

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Join Us for the 79th 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 79th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 where you'll have the opportunity to hear firsthand about our achievements in 2025 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 6:00pm.

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 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 79th Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there and working together for a stronger cooperative!

Highlights Include:

Report on 2025 cooperative business, election of directors, Minnkota update by Marcy Douglas, bake sale, great meatball and mashed potato supper, scavenger hunt, and various booths.

Please bring a donation for our food shelf drive and be entered into a special drawing.



Marcy Douglas

Executive Vice President, Chief Member and External Affairs Officer

Marcy Douglas serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Member and External Affairs Officer at Minnkota Power Cooperative, the wholesale power provider for Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. In this role, she works closely with Minnkota's 11 member cooperatives, including Clearwater-Polk, to understand their needs, strengthen relationships and deliver effective member services and shared opportunities. She also leads the cooperative's communications, economic development, and rates teams.

Douglas earned a Master of Business Administration in Energy Management and a master's degree in Business Management from the University of Mary. Prior to joining Minnkota, she spent 13 years at Missouri River Energy Services, most recently serving as Vice President of Member Services and Communications. Earlier in her career, she worked for the City of Northwood, North Dakota, as City Administrator and Utility Manager.

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC TRUST FUNDING AND DONATIONS

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Fund committee is scheduled to meet in May for the grant-funding meeting. Request for funds will be accepted until Friday, April 24, 2026. Application blanks can be found on our website www.clearwater-polk.com, or from one of the committee members, Marilyn McCollum, Beth Erickson or Keith Larson. You may also contact our office to have a form mailed to you.

Donations from the Trust will generally be made to organizations which benefit the service area community of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. Non-profit Organizations which have been granted IRS Code 501© (3) status and serve a large number of people will be given priority.

...Continued on page 2

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



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 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

**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

**THOMAS W. VORDERBRUGEN
STEVEN KNISLEY**

**OFFICERS &
DIRECTORS**

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

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 10th 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: Used Whirlpool dryer, V.G. condition, works perfectly, \$175 o.b.o. 218-791-5229

FOR SALE: Priefert sliding horse stall gate. 10 ft long with premier feeder installed, \$450. 218-236-9555.

**Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust
Continued from front...**

Donations from the Trust will generally not be made for:

- A. Lobbying, political and religious organizations
- B. Fraternal, and labor organizations
- C. Fund-raising dinners, raffles and other events
- D. Individuals
- E. National fund drives
- F. Advertising
- G. Economic development projects.

The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests.

- A. Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community;
- B. Level of community support for the program or project or organization requesting the funds;
- C. Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program; and
- D. Results that are predictable can be evaluated.

All donations to organizations will be published in area newspaper the Current Activities Newsletter.

**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**

Monster Cookies

Debbie Bjerke • Leonard, MN

Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup margarine
- 1-1/4 cup brown sugar
- ¾ c. white sugar
- 1-1/2 c. creamy peanut butter
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup M & M's
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 6 cups regular oats, not quick cooking

Directions:

Melt margarine over low heat. Blend in and mix until smooth the sugars, eggs and peanut butter. Mix in remaining ingredients. The mixture will be sticky. Drop on greased baking sheet using an ice cream scoop. Flatten slightly. Bake at 350 about 12 minutes or until golden brown.

**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

TROUBLE CALLS

DURING OFFICE HOURS

7:00 am - 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday

CALL 694-6241 or

1-888-694-3833



**AFTER HOURS
OUTAGES CALL**

1-877-881-7673



Dennis Engebretson

**Nominee for District #1
3-year term**

Dennis Engebretson (incumbent)

Dennis, along with his wife Jacky live 4 miles northeast of Clearbrook on the family farm that was homesteaded in 1903 by his grandfather Ole and Ole’s mother Anna. Dennis and Jacky have two children, their daughter Maria and son, Philip and his wife Laura and their sons Ro’i and Baruch and daughter Aliyah. Philip and Laura and their three children are the fifth and sixth generations living on the century family farm.

Sheep, dairy, beef, pigs, chickens, horses, elk are some of the livestock that have been raised on the farm.

Birdsfoot Trefoil has been one of the crops raised for the last 50 years as well as mixed hay and some small grains.

Dennis graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1971, and then graduated from Bemidji Vo-Tech in Carpentry. He also took several years of Farm Management from the Vo-Tech school.

Dennis has served in 4-H leadership, enjoyed serving a number of years on the Clearbrook Elevator board, served on church trustee board, Clearwater-Polk Advocacy board and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op. He is also currently serving on the Sustainable Sheep & Fiber Community board.

Dennis has enjoyed many years of bowhunting, watching the local youth play ball, visiting with family and friends, collecting maple syrup, pressing apple cider, and trying to catch trout in the pond.

Official Notice of the 79th Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative will be held at the:

**Clearbrook Community Center
located at 200 Elm St SW, Clearbrook, Minnesota
6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

For the following purposes:

- 1. To pass upon reports of previous fiscal year;**
- 2. To elect three directors of the Cooperative;**

One director shall be elected in District 1 for a term of three years and one director shall be elected from District 2 for a term of three years. A member who is absent from a member’s meeting may vote by mail on an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available by request. A properly executed absentee ballot must be received on or before April 22, 2026 to be counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting. The following candidates have been nominated via petition in accordance with the bylaws:

District 1
(Three-year term)
Dennis Engebretson

District 2
(Three-year term)
No nomination submitted

- 3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.**

Kimberly Solberg, Secretary
Dated: February 26, 2026

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 22, 2026, 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 22, 2026. All other absentee ballots turned into Clearwater-Polk Electric’s office will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on April 22, 2026.

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 April 2, 2026. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

Kimberly Solberg

VOTING BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Voting Ballot – Election of Directors:

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

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.

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. 1., Sec. 9(i), the following information is provided along with the enclosed Voting Ballot - Election of Directors:

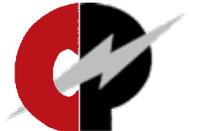
- 1) *The names of the candidates, submitted via petition, for the director positions to be filled is enclosed;*
- 2) *Fifty (50) members present in person or represented by mail vote are necessary to meet a quorum;*
- 3) *The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each directorship will be elected;*
- 4) *The Mailed Ballots must be received before 9:00 a.m. on April 22, 2026 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 2026.

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer Date

MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Today, as I write this article, it is Legislative Day at the Capitol in St. Paul—an important event where Minnesota’s electric cooperative leaders gather to meet with legislators and discuss our top legislative priorities. Participating in this event is one of the many important responsibilities I have as your General Manager. It provides a valuable opportunity to engage directly with policymakers and advocate for issues that help ensure the electricity serving our member-owners remains safe, reliable, and affordable.

The landmark 2040 carbon-free law has set Minnesota on an aggressive path toward eliminating carbon emissions from energy production. Minnesota’s rural electric cooperatives are actively working toward meeting this mandate. As we move forward, it is imperative that energy policy decisions are viewed through a lens that prioritizes minimizing risks to the reliable and affordable delivery of electricity to the state’s population while implementing this transition.

Key priorities we are discussing with legislators this year include lifting Minnesota’s nuclear moratorium to allow for consideration of new carbon-free baseload generation, pursuing net metering reform to ensure costs are fairly allocated among all members,

and addressing third-party aggregation to maintain local control and system reliability while adapting to evolving energy markets.

These advocacy efforts also reflect one of the core principles that sets electric cooperatives apart—democratic member control. As a member-owner of Clearwater-Polk Electric, your voice plays an important role in shaping the direction of your cooperative. One of the most important ways to exercise that voice is by participating in our Annual Meeting.

I encourage all members to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative’s 79th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at the Clearbrook Community Center in Clearbrook, Minnesota. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting convening at 6:00 p.m. This is your opportunity to hear updates on your cooperative, engage with leadership, and take part in the governance process. Your participation ensures that we remain a strong,

member-driven organization focused on serving the needs of our communities.

I would like to thank Senator Green, Senator Utke, and Representative Duran for taking time out of their very busy schedules to meet with us, listen to our priorities, and support policies that help ensure electricity for our cooperative’s member-owners remains safe, reliable, and affordable.

There is a great deal happening at your cooperative, from ongoing infrastructure improvements to planning for the future of our system. We welcome and encourage you to stop in and visit with us at any time. Whether you have questions, would like to learn more about our operations, or simply want to connect, our team is always here to serve you. Your engagement and feedback are important to us as we continue working to meet the needs of our membership.

As always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna



Clearwater-Polk Electric to participate in Project GreenTouch, Saturday, May 2nd --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 involvement 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 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 (Steven O. Svendsen) joining us on Saturday, May 2, 2026 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.



APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

You never know what is hiding below the ground. **ALWAYS remember to call 8-1-1** before you start your next construction, renovation or yard project.

WHAT COULD BE UNDERGROUND?

	Electrical power lines		Water lines
	Internet and cable lines		Gas lines

WHY SHOULD YOU CALL 8-1-1?

- 1 It prevents costly repairs if lines are hit or damaged.
- 2 It's free! Your utilities will come out and mark lines with no cost to you.
- 3 IT'S THE LAW.

Visit CALL811.com to learn more about how to dig safely.