



 **Paul Bunyan**  
COMMUNICATIONS<sup>®</sup>  
POWERED BY  
**GIGAZONE<sup>®</sup>**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SERVICE TERRITORY



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MISTIC-SCHAAR**  
DISTRICT 3



**BRIAN  
NICKALSON**  
DISTRICT 4



**RANDY  
FRISK**  
DISTRICT 5  
PRESIDENT



**GLENDA  
MARTIN**  
DISTRICT 6



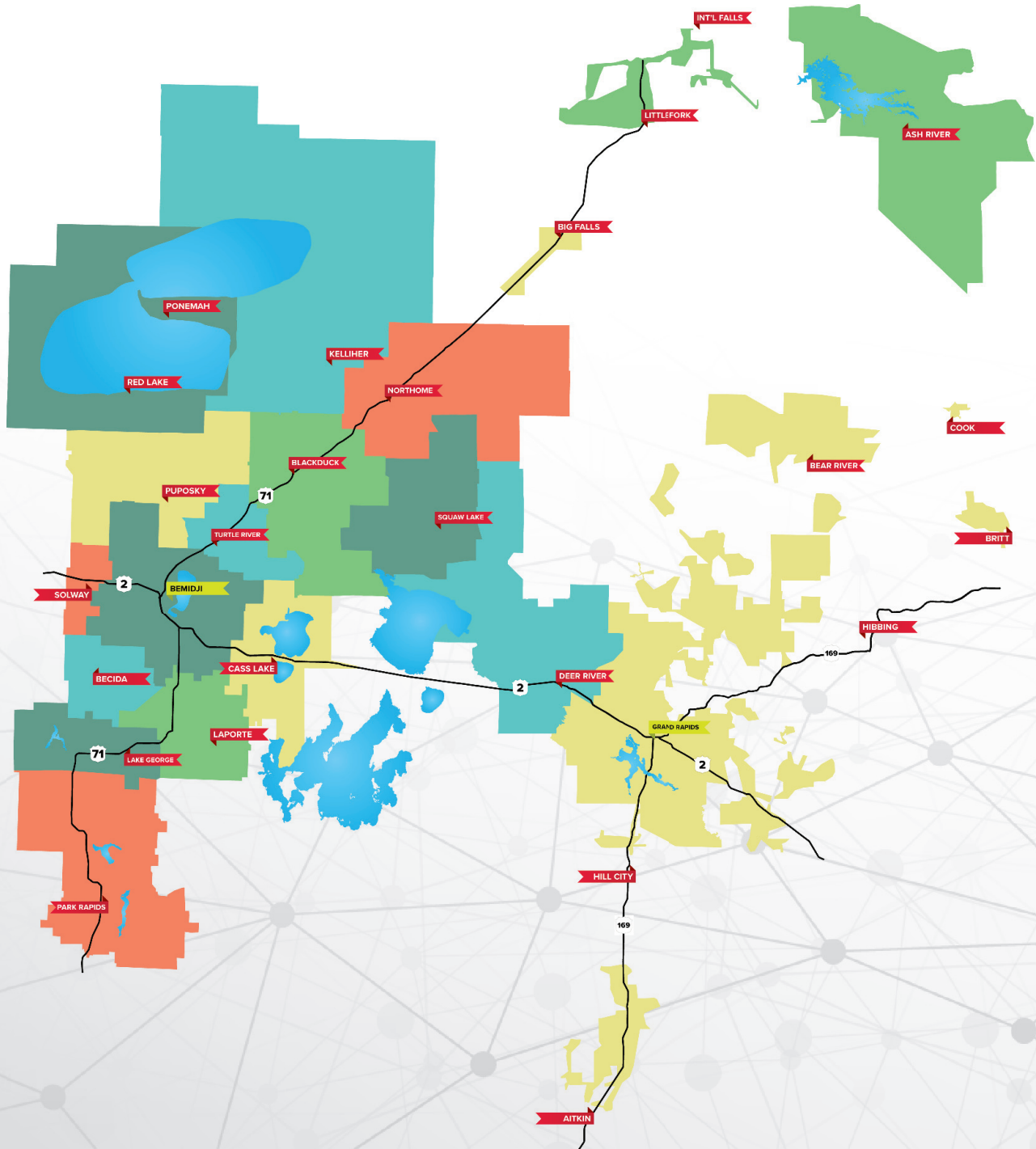
**BRUCE  
CAMPBELL**  
DISTRICT 7  
SECRETARY



**JIM  
SUTTON**  
DISTRICT 8  
VICE PRESIDENT



**TIM  
HINS**  
DISTRICT 9  
TREASURER



*As we reflect on the year 2023, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey we've undertaken together. We have remained focused on our mission to connect, empower, and enrich the lives of our members. In addition to supporting our current members, we continued expansion of our fiber-optic network, bringing state-of-the-art fiber broadband services to even more homes and businesses. This investment not only provides critical communication services to those in need, but also lays the foundation for economic growth and development across our region.*

Behind every milestone, success story, and member served lies the talent and dedication of our exceptional employees. Their tireless efforts, innovative spirit, and unwavering commitment to excellence are the driving force behind our success, expansion, and continued community involvement. It never ceases to amaze me what this cooperative is capable of thanks to them.

At the heart of Paul Bunyan Communications is our cooperative spirit—a commitment to innovation and to the region we serve, all with a member focus. As a cooperative, we exist only to serve our members the best we can. Every decision we make is guided by the best interests of our current and future members.

It is an interesting time for our broadband industry. There are unprecedented levels of federal and state resources available intended to partially fund costly broadband infrastructure construction so that high quality Internet services are ultimately available to all. In 2023, we successfully leveraged a number of these programs to make continued expansion to additional rural areas financially pos-

sible. Our service-oriented, not-for-profit cooperative structure combined with a rural focus and experienced technical team makes us very well positioned to deliver on the goals of these programs.

In addition to aggressive and successful infrastructure expansion, 2023 was notable in a number of other ways. It is still hard to believe that the co-founder of Apple, the father of microcomputer technology as we know it, and my idol, Steve “Woz” Wozniak joined us in Bemidji for our GigaZone Gaming Championship and TechXpo! As a life-long Apple fan and computer programmer since my high school days, having the opportunity to meet the visionary genius and have him present to the thousands in attendance was an unbelievable moment for me, our staff, our cooperative, and our region. It was clear his passion for the potential of technology and its impact on society continues today. Mr. Wozniak has an endless amount of event opportunities across the globe. I sincerely believe he agreed to join us simply because he respects our mission, our cooperative structure, and that we provide technology because it's the right thing to do – a mirror of his personal philosophy.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to pushing the boundaries of possibility and embracing new opportunities. Our vision for Paul Bunyan Communications goes beyond providing internet access; it's about empowering individuals, driving economic growth, and building a brighter future for generations to come.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to our members, employees, Board of Directors, and community partners for your continued support and trust in Paul Bunyan Communications. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones in 2023, and I am confident that with our shared vision and determination, we will continue to thrive for decades to come.

## 2023 **Commitment to Innovation** for All We Serve



*CEO/General Manager  
Gary Johnson*

# EMPLOYEES

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Johnson

## ASSISTANT MANAGER

Chad Bullock

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Dave Schultz

## CHIEF NETWORK OFFICER

Rob St. Clair

## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Christie Turn

## CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Leo Anderson

## I.T. & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Steve Howard

## NETWORK OPERATIONS MANAGER

Ryan Otting

## NETWORK TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

Lisa Geerdes

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kalsie Vanasse

## DATA & VIDEO SERVICES

Josh Almendinger

David Anderson

April Azure

Ethan Bell

Daniel Burdick

Kim Capra

Joey Carter

Nelson Castillo

Justin Delaurier

Samuel Freundshchuh

Chris Fultz

John Harty

Grant Hicok

Aaron Huls

Garrett Johnson

Kristopher Kolkin

Russ Krook

Maria Kuechle

Chris Larson

Sarah Lemke

Jonathan Lundstrom

Dan Maloney

Roman Martushev

Crystal Mattfield

Jesse Mix

Wakinyan Moore

Nate Nolting

Isaiah Olson

Scott Reiser

Beau Seeger

Loren Scramstad

Ryan Speck

David Thomas

Stacy Trask

Aurora Vogt

Daniel Walden

Adam Washburn

Marcus Winters

Samuel Wolkoff

Barb Zdenek

## MAINTENANCE

Pat Dockendorf

Travis James

Chad Netland

## ACCOUNTING

Jackie Bergerson

Terri Crews

Jon Dancker

Karen Gaasvig

Patti Horazuk

Brian Kuhrke

Jake Mechtel

Brandon Odegard

Crystal Peterson

Chris Tangen

Bonnie Wichern

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Heather Hanson

Jared Orgon

Amanda Sande

## ENGINEERING

Chris Battista

Tiffany Falk

Andy Fisher

Tonya Jaycox

Lorie Karas

Ryan Maher

Brian Mustonen

Matt Proulx

Jeffrey Schaper

Sharon Swanson

Ron Vold

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jennifer Baker

Taylor Blooflat

Wendy Britton

Kirsten Bushnell

Jennifer Deeds

Charlene Draper

Dawn Drotts

Abbey Fox

Tia Graham

Bobbi Gunderson

Stephanie Karl

Madison Liapis

Mallory McCartney

Meghan McDonald

Cindy Nyhusmoen

Noel Peck

Jaslyn Pemberton

Tonya Place

Wanda Rieger

Bobbi Sampson

Terri Schaubhut

Jackye Severts

Jordan Sweep

Kelsey Thompson

Trey Volk

Melissa Wehland

Brenda Williams

## CENTRAL OFFICE

Daryl Bjerke

Darren Bock

Chris Lucia

James Novak

Lane Skerik

## DISPATCH

Deanna Black

Tammy Eidenschink

Sarah Gillman

Craig Maas

Corina Pafko

Meggen Solheim

Ashley Tran

Alison Voss

Stephanie Wood

## OUTSIDE PLANT

Kent Aker

Chris Anderson

Tog Anderson

Jeremy Arlt

Ethan Beckman

Joe Best

Jason Bowles

Brett Carlson

Kyle Christianson

Dwight Crandall

Casey Fering

Tyler Fisher

Brett Folland

Randy Garrigan

Scott Geerdes

Mike Gregg

Ryan Hopke

Mark Howard

Thane Jansen

Ross Johnson

Tim Karas

Trent Larson

Tadd McFarren

John Nistler

Mike Plotts

Kevin Preble

Dusty Reul

Danny Samson

Mike Smith

Sean Stenberg

Gary Storlie

Travis Tyler

Brea Varda

Wayne Vredenburg

## BUSINESS SALES

Kari Gregg

Chuck Hildebrandt

Jake Lien

Cierra Reed

Megan Stolte

Daniel Thoben

Jen Tomlinson

## MARKETING

Rosie Berg

Brian Bissonette

Bob Lindberg

## **BEMIDJI**

### **Cooperative Headquarters**

1831 Anne St. NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

## **GRAND RAPIDS**

### **Customer Service and Technology Center**

510 SE 21st St.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

## **PAULBUNYAN.NET**

