

Are you having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing or speech disability?

Minnesota Relay is a free telephone service that uses specially trained communications assistants to facilitate telephone calls between people with hearing and speech disabilities and other individuals. Calls can be made to anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All calls are completely confidential. To make a relay call dial 7-1-1. Once connected to the relay service, tell the communications assistant the type of relay call you wish to make. Or, you may dial the specific toll-free number for the type of relay service.

For More Information on Minnesota Relay Services

www.mnrelay.org
1-800-657-3775

Emergency Assistance

TTY callers should dial 9-1-1 directly in an emergency. All 9-1-1 centers are equipped to handle TTY calls. Minnesota Relay can process emergency calls, but this may delay the response to your call.

To file a Complaint Regarding Minnesota Relay

1-800-657-3775
Email: mn.relay@state.mn.us

You will need to provide the date and time of the relay call, the calling from and to phone numbers, the CA's identification number, and the nature of your complaint.

You may also file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission www.fcc.gov/complaints
Voice: 1-888-225-5322
TTY: 1-888-835-5322
ASL via VP: 1-844-432-2275

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION (TED) PROGRAM

The TED Program provides free specialized telecommunications equipment to income eligible Minnesotans who are having trouble using the telephone due to a hearing, speech or physical disability.

mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing
Voice: 1-800-657-3663
ASL via VP: 1-866-635-0082

Captioned Telephone Service (CTS)

CTS uses a special telephone with a text display screen so that a person who is hard of hearing can listen to and read captions of everything the other person on the call says. You speak directly to the other person on the call, and a relay communications assistant transcribes everything the other person says into captions, which appear on the display screen of your CTS phone.

Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS)

Internet-based forms of CTS are available for those who would like to use CTS on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/internet-protocol-ip-captioned-telephone-service.

Computer (ASCII): 1-800-627-3529

Computer users can access Minnesota Relay. Set your communications software to the following protocols: speeds ranging from 300 to 2400; 8 Bits; No Parity; 1 Stop Bit; Full Duplex. When calling at a rate of 300 or below, follow the above using Half Duplex.

Hearing Carry Over (HCO): 1-800-627-3529

HCO allows a person who can hear clearly but who has very limited or no speech capability to make phone calls. Using a special text telephone, you type your conversation for the relay communications assistant to read to the other person, and listen directly to the other person's response.

Hearing User: 1-800-627-3529

A hearing person may use a standard telephone or mobile phone to place a relay call and speak with a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled.

Internet Protocol (IP) Relay

IP Relay combines text-based relay service with the ease of the Internet – no need for a TTY. You are able to make your relay call using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Go to: www.sprintrelay.com.

Spanish Relay: 1-877-627-5448

Spanish speaking persons with a hearing or speech disability are able to make relay calls. This is not a translation service – both parties must speak Spanish, and at least one party must have a hearing or speech disability.

Speech-to-Speech (STS): 1-877-627-3848

STS allows a person who has difficulty speaking or being understood on the phone to communicate using his or her own voice or voice synthesizer. The communications assistant revoices your words so that the other person on the call can understand them, and the other person speaks directly to you.

Text Telephone (TTY): 1-800-627-3529

This service allows a person who is deaf, deafblind, or speech disabled to use a TTY to communicate with the other person on the call.

Video Relay Service (VRS)

VRS allows a person who uses American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate over the phone. The VRS user connects to the relay communications assistant via an Internet-enabled device with a video camera. The communications assistant relays the conversation back and forth between the parties – in ASL with the VRS user and by voice with the called party. Go to: www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/video-relay-services.

Voice Carry Over (VCO): 1-877-627-3024

VCO allows a person with a hearing disability, but who wants to use his or her own voice, to speak directly to the other party. The communications assistant then types the other party's response, which is displayed on the VCO user's text telephone.

TELE U WHAT

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email: info@paulbunyan.net
online: paulbunyan.net



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

Tracy Mistic-Schaar, District 3
Inger-Wirt, Squaw Lake, Deer River, Dora Lake, Kelliher, Northome, Blackduck, Ash River, Big Falls

Brian Nicklason, District 4
Cohasset, Grand Rapids, Coleraine, Warba, Marble, Nashwauk

President Randy Frisk, District 5
Becida, Bemidji, Laporte, Itasca State Park, Lake George, Park Rapids

Glenda Martin, District 6
Ponemah, Red Lake

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Bemidji, Solway

Vice President Jim Sutton, District 8
City of Bemidji

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Cass Lake, Puposky, Turtle River



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Bemidji, MN 56601

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TELE U WHAT



SATURDAY
APR 22
2023

Special Guest:
Co-founder of Apple
Steve "Woz" Wozniak



TO BE AN EXHIBITOR AT THE
GIGAZONE TECHXPO VISIT
GIGAZONETECHXPO.COM
AND FILL OUT THE ONLINE
APPLICATION FORM



THE FIRST OF ITS KIND
GIGAZONE TECHXPO
SATURDAY, APRIL 22 • 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
AT THE SANFORD CENTER IN BEMIDJI

The mission of the GigaZone TechXpo is to spark excitement and create opportunities with technology by connecting students and job seekers with employers, educators, and technology enthusiasts from across northern Minnesota.

The event leverages the success of and will be held concurrently with the GigaZone Gaming Championship, an arena-style e-gaming competition produced by Paul Bunyan Communications, which attracted more than 4,000 gamers to the last annual event.

The TechXpo will allow businesses to creatively leverage technology to demonstrate innovation to many tech-savvy potential employees. Educators and educational institutions can have their tech-oriented students show off projects and promote the technology training programs they have to offer.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on November 7, 2022. Also attending were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Customer Service Manager Christie Turn.

- Financial reports, delinquent accounts, member lists, and other service reports were reviewed and approved.
- Network Operations Manager Rob St Clair provided bids for the purchase of two additional vehicles. The Board approved the low bids as recommended.
- IT & Development Manager Steve Howard provided the quarterly Board cybersecurity update.
- Network Operations Manager Rob St Clair presented construction and expansion plans for 2023. He reviewed bids for a recommended cable order that facilitates continued expansion. The low bid was approved.
- CFO Dave Schultz reviewed a proposed Agreement for Services from Olsen & Thielen for conducting the 2022 audit and related services which was approved by the Board.
- The CEO reviewed subsidiaries and external companies that PBC has ownership in.
- The CEO provided a recap of the recent Calix Connections conference. PBC was showcased on numerous occasions.
- The CEO gave his monthly report. He reviewed meetings he attended and upcoming meetings. He discussed the recent all staff in-service day held at the PBC office in Grand Rapids. He provided an update on broadband grant status.

JOIN OUR DISCORD TODAY

JOIN THE GIGAZONE GAMING DISCORD TODAY TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON EVERYTHING GIGAZONE GAMING, INCLUDING THE GIGAZONE GAMING EVENT, BEING HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2023!

SCAN THE CODE OR GO TO:
[DISCORD.GG/VMSGCXUCAD](https://discord.gg/vmsgcxucad)

GIGAZONE GAMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS



2023 FRS YOUTH TOUR

16-17 YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
Enter the Paul Bunyan Communications Youth Tour Essay Contest for a chance to win a trip to Washington D.C.
Deadline is Thursday, March 2

Area High School Students age 16 or 17 are encouraged to enter the Paul Bunyan Communications Essay Contest for a chance to attend the 2023 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. May 31st thru June 4th with all expenses paid by Paul Bunyan Communications.

Students interested in attending the Youth Tour need to submit a short essay, no more than 500 words in length, on why they would like to attend the Youth Tour. Students must be 16 or 17 years of age and in high school with their parent/guardian a member of Paul Bunyan Communications Cooperative.

Entries can be dropped off at the Paul Bunyan Communications office in Bemidji or Grand Rapids, or they can be mailed to:

Paul Bunyan Communications Essay Contest
1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

The deadline for entries is Thursday, March 2.

The trip features a comprehensive overview of the telecommunications industry, including careers in telecom, the critical role telecommunications plays in rural America, and how legislative and regulatory decisions affect the industry. The tour allows youth to meet with members of Congress who represent

rural constituents. They also participate in educational sessions about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Students visit some of the nation's most historic sites, including the Smithsonian Museums and a beautiful night tour of our Washington D.C.

"We hope that by providing our youth with broadband services comparable to those found in urban areas, as well as exposing them to cultural and educational opportunities, such as the FRS Youth Tour, our youth will remain in and become active members in their rural communities," said Brian Bissonette, Paul Bunyan Communications Marketing Supervisor.

The Foundation for Rural Service is dedicated to informing and to improving the quality of life throughout rural America. Each year, it organizes the Youth Tour, designed to educate rural youth about the telecommunications industry and the federal political process. The FRS is a subsidiary of the NTCA, the Rural Broadband Association of which Paul Bunyan Communications is a member.

Paul Bunyan Communications has participated in sending a local high school student to the Youth Tour annually since 1996.

DISTRICT 4 AND DISTRICT 6 2023 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

As a cooperative, Paul Bunyan Communications is governed by a seven-person member-elected Board of Directors. In 2023, there are two Board of Directors positions up for election representing Districts 4 and 6.

Article III, Section 3 of your Cooperative's Bylaws requires any member interested in serving as a Director to submit a completed candidate packet to the Cooperative headquarters at least 25 business days prior to the Caucus Election date.

This enables the Cooperative to properly verify the eligibility of all candidates to serve as a member of the Board if elected. Members interested can find the candidate packet and additional information online at:
www.paulbunyan.net/cooperative/documents/

The deadline for completed Director-candidate packets to be returned to the Cooperative is Tuesday, February 14.

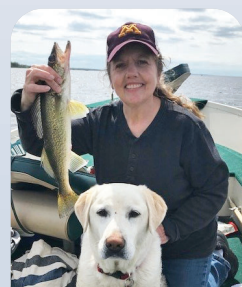
If there are less than two pre-qualified candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors from the same district (an uncontested district election), no in-person Caucus Meeting and Caucus Election for that district will be held.

If there are two or more pre-qualified candidates seeking election from the same district, the in-person Caucus Meeting will be held and all members residing within the district will be notified by mail of the date, time, and location. The purpose of the in-person Caucus is to select two pre-qualified candidates to seek election/re-election to be the district's representative on the Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors. Directors serve a five-year term through 2028.

The current director for District 4 is Brian Nicklason and he has expressed his intent to seek re-election.

The current director for District 6 is Glenda Martin and she has expressed her intent to seek re-election.

Based on the results of any contested Caucus Election, the names of two candidates are listed on the ballot to be voted on by the general membership of the Cooperative. **Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for May 24, 2023.** The candidate from each respective district with the greatest number of votes from the general membership is elected/re-elected as the Director for such district.



Barb Gray
Bemidji

1st PLACE
\$500 CREDIT



Trinity Anderson
Grand Rapids

2nd PLACE
\$250 CREDIT



Ryan Doheny
Brooklyn Park

3rd PLACE
\$100 CREDIT

PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE WINNERS

Paul Bunyan Communications is excited to announce the winners of the 7th Annual Pick-It Bowl Challenge, a free online contest for participants to pick the winners for the 2023 College Bowl games for a chance to win a credit on a Paul Bunyan Communications account.

4th - \$50 Credit - Terry Schmitt

5th - \$50 Credit - Teresa Tilden

6th - \$50 Credit - Rachel Robins

7th - \$50 Credit - Tim Mountain

8th - \$50 Credit - Kacie Pitzl

9th - \$50 Credit - Mary Burt

10th - \$50 Credit - Dustin Ames

Random \$100 Credit - Norman Mattson (254th place)

2023 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Paul Bunyan Communications is committed to the communities we serve and we provide many scholarship opportunities annually to local students within our service territory. We also offer local students the chance to apply for one statewide industry scholarship and one national industry scholarship. If you are a current high school senior or a student at one of the local post-secondary institutions, you can apply to win a Paul Bunyan Communications Scholarship.

HIGH SCHOOL

Each year, our cooperative provides at least two \$500 scholarships to 16 area high schools within or near our service territory. The application process, winners, and distribution of funds are handled by each high school independent of Paul Bunyan Communications.

- Bemidji
- Bigfork
- Blackduck
- Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig
- Cass Lake
- Deer River
- Grand Rapids
- Greenway
- Int'l Falls
- Kelliher
- Laporte
- Nashwauk/Keewatin
- Northome
- Park Rapids
- Red Lake
- Walker/Hackensack/Akeley

To apply for the Paul Bunyan Communications Scholarship at one of these high schools, please speak to the counselor or career service office.

POST-SECONDARY

In addition to high school scholarships, Paul Bunyan Communications provides scholarships to post-secondary students that are current members of PBC, or have a parent who is a member.

- Bemidji State University
- Northwest Technical College
- Itasca Community College
- Red Lake Nation College
- Leech Lake Tribal College
- Oak Hills Christian College

To apply for the Paul Bunyan Communications Scholarship at one of these post-secondary institutions, speak to the Admissions or Career Service office at the school you attend.

INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

MINNESOTA TELCOM ALLIANCE



Paul Bunyan Communications participates in the Minnesota Telecom Alliance scholarship program which awards five \$2,000 scholarships to Minnesota high school seniors each year.

The application can be downloaded at www.mnta.org/page/Scholarship and must be turned in to Paul Bunyan Communications no later than February 17, 2023.

A telecom alliance panel reviews each application and selects the finalists based on applicants' grades, academic achievements and extra-curricular activities. Preference to receive the scholarships is given to students who have an interest in broadband technology and rural communities.

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE



Paul Bunyan Communications participates in the Foundation for Rural Service scholarship program which awards thirty \$2,500 scholarships to high school seniors throughout the country each year.

Applications can also be downloaded from the FRS web site at www.frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships

Completed applications should be sent directly to FRS, postmarked no later than February 8, 2023. Applications postmarked to FRS after this date will NOT be accepted.