of this site. When we were looking at sites, we wanted to have a site with very stable power and exceptional internet. We wanted to continue to be a customer of Paul Bunyan Communications and take full advantage of the high-speed internet they provided."



"I think if other businesses are looking at locating in the Bemidji area or anywhere that Paul Bunyan serves, it's really essential, because you have to look at your business, not today, but also think about it in the future. You're only going to become more reliant on internet services and having a strong provider that has good services today and is always making upgrades and continued investment in those services is going to be a key role in you being a viable business in the future."



MSUM HONORS GARY JOHNSON WITH DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



Alumni were honored for significant contributions to their professions and communities by the Minnesota State University Moorhead Foundation during the 2022 Homecoming festivities. Among those honored with the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award was PBC CEO/General Manager Gary Johnson '88.

Johnson serves as CEO and General Manager at Paul Bunyan Communications. The state's largest broadband cooperative strives to bring internet access to rural Minnesota, opening opportunities for economic development and services. He studied computer science at MSUM.

"The technology we're offering is changing peoples' lives," he says. "Going forward, there's so much potential."

Congratulations Gary!

 **YouTube** WATCH AT: youtube.com/watch?v=LjeHH5hTJqI



Gary Johnson and MSUM President Anne Blackhurst