

Form **990**  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

# Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public  
Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990)

OMB No 1545-0047  
**2015**  
**Open to Public Inspection**

**A For the 2015 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2015, and ending 12-31-2015**

<b>B</b> Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	<b>C</b> Name of organization PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE		<b>D</b> Employer identification number 41-0745441
	Doing business as		<b>E</b> Telephone number (218) 444-1234
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	<b>G</b> Gross receipts \$ 57,589,420
	1831 ANNE ST NW SUITE 100		
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code BEMIDJI, MN 566015660		<b>F</b> Name and address of principal officer GARY JOHNSON 1831 ANNE ST NW SUITE 100 BEMIDJI, MN 566015660	
<b>I</b> Tax-exempt status: <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(12) (Insert no ) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		<b>H(a)</b> Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>H(b)</b> Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list (see instructions) <b>H(c)</b> Group exemption number ▶	
<b>J</b> Website: WWW.PAULBUNYAN.NET		<b>L</b> Year of formation 1952 <b>M</b> State of legal domicile MN	
<b>K</b> Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other ▶			

## Part I Summary

<b>Activities &amp; Governance</b>	<b>1</b> Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS		
	<b>2</b> Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets		
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	<b>3</b>	8
	<b>4</b> Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	<b>4</b>	8
	<b>5</b> Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2015 (Part V, line 2a)	<b>5</b>	132
	<b>6</b> Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	<b>6</b>	0
	<b>7a</b> Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	<b>7a</b>	829,465
	<b>7b</b> Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	<b>7b</b>	510,937
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>8</b> Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year	0
	<b>9</b> Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	56,501,330	56,202,083
	<b>10</b> Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	1,360,366	21,828
	<b>11</b> Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	509,889	286,305
	<b>12</b> Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	58,371,585	56,510,216
	<b>13</b> Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	0	0
	<b>14</b> Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	9,980,713	6,770,375
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>15</b> Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	2,100,476	2,296,528
	<b>16a</b> Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	<b>b</b> Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 0		
	<b>17</b> Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	46,212,635	47,199,447
	<b>18</b> Total expenses Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	58,293,824	56,266,350
<b>19</b> Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	77,761	243,866	
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>20</b> Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year	135,649,469
	<b>21</b> Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	End of Year	133,895,359
	<b>22</b> Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20		64,335,488
			59,310,533
			71,313,981
			74,584,826

## Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

<b>Sign Here</b>	***** Signature of officer	2016-10-11 Date
	GARY JOHNSON CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Type or print name and title	

<b>Paid Preparer Use Only</b>	Print/Type preparer's name L JOSEPH MAYER	Preparer's signature L JOSEPH MAYER	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN P00092661
	Firm's name ▶ OLSEN THIELEN & CO LTD			Firm's EIN ▶ 41-1360831	
	Firm's address ▶ 2675 LONG LAKE ROAD ST PAUL, MN 55113			Phone no (651) 483-4521	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions)  Yes  No

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission

PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?  Yes  No  
If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?  Yes  No  
If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

**4a** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )  
PROVISION OF TELEPHONE, INTERNET, AND CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

**4b** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i> . . . . .		No
<b>2</b>	Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? . . . . .		No
<b>3</b>	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i> . . . . .		No
<b>4</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> . . . . .		
<b>5</b>	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>6</b>	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>7</b>	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>8</b>	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>9</b>	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>10</b>	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>11</b>	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
<b>a</b>	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>b</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>c</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>d</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .		No
<b>e</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>f</b>	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>12a</b>	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>b</b>	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	Yes	
<b>13</b>	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> . . . . .		No
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>15</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>16</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> . . . . .		No
<b>17</b>	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions) . . . . .		No
<b>18</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i> . . . . .		No
<b>19</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> . . . . .		No
<b>20a</b>	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i> . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return? . . . . .		

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** *(continued)*

<b>21</b>	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i> . . . . .	<b>21</b>		No
<b>22</b>	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i> . . . . .	<b>22</b>		No
<b>23</b>	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i> . . . . .	<b>23</b>	Yes	
<b>24a</b>	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i> . . . . .	<b>24a</b>		No
<b>b</b>	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . . . .	<b>24b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? . . . . .	<b>24c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . . . .	<b>24d</b>		
<b>25a</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>25a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>25b</b>		
<b>26</b>	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i> . . . . .	<b>26</b>		No
<b>27</b>	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i> . . . . .	<b>27</b>		No
<b>28</b>	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
<b>a</b>	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> . . . . .	<b>28a</b>		No
<b>b</b>	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> . . . . .	<b>28b</b>		No
<b>c</b>	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i> . . . . .	<b>28c</b>		No
<b>29</b>	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> . . . . .	<b>29</b>		No
<b>30</b>	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i> . . . . .	<b>30</b>		No
<b>31</b>	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>31</b>		No
<b>32</b>	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i> . . . . .	<b>32</b>		No
<b>33</b>	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>33</b>	Yes	
<b>34</b>	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i> . . . . .	<b>34</b>	Yes	
<b>35a</b>	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	<b>35a</b>	Yes	
<b>b</b>	If 'Yes' to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> . . . . .	<b>35b</b>		No
<b>36</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i> . . . . .	<b>36</b>		
<b>37</b>	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i> . . . . .	<b>37</b>		No
<b>38</b>	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O . . . . .	<b>38</b>	Yes	

**Part V** **Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.		
<b>1b</b>	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.		
<b>1c</b>	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	Yes	
<b>2a</b>	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.		
<b>2b</b>	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? <b>Note.</b> If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).	Yes	
<b>3a</b>	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	Yes	
<b>3b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O.	Yes	
<b>4a</b>	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____ See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		
<b>5a</b>	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		No
<b>5b</b>	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		No
<b>5c</b>	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?		
<b>6a</b>	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?		No
<b>6b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
<b>7</b>	<b>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</b>		
<b>7a</b>	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?		No
<b>7b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?		
<b>7c</b>	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		No
<b>7d</b>	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.		
<b>7e</b>	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		
<b>7f</b>	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		
<b>7g</b>	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
<b>7h</b>	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?		
<b>8</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b> Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
<b>9a</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
<b>9b</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
<b>10</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</b> Enter		
<b>10a</b>	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.		
<b>10b</b>	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.		
<b>11</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</b> Enter		
<b>11a</b>	Gross income from members or shareholders.	38,604,020	
<b>11b</b>	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).	2,005,483	
<b>12a</b>	<b>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</b> Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?		
<b>12b</b>	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.		
<b>13</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.</b>		
<b>13a</b>	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? <b>Note.</b> See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.		
<b>13b</b>	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.		
<b>13c</b>	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.		
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?		No
<b>14b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.		

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure

For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 5 columns: Question ID, Question Text, Yes, No. Rows include 1a (voting members), 1b (independent members), 2-9 (relationships, control, changes, assets, members, governance decisions, documentation, and reachability).

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 5 columns: Question ID, Question Text, Yes, No. Rows include 10a-16b covering local chapters, policies, Form 990 distribution, conflict of interest, whistleblower policy, document retention, compensation, and joint ventures.

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c) (3)s only) available for public inspection
19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records

**Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees**

**1a** Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "

- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W- 2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) KATHY PETERSON PRESIDENT	2 00	X		X			28,798	0	0	
(2) JIM TARBELL VICE PRESIDENT	2 00	X		X			29,732	0	0	
(3) GARY EKLUND SECRETARY	2 00	X		X			29,110	0	0	
(4) TIM HINS TREASURER	2 00	X		X			31,288	0	0	
(5) GLENDA MARTIN DIRECTOR	2 00	X					23,359	0	0	
(6) BRUCE CAMPBELL DIRECTOR	2 00	X					31,387	0	0	
(7) JAMES SUTTON DIRECTOR	2 00	X					33,172	0	0	
(8) RANDY FRISK DIRECTOR	2 00	X					29,587	0	0	
(9) DAVE SCHULTZ CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	40 00			X			174,783	0	45,120	
(10) GARY JOHNSON CEO & GM	40 00			X			263,937	0	60,026	
(11) ROBERT ST CLAIR NETWORK OPERATIONS MANAGER	40 00				X		152,454	0	41,386	
(12) STEVE HOWARD INFO, TECH & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	40 00				X		146,976	0	40,470	
(13) LEO ANDERSON DATA SERVICES SUPERVISOR	40 00				X		113,301	0	34,840	

**Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees** (continued)

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
<b>1b Sub-Total</b>										
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b>										
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b>							1,087,884	0	221,842	

**2** Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **▶ 5**

	Yes	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		No
<b>4</b> For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	Yes	
<b>5</b> Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		No

**Section B. Independent Contractors**

**1** Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT LLC 1831 ANNE ST NW BEMIDJI, MN 56601	FIBER CONSTRUCTION	4,560,736
LAPOINTE UTILITIES INC PO BOX 636 FOREST LAKE, MN 550250636	FIBER CONSTRUCTION	1,822,620
OLSEN THIELEN & COMPANY 2675 LONG LAKE ROAD ST PAUL, MN 55113	AUDIT AND CONSULTING	193,466
NORTH CENTRAL SERVICE INC 5487 HART LN NW BEMIDJI, MN 56601	FIBER CONSTRUCTION	174,954

**2** Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **▶ 4**



**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514		
<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b>	Federated campaigns . . . . . <b>1a</b>						
	<b>b</b>	Membership dues . . . . . <b>1b</b>						
	<b>c</b>	Fundraising events . . . . . <b>1c</b>						
	<b>d</b>	Related organizations . . . . . <b>1d</b>						
	<b>e</b>	Government grants (contributions) <b>1e</b>						
	<b>f</b>	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above <b>1f</b>						
	<b>g</b>	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$						
	<b>h</b>	<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .						
<b>Program Service Revenue</b>			Business Code					
	<b>2a</b>	TELEPHONE SERVICES	517000	54,725,126	54,599,933	125,193		
	<b>b</b>	PARTNERSHIP INCOME	517000	959,327	772,960	186,367		
	<b>c</b>	ADVERTISING	541800	283,919		283,919		
	<b>d</b>	TELEVISION ADS	541800	231,384		231,384		
	<b>e</b>	RETAIL OUTLET	453000	1,415		1,415		
	<b>f</b>	All other program service revenue		912		912		
	<b>g</b>	<b>Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f . . . . .		56,202,083				
<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b>	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . .		49,744		138	49,606	
	<b>4</b>	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . . . . .						
	<b>5</b>	Royalties . . . . .						
	<b>6a</b>	Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
			330,023					
			<b>b</b> Less rental expenses	47,229				
			<b>c</b> Rental income or (loss)	282,794				
	<b>d</b>	Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .		282,794	282,794			
	<b>7a</b>	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
			1,000,000	4,059				
			<b>b</b> Less cost or other basis and sales expenses	1,000,000	31,975			
			<b>c</b> Gain or (loss)	0	-27,916			
	<b>d</b>	Net gain or (loss) . . . . .		-27,916			-27,916	
	<b>8a</b>	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . . . .	<b>a</b>					
	<b>b</b>	Less direct expenses . . . . . <b>b</b>						
<b>c</b>	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . .							
<b>9a</b>	Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . . .	<b>a</b>						
<b>b</b>	Less direct expenses . . . . . <b>b</b>							
<b>c</b>	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . .							
<b>10a</b>	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . .	<b>a</b>						
		<b>b</b> Less cost of goods sold . . . . . <b>b</b>						
		<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . . . .						
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code						
<b>11a</b>	BAD DEBT RECOVERY	517000	3,374	3,374				
<b>b</b>	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	517000	137		137			
<b>c</b>								
<b>d</b>	All other revenue . . . . .							
<b>e</b>	<b>Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .		3,511					
<b>12</b>	<b>Total revenue.</b> See Instructions . . . . .		56,510,216	55,659,061	829,465	21,690		

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A)

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments See Part IV, line 21 . . . . .				
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals See Part IV, line 22 . . . . .				
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals See Part IV, lines 15 and 16 . . . . .				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members . . . . .	6,770,375			
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees . . . . .	1,309,726			
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) . . . . .				
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages . . . . .				
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions) . . . . .	986,802			
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits . . . . .				
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes . . . . .				
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees)				
<b>a</b> Management . . . . .				
<b>b</b> Legal . . . . .	80,847			
<b>c</b> Accounting . . . . .	656,191			
<b>d</b> Lobbying . . . . .				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services See Part IV, line 17				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees . . . . .				
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O) . . . . .				
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion . . . . .				
<b>13</b> Office expenses . . . . .				
<b>14</b> Information technology . . . . .				
<b>15</b> Royalties . . . . .				
<b>16</b> Occupancy . . . . .				
<b>17</b> Travel . . . . .				
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials . . . . .				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings . . . . .				
<b>20</b> Interest . . . . .	1,892,116			
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates . . . . .				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization . . . . .	13,216,477			
<b>23</b> Insurance . . . . .				
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O )				
<b>a</b> TAXES	221,296			
<b>b</b> VIDEO	12,638,215			
<b>c</b> PLANT EXPENSE	5,324,122			
<b>d</b> INTERNET	4,446,507			
<b>e</b> All other expenses	8,723,676			
<b>25 Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	56,266,350			
<b>26 Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .	1,773,748	<b>1</b>	1,170,992
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .	4,996,932	<b>2</b>	4,581,437
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net . . . . .	356,244	<b>4</b>	193,580
	<b>5</b> Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .	309,529	<b>7</b>	295,668
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .		<b>8</b>	
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .	266,760	<b>9</b>	390,295
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment—cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D . . . . .	<b>10a</b> 230,951,007		
	<b>b</b> Less accumulated depreciation . . . . .	<b>10b</b> 122,535,523	109,557,104	<b>10c</b> 108,415,484
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .	2,963,910	<b>11</b>	2,948,990
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	1,996,392	<b>12</b>	2,050,287
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	8,929,976	<b>13</b>	8,993,611
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets . . . . .	1,071,182	<b>14</b>	394,646
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	3,427,692	<b>15</b>	4,460,369
<b>16</b> <b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) . . . . .	135,649,469	<b>16</b>	133,895,359	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .	4,873,169	<b>17</b>	5,099,665
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .		<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .		<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .		<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D . . . . .		<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .		<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .	56,935,809	<b>23</b>	51,247,470
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D . . . . .	2,526,510	<b>25</b>	2,963,398
	<b>26</b> <b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .	64,335,488	<b>26</b>	59,310,533
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Unrestricted net assets . . . . .		<b>27</b>	
	<b>28</b> Temporarily restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>28</b>	
	<b>29</b> Permanently restricted net assets . . . . .		<b>29</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>			
	<b>30</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .	0	<b>30</b>	0
	<b>31</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .	68,710,533	<b>31</b>	72,048,984
	<b>32</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds . . . . .	2,603,448	<b>32</b>	2,535,842
<b>33</b> Total net assets or fund balances . . . . .	71,313,981	<b>33</b>	74,584,826	
<b>34</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances . . . . .	135,649,469	<b>34</b>	133,895,359	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	56,510,216
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	56,266,350
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	243,866
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	<b>4</b>	71,313,981
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	3,026,979
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	74,584,826

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

- 1** Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990  Cash  Accrual  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O
- 2a** Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?  
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- b** Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?  
If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both  
 Separate basis  Consolidated basis  Both consolidated and separate basis
- c** If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?  
If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O
- 3a** As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?
- b** If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits

	Yes	No
<b>2a</b>		No
<b>2b</b>	Yes	
<b>2c</b>	Yes	
<b>3a</b>		No
<b>3b</b>		

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. Attach to Form 990.

Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at www.irs.gov/form990.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Employer identification number 41-0745441

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows 1-4: Total number at end of year, Aggregate value of contributions to (during year), Aggregate value of grants from (during year), Aggregate value at end of year.

- 5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

- 1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)
2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

Table with 2 columns: Held at the End of the Year. Rows 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d.

- 3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?
9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

- 1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items
1b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)
a Public exhibition
b Scholarly research
c Preservation for future generations
d Loan or exchange programs
e Other
4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII
5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?
b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

Table with 2 columns: Description (1c-1f) and Amount

- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?

- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

Table with 6 columns: (a) Current year, (b) Prior year, (c) Two years back, (d) Three years back, (e) Four years back. Rows include: 1a Beginning of year balance, b Contributions, c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses, d Grants or scholarships, e Other expenditures for facilities and programs, f Administrative expenses, g End of year balance.

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

- a Board designated or quasi-endowment
b Permanent endowment
c Temporarily restricted endowment
The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

Table with 2 columns: Yes, No. Rows: 3a(i) unrelated organizations, 3a(ii) related organizations, 3b If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Table with 5 columns: Description of property, (a) Cost or other basis (Investment), (b) Cost or other basis (other), (c) Accumulated depreciation, (d) Book value. Rows include: 1a Land, b Buildings, c Leasehold improvements, d Equipment, e Other, Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c.).

Part VII Investments—Other Securities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

Table with 3 columns: (a) Description of security or category, (b) Book value, (c) Method of valuation. Rows include Financial derivatives, Closely-held equity interests, and Other. Total row at the bottom.

Part VIII Investments—Program Related. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

Table with 3 columns: (a) Description of investment, (b) Book value, (c) Method of valuation. Rows include INVESTMENT IN COOPERATIVE DEV, IES LLC/E911, NW MN SPEC ACCESS, BROADBAND VISION, CNS, LLC, and PINNACLE PUB. Total row at the bottom.

Part IX Other Assets. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Description, (b) Book value. Multiple empty rows for description and book value.

Part X Other Liabilities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Description of liability, (b) Book value. Rows include Federal income taxes and POST RETIREMENT BENEFIT (2,963,398). Total row at the bottom.

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII [checked]

**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	56,510,216
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12			
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	0
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	56,510,216
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line <b>1</b>			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	0
<b>5</b>	Total revenue Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12 ) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	56,510,216

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	49,495,975
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25			
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Other losses . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	0
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	49,495,975
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line <b>1</b> :			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	6,770,375	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	6,770,375
<b>5</b>	Total expenses Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18 ) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	56,266,350

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2	FIN 48 DISCLOSURE FROM AUDITED FINANCIALS STATEMENTS THE COMPANY REVIEWS INCOME TAX POSITIONS TAKEN OR EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN IN INCOME TAX RETURNS TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE ANY INCOME TAX UNCERTAINTIES THIS INCLUDES POSITIONS THAT THE ENTITY IS EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAXES OR NOT SUBJECT TO INCOME TAXES ON UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME THE COMPANY RECOGNIZES TAX BENEFITS FROM UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS ONLY IF IT IS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT THE TAX POSITIONS WILL BE SUSTAINED ON EXAMINATION BY TAXING AUTHORITIES, BASED ON THE TECHNICAL MERITS OF THE POSITIONS THE COMPANY HAS IDENTIFIED NO SIGNIFICANT INCOME TAX UNCERTAINTIES THE COMPANY'S FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE OPEN TO EXAMINATION FOR TAX YEARS 2012 THROUGH 2014
PART XII, LINE 4B - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS	ALLOCATION OF 2015 MARGINS REPORTED ON PAGE 10, PART IX, LINE 4 \$6,770,375



**Part XIII** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

**Schedule J**  
(Form 990)

**Compensation Information**

OMB No 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.  
▶ Attach to Form 990.

▶ Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

**2015**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization  
PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Employer identification number

41-0745441

**Part I Questions Regarding Compensation**

- 1a** Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel             | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions          | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account            | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef) |

- b** If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain
- 2** Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?

- 3** Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

- 4** During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:
- a** Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

**Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.**

- 5** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:
- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.
- 6** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:
- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.
- 7** For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.
- 8** Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.
- 9** If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
<b>1b</b>	Yes	
<b>2</b>	Yes	
<b>4a</b>		No
<b>4b</b>		No
<b>4c</b>		No
<b>5a</b>		
<b>5b</b>		
<b>6a</b>		
<b>6b</b>		
<b>7</b>		
<b>8</b>		
<b>9</b>		

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii) Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII

**Note.** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		Base (i) compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 DAVE SCHULTZ CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	(i)	174,783	0	0	29,224	15,896	219,903	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 GARY JOHNSON CEO & GM	(i)	263,937	0	0	44,130	15,896	323,963	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 ROBERT ST CLAIR NETWORK OPERATIONS MANAGER	(i)	152,454	0	0	25,490	15,896	193,840	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 STEVE HOWARD INFO, TECH & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	(i)	146,976	0	0	24,574	15,896	187,446	0
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Part III Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

**Return Reference****Explanation**

**SCHEDULE O**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2015**

**Open to Public Inspection**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

Name of the organization  
PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Employer identification number

41-0745441

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 4	THE ORGANIZATION HAS UPDATED THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME BOARD DIRECTOR IN THE BYLAWS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6	THE COOPERATIVE SHALL BE WITHOUT CAPITAL STOCK AND MAY ADMIT APPLICANTS TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE COOPERATIVE ON SUCH UNIFORM CONDITIONS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COOPERATIVE. MEMBERS SHALL HAVE ONLY ONE VOTE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COOPERATIVE, AND MEMBERSHIP SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERABLE EXCEPT WITH THE APPROVAL AND CONSENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7A	THE COOPERATIVE IS MEMBER-OWNED, AND EACH MEMBER HAS AN EQUAL VOTING RIGHT TO ELECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND APPROVE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE COOPERATIVE'S OPERATIONS. EACH MEMBER RECEIVES A SHARE OF THE CAPITAL CREDITS THE COOPERATIVE DISTRIBUTES ANNUALLY
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7B	IF THE BYLAWS ARE CHANGED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBER APPROVAL IS REQUIRED
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 8B	NO FORMAL ACTION IS TAKEN WITHIN THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	THE ORGANIZATION'S CFO REVIEWS THE RETURN FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE RETURN BY ITS EXPERT CONSULTANTS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	COMPENSATION IS BASED ON INDUSTRY COMPARISON ON AN ANNUAL BASIS
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND ORGANIZATION'S BYLAWS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.PAULBUNYAN.NET. COPIES OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MAY BE INSPECTED AT OUR OFFICE ON REQUEST
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24E	NETWORK OPERATIONS 3,854,110 CUSTOMER OPERATIONS 1,824,115 CORPORATE OPERATIONS 1,546,900 OTHER SERVICES 1,176,666 PROPERTY TAXES 235,295 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS 86,590
FORM 990, PART XI, LINE 9	EXCISE TAX REFUNDS 36,916 UNREALIZED LOSS ON INVESTMENTS -10,920 RETIREMENT OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL -3,468,840 CHANGE IN POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT -300,552 ALLOCATION OF 2015 MARGINS REPORTED ON PAGE 10, PART IX, LINE 4 6,770,375
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THE PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED FROM PRIOR YEARS

**SCHEDULE R  
(Form 990)**

**Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships**

OMB No 1545-0047

**2015**

**Open to Public  
Inspection**

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.**

▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization  
PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

**Employer identification number**  
41-0745441

**Part I Identification of Disregarded Entities** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity
(1) NORTHERN COMMUNICATIONS LLC 1831 ANNE ST NW SUITE 100 BEMIDJI, MN 566015612 41-1441285	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	MN	243,866	481,237	PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

**Part II Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No

**Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	
(1) PINNACLE PUBLISHING LLC 4030 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE NW BEMIDJI, MN 56601 41-1988427	PUBLISHING	MN	PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	INVESTMENT	234,957	6,379,780		No			No	66.950 %
(2) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT LLC 1831 ANNE STREET NW SUITE 100 BEMIDJI, MN 56601 41-1850466	CONTRACTING	MN	PAUL BUNYAN RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE	INVESTMENT	328,381	3,243,313		No			No	50.000 %

**Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No

**Part V Transactions With Related Organizations** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.

**Note.** Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule

**1** During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

- a** Receipt of **(i)** interest, **(ii)** annuities, **(iii)** royalties, or **(iv)** rent from a controlled entity . . . . .
- b** Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s) . . . . .
- c** Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s) . . . . .
- d** Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s) . . . . .
- e** Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s) . . . . .
- f** Dividends from related organization(s) . . . . .
- g** Sale of assets to related organization(s) . . . . .
- h** Purchase of assets from related organization(s) . . . . .
- i** Exchange of assets with related organization(s) . . . . .
- j** Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s) . . . . .
- k** Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s) . . . . .
- l** Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s) . . . . .
- m** Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s) . . . . .
- n** Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s) . . . . .
- o** Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s) . . . . .
- p** Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .
- q** Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .
- r** Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s) . . . . .
- s** Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s) . . . . .

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b>		No
<b>1b</b>		No
<b>1c</b>		No
<b>1d</b>		No
<b>1e</b>		No
<b>1f</b>		No
<b>1g</b>		No
<b>1h</b>		No
<b>1i</b>		No
<b>1j</b>		No
<b>1k</b>		No
<b>1l</b>		No
<b>1m</b>		No
<b>1n</b>		No
<b>1o</b>		No
<b>1p</b>		No
<b>1q</b>		No
<b>1r</b>		No
<b>1s</b>		No

**2** If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved



**Part VI Unrelated Organizations Taxable as a Partnership** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 37.

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships

(a) Name, address, and EIN of entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Predominant income (related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512-514)	(e) Are all partners section 501(c)(3) organizations?		(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
				Yes	No			Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part VII Supplemental Information**

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)

**Return Reference****Explanation**