

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SERVICE TERRITORY



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DISTRICT 3



**BRIAN
NICKALSON**
DISTRICT 4



**RANDY
FRISK**
DISTRICT 5
PRESIDENT



**GLEND
MARTIN**
DISTRICT 6



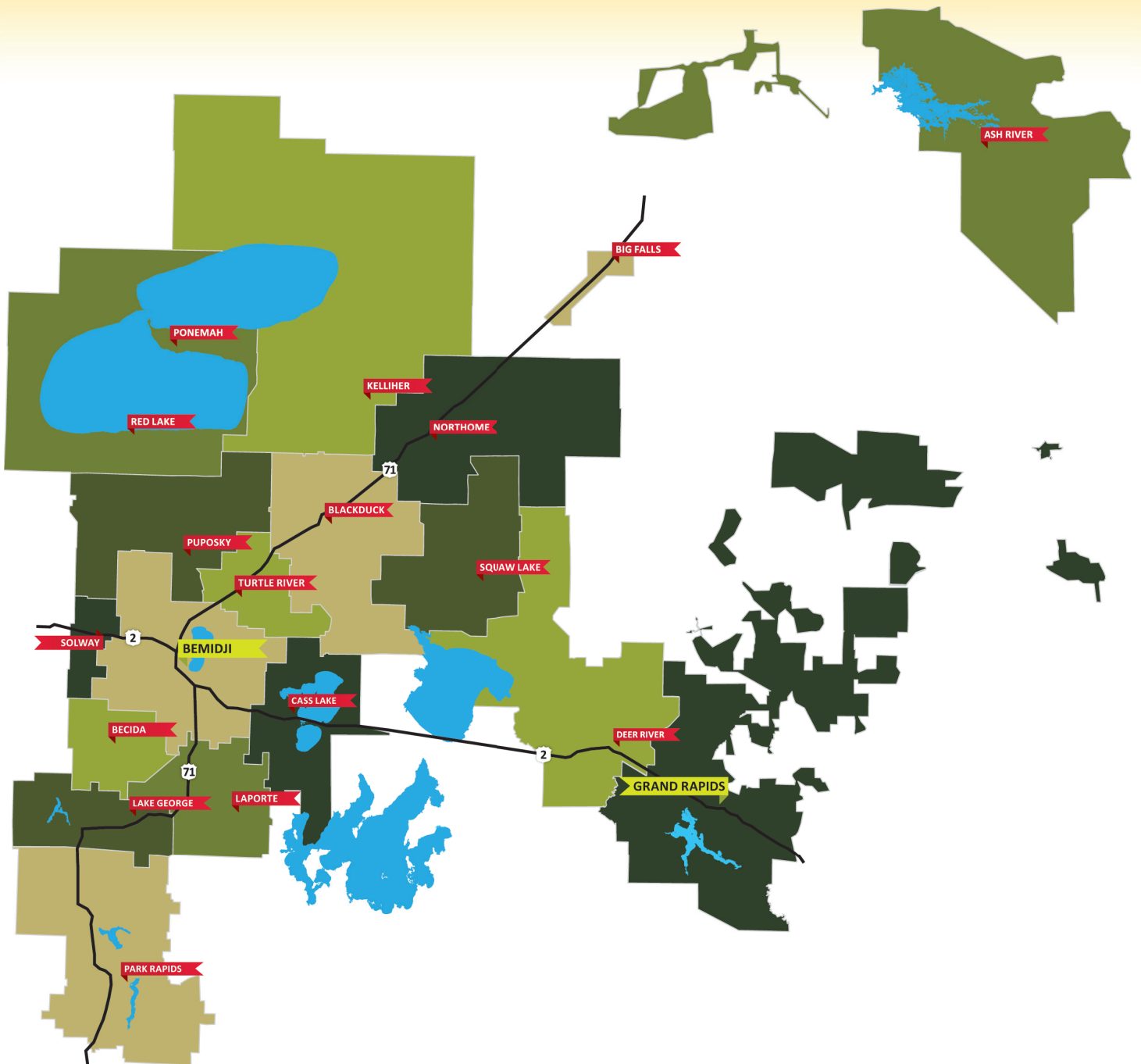
**BRUCE
CAMPBELL**
DISTRICT 7
SECRETARY



**JIM
SUTTON**
DISTRICT 8
VICE PRESIDENT



**TIM
HINS**
DISTRICT 9
TREASURER





2022 A Remarkable Year in Review

CEO/General Manager
Gary Johnson

With a focus on delivering exceptional services to our loyal members, expanding our network to new members, and continuing to enhance our region's digital opportunities, I can proudly say that it has been another transformative year for your cooperative, Paul Bunyan Communications.

In 2022 we celebrated our 70th year. Cooperatives embody a unique spirit of collaboration, unity, and shared purpose. Since 1952, we have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that can be achieved when individuals come together to achieve a common goal. Through the collective efforts of our members, employees, and community partners, we have overcome challenges and transformed the digital landscape of our region. Together, we have worked to bridge the digital divide, empowered our region, and paved the way for a more connected future.

EXPANDING INTERNET ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

In 2022, Paul Bunyan Communications continued its relentless efforts to bring high-speed Internet access to underserved areas in need. Our construction crews extended our fiber-optic network to connect nearly 3,000 more homes,

schools, and businesses, ensuring that these new members can thrive in an increasingly digital world. By investing in infrastructure upgrades and leveraging cutting-edge technologies, we have significantly increased broadband availability throughout our growing cooperative territory. In addition to ensuring access is available, we've aggressively promoted and have assisted members with the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This federal program can provide significant financial assistance, helping qualified members afford Internet services, critical for employment, education, health care, and other purposes.

ENHANCING MEMBER EXPERIENCE

We remain dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our members. To that end, we launched a Customer Advocate Team whose focus is to monitor network performance and look for any indication of possible service-affecting issues a customer may be experiencing. Our goal is to proactively identify and remedy potential problems before you even notice you may be having an issue. We pride ourselves on providing high-quality, local customer service and technical support to our members. This new team will add to that on-going effort.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our commitment to the communities and region we serve extends beyond providing communication services.

We're grateful for the innovative community partners we have whose dedication and effort are creatively enhancing our communities. Greater Bemidji's 218 Relocate and Itasca Economic Development Corporation's Thrive Up North initiatives are two great examples where we've successfully partnered to improve the economic health of our region.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move forward, Paul Bunyan Communications remains steadfast in our mission to connect, serve, and empower our members. We are excited to embark on new projects and initiatives in 2023, with a continued focus on expanding broadband access and delivering exceptional member experiences. Our unwavering commitment to our cooperative's core values will guide us as we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of our members and the communities we serve.

In conclusion, 2022 was a year of continued success and growth for your cooperative. I know it is the powerful combination of our dedicated members and our passionate, hard-working, and talented employees that creates our success. Thank you for that. Together, let's continue to build a connected and vibrant region for years to come.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
& GENERAL MANAGER**

Gary Johnson

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Dave Schultz

**NETWORK OPERATIONS
MANAGER**

Rob St. Clair

**I.T. & DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER**

Steve Howard

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
MANAGER**

Christie Turn

**TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE
MANAGER**

Leo Anderson

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**

Kalsie Vanasse

DATA & VIDEO SERVICES

Josh Almendinger
David Anderson
April Azure
Daniel Burdick
Kim Capra
Joey Carter
Nelson Castillo
Justin Delaurier
Samuel Freundshchuh
Chris Fultz
Lisa Geerdes
John Harty
Grant Hicok
Aaron Huls
Garrett Johnson

Kristopher Kolkin
Russ Krook
Maria Kuechle
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
Kristen Bushnell
Jennifer Deeds
Charlene Draper
Dawn Drotts
Abby Fox
Tia Graham
Bobbi Gunderson
Melinda Hall
Stephanie Karl
Madison Liapas
Mallory McCartney
Meghan McDonald
Jenny Miller
Cindy Nyhusmoen
Noel Peck
Jaslyn Pemberton
Tonya Place
Wanda Rieger
Bobbi Sampson

Terri Schaubhut
Jackye Severts
Jordan Sweep
Kelsey Thompson
Jen Tomlinson
Ashley Tran
Trey Volk
Melissa Wehland
Brenda Williams

CENTRAL OFFICE

Daryl Bjerke
Darren Bock
Chris Lucia
James Novak
Cheryl Pauly
Lane Skerik

DISPATCH

Deanna Black
Tammy Eidenschink
Sarah Gillman
Craig Maas
Corina Pafko
Meggen Solheim
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
Ryan Otting
Mike Plotts
Kevin Preble
Dusty Reul
Ted Rutherford
Danny Samson
Mike Smith
Sean Stenberg
Gary Storlie
Travis Tyler
Brea Varda
Wayne Vredenburg

BUSINESS SALES

Rosie Berg
Kari Gregg
Chuck Hildebrandt
Jake Lien
Cierra Reed
Megan Stolte
Daniel Thoben

MARKETING

Brian Bissonette
Bob Lindberg

EMPLOYEES

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

