

C&E 372

Form 990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

2017

Open to Public Inspection

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. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Header section A-K containing organization details: Benton Rural Electric Association, Prosser, WA, 2017, ending December 31st, 2017. Includes principal officer Michael J. Bradshaw and gross receipts of 47,706,072.

Part I Summary

Summary table with 22 rows. Categories include: 1. Mission (Distribution of Electricity to Rural Cooperative members), 2. Governance, 3-7a. Revenue (Total 47,706,072), 13-19. Expenses (Total 47,706,072), 20-22. Net Assets or Fund Balances (Total 67,807,176).

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.

Signature block containing: Steven Catlow, Manager of Finance, dated 6/28/2018. Preparer information section with fields for name, signature, date, and firm details.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) [] Yes [] No. For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions. Cal. No. 11282Y Form 990 (2017)

SCANNED AUG 22 2018

6

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 safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost to the cooperative membership.

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 \$ _____)

The Benton Rural Electric Association(Benton REA) is a not for profit member owned electric cooperative. It has approximately 10,600 member/owners to whom it delivers electricity through its distribution system. The sale and distribution of electrical service is the main program service.

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 ▶

005

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows 1-19 with various questions about organizational requirements and financial reporting. Checkmarks are present in the Yes/No columns for most items.

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

	Yes	No
20 a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		✓
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		✓
21 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>		✓
22 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>		✓
23 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>	✓	
24a 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 Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		✓
c Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		✓
d Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		✓
25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. 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 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>		
26 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>		✓
27 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>		✓
28 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):		
a A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
b A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		✓
c 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>		✓
29 Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
30 Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		✓
31 Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		✓
32 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>		✓
33 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>		✓
34 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>		✓
35a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		✓
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>		
36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
37 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>		✓
38 Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	✓	

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		
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	58		
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0		
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c		✓	
2a	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	2a	81		
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions)	2b		✓	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a		✓	
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O	3b		✓	
4a	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)?	4a			✓
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).				
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a			✓
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b			✓
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c			
6a	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?	6a			✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b			
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).				
a	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?	7a			
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b			
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c			
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d			
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e			
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f			
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g			
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h			
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8			
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.				
a	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a			
b	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b			
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:				
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a			
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b			
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:				
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a	40,657,465		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b	4,833,532		
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a			
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	12b			
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.				
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a			
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	13b			
c	Enter the amount of reserves on hand	13c			
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a			✓
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	14b			

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 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

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O.		
1b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		✓
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		✓
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		✓
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		✓
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	✓	
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	✓	
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	✓	
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
a	The governing body?	✓	
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	✓	
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		✓

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

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	✓	
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	✓	
b	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	✓	
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	✓	
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	✓	
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	✓	
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	✓	
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	✓	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions).		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		✓
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ► **None**
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (Section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
 Own website Another's website Upon request Other (explain in Schedule O)
- 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: ►
Steven Catlow, Benton Rural Electric Association, 402 7th Street, Prosser, WA 99350

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, and 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) Michael Freepons President	4	✓		✓			15,390		250	
(2) Connie Krull Vice President	8	✓		✓			11,970		216	
(3) Mark Platt Secretary/Treasurer	6.9	✓		✓			16,530		200	
(4) Buddy Treadway Trustee	2	✓					13,110		97	
(5) Bob Evans Trustee	4	✓					9,500		165	
(6) Tim Grow Trustee	5	✓					8,930		232	
(7) Scott Fisher Trustee	3.25	✓					10,260		180	
(8) Catherine Russell Trustee	3.5	✓					10,450		216	
(9) Michael J. Bradshaw General Manager	45			✓			210,915		44,673	
(10) John Porter Manager of Finance	40			✓			180,665		41,525	
(11) Derek Miller Engineering Manager	55				✓		164,114		39,969	
(12) Jeff Ekrut Operations Manager	60				✓		154,388		22,613	
(13) Mark Hay System Engineer	40					✓	194,165		31,250	
(14) Jeff Bastow Information Technology Manager	45					✓	164,345		40,339	

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			
(15) Richard Johnson Serviceman	45					✓		146,493	33,393	
(16) Troy Berglund Member Services Manager	48					✓		142,876	36,495	
(17) Kirk Henderson Line Superintendent	45					✓		139,026	36,780	
(18)										
(19)										
(20)										
(21)										
(22)										
(23)										
(24)										
(25)										
1b Sub-total								1,593,127	328,593	
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0	0	
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								1,593,127	328,593	

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 **32**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		✓
4 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>	✓	
5 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>		✓

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
Boyd's Tree Service, 16350 W. BRINKLEY RD. SUITE 120, Kennewick, WA 99338	Tree Trimming	365,682
Pacific Pole Inspection, 980 Rose Valley Rd, Kelso, WA 98626	Pole Testing	132,243

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 **2**

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
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a Federated campaigns 1a				
	b Membership dues 1b				
	c Fundraising events 1c				
	d Related organizations 1d				
	e Government grants (contributions) 1e				
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above 1f				
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$				
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f ▶				
Program Service Revenue	2a Sale of Electricity Business Code	221000	41,470,571	41,470,571	
	b Pole Rental	53130	119,232		119,232
	c				
	d				
	e				
	f All other program service revenue				
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f ▶		41,589,803		
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) ▶		1,235,317		1,235,317
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds ▶				
	5 Royalties ▶				
	6a Gross rents (i) Real (ii) Personal				
	b Less rental expenses				
	c Rental income or (loss)				
	d Net rental income or (loss) ▶				
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory (i) Securities (ii) Other				
	b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses				
	c Gain or (loss)				
	d Net gain or (loss) ▶		3,667,933	3,667,933	
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 a				
b Less: direct expenses b					
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events ▶					
9a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 a					
b Less: direct expenses b					
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities ▶					
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances a					
b Less: cost of goods sold b					
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory ▶					
Miscellaneous Revenue Business Code					
11a Internet Service Provider	517000	1,213,019		1,213,019	
b					
c					
d All other revenue				9	
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d ▶		1,213,019			
12 Total revenue. See instructions. ▶		47,706,072	45,138,504	1,213,019	1,354,549

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
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21 . . .				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members	9,705,030			
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	956,558			
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages				
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits				
10 Payroll taxes				
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal				
c Accounting				
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)				
12 Advertising and promotion				
13 Office expenses				
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy				
17 Travel				
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest	1,270,513			
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	2,767,468			
23 Insurance				
24 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.)				
a Purchase Power	20,665,459			
b Operations and Maintenance	5,544,515			
c Customer Accounts Service	1,683,273			
d Administration and General	3,205,060			
e All other expenses	1,908,196			
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	47,706,072			
26 Joint costs. 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)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	1,972,498	1	1,719,118
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	4,570,000	2	5,460,000
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	11,877,281	4	10,787,813
	5 Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6 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		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use	1,601,932	8	1,347,372
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	39,982	9	39,539
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment, cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 112,857,990		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 38,980,484	75,790,324	10c 73,877,506
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	3,434,311	13	3,054,361
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	11,672,549	15	5,299,217
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	110,958,877	16	101,584,926	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	6,009,991	17	5,978,179
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 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		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	13,454,081	23	4,755,849
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 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	32,486,853	25	23,043,722
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	51,950,925	26	33,777,750
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.			
	27 Unrestricted net assets		27	
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29 Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.			
	30 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund	1,153,108	31	1,247,301
	32 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	57,854,844	32	66,559,875
33 Total net assets or fund balances	59,007,952	33	67,807,176	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	110,958,877	34	101,584,926	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

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

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	47,706,072
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	47,706,072
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	59,007,952
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	8,799,224
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	67,807,176

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

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

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990. <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> 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: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.		

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

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.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2017

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization: Benton Rural Electric Association; Employer identification number: 91-0143426

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 include total number at end of year, aggregate value of contributions, grants, and end of year. Includes Yes/No checkboxes for donor information and grant fund usage.

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

Form with multiple sections: Purpose(s) of conservation easements, table for conservation easement details (2a-2d), number of modified easements, states where property is located, monitoring policy, staff hours, expenses, and reporting requirements.

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.

Form with multiple sections: Reporting requirements for art and historical treasures, including revenue and asset amounts for collections and financial gain.

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? Yes No

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? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided on Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
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:

	Yes	No
(i) unrelated organizations	3a(i)	
(ii) related organizations	3a(ii)	
b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?	3b	

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" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land	563,631			563,631
b Buildings	2,324,445		1,263,736	1,060,709
c Leasehold improvements	0		0	0
d Equipment	7,954,039		6,167,880	1,786,159
e Other	102,015,875		31,548,868	70,467,007
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10c.)				73,877,506

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.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other _____		
(A) _____		
(B) _____		
(C) _____		
(D) _____		
(E) _____		
(F) _____		
(G) _____		
(H) _____		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.) ▶		

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.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 13.) ▶		

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) Note Receivable for sale of Assets to Yakama Power	5,299,217
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 15.) ▶	5,299,217

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.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2) Deferred Credits	21,462,786
(3) Deferred Compensation	668,185
(4) Retired Managers Obligation	176,938
(5) Retiree Sick Leave Conversion	735,813
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 25.) ▶	23,043,722

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

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.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	47,706,072
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	47,706,072
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	47,706,072

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.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	38,001,042
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	9,705,030	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	9,705,030
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	47,706,072

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.

Schedule D Part X(2) The Cooperative is exempt from all federal and state income taxes under section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code

while functioning for the benefits of its members. The Cooperative adopted Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 740-10, relating to accounting for uncertain tax positions. The Cooperative does not have any uncertain tax positions.

Part XII (4b) To conform to the 2011 990 change in section IX line 4: The Cooperative reported year end margins as an expense in section IX line 4. All margins are annually allocated to the membership based on their patronage. The amount was reported as net margins on the audited financial statements. To reconcile the audited financials to the amount reported in the 990 we have shown the net margins on line 4b of Part XII.

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

Compensation Information

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.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2017

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Employer identification number

91-0143426

Benton Rural Electric Association

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 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 (such as, maid, chauffeur, chef) |

b If any of the boxes on 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, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on 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 type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input 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 section 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 nonfixed payments not described on 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
1a		
1b		
2		
3		
4a		✓
4b		✓
4c		✓
5a		
5b		
6a		
6b		
7		
8		
9		

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 aren't 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
	(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 Michael J. Bradshaw General Manager	(i) 210,915 (ii)			21,639	23,034	255,588	
2 John Porter Manager of Finance	(i) 180,655 (ii)			18,621	22,904	222,190	
3 Derek Miller Engineering Manager	(i) 164,114 (ii)			17,263	22,706	204,083	
4 Jeff Ekzut Operations Manager	(i) 154,388 (ii)			0	22,613	177,001	
5 Mark Hay System Engineer	(i) 148,745 (ii)	45,420		12,496	18,754	225,415	
6 Jeff Bastow Information Technology Manager	(i) 164,345 (ii)			17,630	22,709	204,684	
7 Rich Johnson Serviceman	(i) 146,493 (ii)			11,171	22,223	179,886	
8 Troy Berglund Member Services Manager	(i) 142,876 (ii)			14,046	22,449	179,371	
9 Kirk Henderson Line Superintendent	(i) 139,026 (ii)			14,315	22,466	175,806	
10	(i)						
11	(i)						
12	(i)						
13	(i)						
14	(i)						
15	(i)						
16	(i)						

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.

Most Rural Electric Cooperatives in the nation offer a defined benefit pension plan program which guarantees that an employee will receive, upon reaching their normal retirement date, a defined pension benefit based on years of service and a percentage of salary. The Benton Rural Electric Association (Benton REA) chose not to implement the defined benefit retirement program for their employees due to the typical high cost. However, to remain competitive in the job market and to retain and recruit for professional positions, Benton REA identified 11 key positions and developed a program to supplement the company's 401K retirement program for these individuals. The individuals listed on the Form J as officers and highly compensated employees represent employees within these 11 key positions. As such they receive as part of their compensation taxable bonuses paid every two years that are paid out through a recruitment and retention program in lieu of company contributions to the otherwise expensive defined benefit programs. The recruitment and retention program ends for the individual employees, if they leave the company for any reason including retirement.

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

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

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.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2017

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

Benton Rural Electric Association

Employer identification number

91-0143426

Part VI, Section A, #6 The organization is an electric distribution cooperative consisting of approximately 10,600 members who purchase electricity from the cooperative, and each has a Patronage Capital(equity) account based upon electrical usage.

Part VI, Section A, #7a & b The members elect the board of trustees which make up the governing body. The members approve the articles of incorporation and any changes thereto.

Part VI, Section B, #11b: The governing body did receive a copy of the 990 for review before it was filed. After the financials were audited the 990 was reviewed by the governing body at the regular June, 2018 monthly board meeting. The Cooperatives independent auditors also received a copy of the 990 and it was reviewed by them before mailing

Part VI, Section B, #12c: The Cooperative requires in February an annual survey for the prior year to be completed by all Trustees, Officers, Key Employees, and Highly Compensated to disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may have existed. Pursuant to the corporation bylaws section 3.04.3 (a): In all circumstances, Trustees are under a continuing obligation to disclose to the full Board of Trustees any situation that presents the possibility of a conflict or disparity of interest either directly or indirectly between them and the Association.

Part VI, Section B, #15a & 15b: Annually the cooperative participates in a regional survey to determine fair and competitive compensation of all non-union employees as compared to other utilities which hold similar positions. The CEO, top management officers, highly compensated and key employees are among those positions in the survey. The Board of Trustees then reviews the results of the survey and determines the wage increase if any for the following year. The Fall of 2017 was the latest survey.

Name of the organization Benton Rural Electric Association	Employer identification number 91-0143426
--	---

Part VI, Section C, #19: The Benton Rural Electric Association(Benton REA) is a not-for-profit member-owned electric cooperative. As a private electric cooperative, the member owners of Benton REA have full access to financial statements, all polices and governing documents. All members receive a copy of the bylaws, which are also on the Benton REA website. Benton REA conducts an annual membership meeting, in which the annual financial statements are posted and presented to the membership. Plus, each Benton REA member receives a monthly magazine (Ruralite) that includes financial statements annually. Any margins the Benton REA has are allocated to the members who purchased electricity in that year, and those members receive a mailed notice of their allocation. A file of record is kept for each membership, which includes all allocations of margins and any patronage capital payments made to the corresponding member.

Part XI #9: As part of being a not-for-profit member owned cooperative, the Benton Rural Electric allocates any margins at year end. The Benton REA Board of Trustees then decides to retire all or a portion of those allocated margins. The cooperative as directed by the Board of Trustees have retired(paid to membership) a portion of the current allocated margins. This retirement results in a change to the Total Net Assets or Fund Balances ending amount. To comply with the 2011 Change to Part IX #4 we have netted the year ending margins against the retired portion of current allocated margins (9,705,030-905,806=8,799,224) this allows the cooperative to reconcile net assets for end of year 2017 line #10.

Part I #14 & Part IX #4: To comply with the 2011 change to Part IX #4 "patronage dividends paid by section 501 (c) (12) organization to their members", we have included the Cooperatives year ending net margins in the Statement of Functional Expenses as benefits being paid to members. GAAP does not recognize this as an expense but is being reported as such to comply with the noted change. Pursuant to the Articles and Bylaws of the Cooperative, we fully allocate previous year ending margins to the individual Patronage Capital accounts of the membership.