

# CURRENT ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
Website at [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com)

## Join Us for the 78th Annual Meeting - Stay Informed and Engaged!

As a valued member of our cooperative, your participation is essential to our continued success. We invite you to attend the 78th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 where you'll have the opportunity to hear firsthand about our achievements in 2024 and the challenges we face in the year ahead. The meeting will again be held at the Clearbrook Community Center in Clearbrook. Registration and meal begin at 4:30pm with the meeting convening at 6:00 p.m.

Over the past year, our cooperative has worked hard to enhance services, strengthen our financial position, and introduce new initiatives to benefit our members. The annual meeting

is your chance to learn about these accomplishments, ask questions, and share your thoughts on the future direction of our cooperative.

More importantly, we face new challenges that will require collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning. Your input and involvement are crucial as

### Highlights include:

Report on 2024 cooperative business, election of directors, Ask a Lineman panel, bake sale, great meatball and mashed potato supper, scavenger hunt, and various booths.

we navigate these obstacles and work toward solutions that support the long-term success of our cooperative and its members.

By attending, you'll also have the opportunity to connect with fellow members, engage with leadership, and ensure your voice is heard in shaping the cooperative's future. Your participation makes a difference!

Mark your calendar and join us at the 78th Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there and working together for a stronger cooperative!

Please bring a donation for our food shelf drive and be entered into a special drawing. **Meet the candidates on pg 3.**

## Clearwater-Polk Electric to participate in Project GreenTouch, Saturday, May 3rd --Volunteers Needed!

Project GreenTouch™ is a collaboration of Minnesota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives who join together with their electric cooperative employees and members to volunteer in various parks throughout the state. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative volunteers locally at Itasca State Park, where we work together on projects like pruning and trimming trees, raking leaves and pine needles, picking up litter, removing bud caps, and installing tree cages.

In 2023, GreenTouch™ was expanded and enhanced to include a broader range of community and environment projects.

Program Objectives include:

• **Promote Environmental Stewardship:** Encourage our communities to take an active role in protecting and preserving the environment through hands-on involve-

ment in various types of volunteer projects.

• **Enhance Community Engagement:** Facilitate opportunities for cooperative members, employees, and our communities to come together and work collaboratively towards a common goal.

• **Raise Awareness of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives:** Generate positive publicity and brand recognition for Minnesota's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives by highlighting their commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being.

• **Improve Public Spaces:** Enhance the quality and appeal of state parks, city parks, and other (John Keller) community areas through beautification, restoration, and maintenance efforts.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative serving parts of northwestern Minnesota. Our rural electric cooperative provides services to 4,400 member-owners including Itasca State Park. Please consider joining us on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Itasca State Park. We will meet at the park's Forest Inn at 9:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch about noon. No park pass is required for that day. Volunteers can RSVP by calling Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 or toll-free 1-888-694-3833.



A statewide-cooperative, environmental and community - outreach program

--- OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY ---

APRIL 2025

Phone 218-694-6241 - or - Toll Free (888) 694-3833



## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*..... Shevlin  
 Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* ..... Bagley  
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary/Treasurer* .. Gonvick  
 Harlan Highberg..... Bagley  
 Doug Lindgren..... Bagley  
 Dennis Engebretson ..... Clearbrook  
 Betty Surdez ..... Bagley  
 Deanna Lefebvre, *General Manager*

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

### Polk County Social Services

240 SW Cleveland Ave  
 McIntosh, MN 56556 • 218-435-1585

### White Earth Energy Assistance

PO Box 418  
 White Earth, MN 56591 • 218-473-2711

### Inter-County Community Council

207 Main St  
 Oklee, MN 56742 • 888-778-4008

### Red Lake CAP Program

15533 Main Ave  
 Red Lake, MN 56671 • (218)-679-1880

### MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)

120 North Central  
 Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204

### Bi-County Cap

6603 Bemidji Ave N.  
 Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

## SWAP SHOP

**RULES:** Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

### REMINDER -

"Free-For Sale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

**FOR SALE:** Nice cabin, sleeps 4-6; \$58,000.218-533-6029

**Wanted:** 4 wheel drive pickup; good runner, rust or dents ok, \$1,000 or less. 218-533-6029.



**We will be closed  
 April 18th for  
 Good Friday**

*SIGN UP FOR  
 AUTO-PAY AND YOU  
 WILL BE ELIGIBLE  
 TO WIN*

**\$25.00**

EACH MONTH WE DRAW  
 TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE  
 CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY  
 WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT  
 TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

### CURRENT WINNERS

JASON VAN'T HUL  
 DOROTHY ECKHOFF



## SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

Held at the Clearwater-Polk Electric board room at 8:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.



## CHEF'S CORNER

### Scalloped Potatoes

Alice Kortan, Bagley

#### Ingredients:

- 4 cups cubed cooked ham
- 8 medium sized potatoes (or 2 quarts)
- 1/4 cup mixed onion
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 can (10 oz.) cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup milk

#### Directions:

Alternate layers of ham, potatoes and onion in a greased baking dish. Season each layer with salt and pepper. Mix chicken soup and milk and pour over potatoes and ham. Cover and bake at 350 for 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

## TROUBLE CALLS

### DURING OFFICE HOURS

7:00 am - 4:30 pm,  
 Mon. - Fri.

CALL 694-6241 or  
 1-888-694-3833



### AFTER HOURS

### OUTAGES CALL

**1-877-881-7673**

## YOU COULD WIN



To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15<sup>th</sup> and win \$25 off your next bill.



## MEET THE CANDIDATES



**TREVOR DALLY**  
**DISTRICT 2,**  
**3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE**

My name is Trevor Dally and I would like consideration for the District 2 seat on the Board of Directors for Clearwater Polk Electric Co-Op. I am looking forward to getting more involved in the community. I would like to take part in making positive decisions for the Clearwater Polk Electric consumers and employees. With the administration change in January there may be a need to

have a different look at how our cooperative will need to adjust and with my background I feel I would be able to bring a new perspective.

I work as a Manufacturing Engineer at Team Industries in Bagley MN and have been in this role since 2017. Prior to that I was the Maintenance and Safety Manager as well as Manufacturing Engineer at Cobra Hose Inc in Fargo ND.

I Graduated from Fosston High School in 2004 and then went on to Graduate from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2009 with a B.S. in Industrial Management.

After living in the Fargo-Moorhead area for 13 years I made the decision to move back to the Fosston-Bagley area. In 2018 I met my wife who is originally from Bagley and we grew our family. We spend a lot of time outside and love travel.

I would appreciate the opportunity to represent the Co-op members and will do my best making decisions in the best interests of our membership.



**CHERYL GROVER,**  
**incumbent**  
**DISTRICT 2,**  
**3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE**

I am excited to once again run to be a director on the Clearwater Polk Rural Electric Cooperative Board. My whole life has been spent in Clearwater County; my husband and I have raised three children and are proud to say that two of our children and three of our grandchildren currently are also members of the Coop family. These past two years serving the Coop as a District 2 Director has

made me so aware of the issues facing our members in helping to "keep the lights on", keeping rates affordable and at the same time bringing our members dependable and reliable electricity. Getting to know the CPE employees and learning their roles in keeping up with our changing times has confirmed that our Coop has a great Team and that we truly do have a GREAT COOP. I would appreciate your support and look forward to serving YOU.



**KIM SOLBERG, incumbent**  
**DISTRICT 1,**  
**3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE**

My name is Kim Solberg, and I am a long-term resident of the Clearbrook-Gonvick area. I am married to Jonathan Solberg, and we have two boys, Trever and Gavin.

My husband and I both work for the pipeline industry, bringing us knowledge of the importance of energy in the world today.

Having been blessed to live in this beautiful area, we take full advantage of enjoying the outdoors, gardening, fishing, hunting and growing giant pumpkins. I am the President of the Gonvick Lions Club, which takes pride in our community and environment we live in.

Serving as a Director for the past 6 years has been an incredible experience for myself, and I would be honored to continue this service. I believe in the Seven Cooperative Principles; Voluntary and open membership, member control, members' economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community. I will do my best to honor these principles.



**BETTY SURDEZ, incumbent**  
**DISTRICT 3,**  
**3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE**

My name is Betty Surdez. I was born and raised in Clearwater County by my parents, Ralph and Doris Ellis.

I have been married to my husband Paul for 51 years. We have twin daughters and five grandchildren. We live on a farm south of Shevlin where I am an avid gardener.

I worked many types of jobs in my younger days, but my career was as a Rural Letter Carrier for the USPS for 30 yrs. I delivered Rt. 3 Bagley for 28 years and retired in 2017.

I served on the Clearwater-Polk Advocacy Board for two years before being appointed to Clearwater-Polk Board of Directors in September 2023. On February 12, 2024 I completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director courses and am now an accredited Cooperative Director. I am enjoying serving District 3 and would like to continue doing so.

Thank you for your support,  
 Betty Surdez

# VOTING BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

## Voting Ballot – Election of Directors:

1. Mark the enclosed “Voting Ballot - Election of Directors” with an “X” in the space provided adjacent to the candidate’s name you have selected for each vacant seat.

There should be three (3) marks on your BALLOT, as there are three seats to be filled this year: District 1: one director, three-year term. District 2: one director, three-year term. District 3: one director, three-year term.

2. To ensure secret balloting, place your marked Election Ballot inside the envelope marked “Privacy Envelope” and seal the Privacy Envelope.

**There should be NO MARKS on the PRIVACY ENVELOPE.**

3. Place the sealed “Privacy Envelope” inside the “Return Identification Envelope.”

In order to ensure that your ballot is counted, PRINT your name, ENTER your account number, SIGN your name, and AFFIX proper postage to the RETURN IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE.

Pursuant to the Bylaws Clearwater- Polk Electric Cooperative, Art. I., Sec. 9(i), the following information is provided along with the enclosed Voting Ballot - Election of Directors:

- 1) The names of the candidates, submitted via petition, for the director positions to be filled is enclosed;
- 2) Fifty (50) members present in person or represented by mail vote are necessary to meet a quorum;
- 3) The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each directorship will be elected;
- 4) The Mailed Ballots must be received before 9:00 a.m. on April 23, 2025 to be counted.

## Voting Ballot Checklist

Have you ....

- Marked your ballot clearly and legibly and only in the appropriate spaces?
- Enclosed the ballot in the privacy envelope and sealed the envelope?
- Enclosed the sealed privacy envelope inside the return identification envelope?
- Printed your name and account number and signed the return identification envelope?
- Enclosed in the return identification envelope a “Designation of Voting Representative” if you are voting on behalf of a corporation, school board, church, etc.

## \*\*\*ATTENTION CORPORATE MEMBERS\*\*\*



If you are a member Corporation, Cooperative, School, Church, Township (or other non-natural person) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative and want to be represented at Members’ Meeting(s), please have the following form completed and signed by an authorized officer of the organization.

In order for the member Corporation, etc., to participate in business matters, this form must be received by the Secretary of Clearwater-Polk on or before the date of the Members’ Meeting(s). This form may be mailed to Clearwater-Polk or presented at registration at the Members’ Meeting(s).

— THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY —

**Designation of Voting Representative**

\_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorizes

PRINT Name of Organization

---

PRINT Name of Designated Voting Representative

to represent the organization in any and all business, including voting, that may be conducted at Members’ Meeting(s) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative held in 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer Date

# MANAGERS MESSAGE



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

As the deadline for submission of petitions for the director election was later than normal this year it was necessary to separate the normal March-April issue into two single-month issues. In this article I wanted to share a message of appreciation for the vital role that our board of directors has in the success of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative.

As General Manager, I am reminded daily of the immense responsibility and dedication required to serve as a director of an electric cooperative. Our board members are more than just representatives of our members; they are stewards of our mission, guiding our cooperative with wisdom, foresight, and an unwavering commitment to serving our communities.

Electric cooperatives are unique in their member-owned, not-for-profit structure, and our board of directors plays a crucial role in ensuring that we uphold the cooperative principles that have guided us for decades. Their leadership helps shape policies that balance financial stability, operational excellence, and the evolving needs of the members we serve. The decisions they make impact not only today's operations but also the long-term success and sustainability of our cooperative.

At Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative,

we are fortunate to have a board of directors that works collaboratively with management, fostering a relationship built on mutual trust, respect, and a shared vision. Their guidance and strategic oversight enable us to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our board members for their tireless service. Their dedication goes beyond attending meetings and reviewing reports; they actively engage with our members, advocate for rural electrification, and help steer the cooperative toward a brighter future. Their insight and leadership are invaluable, and I deeply appreciate their contributions.

As we continue working together, I am confident that our cooperative will remain strong, resilient, and prepared to meet the needs of our members for generations to come. Thank you to our board of directors for their unwavering support and commitment to the cooperative mission. It is an honor to work alongside such a dedicated group of individuals in service to our community.

At this year's 78th Annual Meeting,


members have the opportunity to vote for the board of directors, selecting individuals who will guide the organization's strategic direction, promote innovation and ensure the cooperative operates with integrity and accountability. Thank you to members Kim Solberg, Cheryl Grover, Trevor Dally and Betty Surdez who submitted their petitions to be included on this year's annual meeting ballot. This process ensures that leadership reflects the interests and priorities of the membership and I encourage all our cooperative members to participate and exercise their right to vote.

I hope to see you on Wednesday, April 23rd! And, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

## MAIL IN BALLOT NOTIFICATION

If you are a Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Member, wish to vote in the election of Directors and cannot attend Clearwater-Polk's annual meeting on April 23, 2025, contact our office by phone, in person or by mail to receive a mail in ballot. Mailed ballots must be received by 9:00 a.m., April 23, 2025. All other absentee ballots turned into Clearwater-Polk Electric's office will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on April 23, 2025.



**VOTING BALLOT**      April 23, 2025

**Election of Directors**

**District # 1**  
(3-year term)

Vote for one	Yes
Kimberly Solberg, incumbent	<input type="checkbox"/>

**District # 2**  
(3-year term)

Vote for one	Yes
Trevor Dally	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheryl Grover, incumbent	<input type="checkbox"/>

**District # 3**  
(3-year term)

Vote for one	Yes
Betty Surdez, incumbent	<input type="checkbox"/>

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Kimberly Solberg, being duly elected Secretary of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that I have caused to be deposited in the United States mail, the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on March 5, 2025. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Solberg

# Power Plant Tour 2025 • June 16th & 17th

## Registration forms and payments are due by May 31st



**Power Plant Tour 2025**  
**June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17th**


Make plans today to travel through scenic North Dakota for the two-day power plant tour offered by Clearwater-Polk Electric. *The tour is scheduled for June 16th and June 17th, 2025.*

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperatives headquarters in Grand Forks, the replica of Lewis & Clarks Fort Mandan and a visit at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. The evening will be spent at either the Comfort Inn & Suites or Baymont, which will include your evening meal and presentation sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day includes a tour of the Milton R/Young generation station near Center, ND.

Weather permitting, a tour through the BNI coal mine operation is scheduled as well. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate is \$200 for a 2-person occupancy and \$175 for a single person occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Clearwater-Polk Electric members and/or spouses. Please reserve your spot now by returning the completed Power Plant Tour Registration form. Spots are limited. Any questions, please call Tara at Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-8205 or 1-888-694-3833 EXT: 1006



### Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Participants	Address
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, PO Box 0, Bagley, MN 56621  
 -YOU WILL BE MAILED A LETTER OF CONFIRMATION WITH MORE TOUR INFORMATION-

**Past and present Advocacy group members that have not yet been on this trip, get a one-time offer to take this trip free of cost, but would be responsible for the cost of \$100 if you are bringing one guest. Call Tara for any questions you might have. 218-694-8205**