


# CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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



## Operation Round-Up Donates OVER \$10,000

A number of local organizations were recipients of Clearwater-Polk Electric's Operation Round-Up recently. A total of \$10,000 was awarded to 28 entities.

Operation Round-Up builds funds when Clearwater-Polk Electric members agree to round-up their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. The funds are managed by Clearwater-Polk's Operation Round-Up Trust. The trust was organized in 1997 and started donating in 1998, and to date the total of all donations comes to \$716,807.47.

We did not get to (Steve W. Moen) hand out checks this time because of the weather so they were mailed. The recipients were the following: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 16, Bagley Community Education, Bagley Early Childhood Family Education, Bagley Elementary – third

grade swimming, fourth grade swimming, sixth grade author visit, art dept., library. Bagley High School drama dept., Bagley Making Spirits Bright Event, Bagley Public Schools-Clearbrook/Gonvick Public Schools, Bagley Senior Center, Bagley Youth Trap Club, Clear Waters Life Center, Clearbrook, Clearbrook-Gonvick All School Reunion, Clearwater County 4-H, Clearwater County Emergency Management, Clearwater County Historical Society, Clearwater County Holiday meal, Gonvick Fire Dept., Gonvick-Trail All School Reunion Committee, Gully! 100, Headwaters Quilt Guild, United Way.

The donations are derived from members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative who agrees to round up their monthly bill to the next full dollar amount.

*Happy New Year from all the Directors and  
Employees of Clearwater Polk Electric!*

Greg Renner

Betty Surdez

Angie Swenson

Travis Trefz

Cheryl Grover

Deanna Lefebvre

Teresa Olson

Ian Willborg

Kim Solberg

Todd Waggoner

Travis Huot

Adam Sweno

Harlan Highberg

Matt Rendahl

Mike Girtz

Lanny Bjerke

Doug Lindgren

Angie Schneider

Josh Hendricks

Dennis Engebretson

Tara Webb

Tim Mullan



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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 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*

### 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

### CHEESECAKE SALAD Cheryl Netland, Bagley, MN

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pkg cream cheese, softened
- 1 (8 oz) container whipped topping
- 1 (8 oz) pkg sour cream
- 1 (3 oz) pkg French vanilla pudding
- ¼ to ½ cup milk
- 1 can cherry pie filling

**Directions:**

Mix together first 5 ingredients and put in refrigerator. Put cherry pie filling on top.

## 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.

**WANTED:** Old beer cans or bar tokens from 1940 to 1960's. Also, want metal detecting spots or will find stuff for you. Mike 320-249-8708.

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

AARON E. HOUGH  
 TOM WENKER  
 BRITTANY L. BOHLAND  
 THE LAST RESORT INC.

## 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

## 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.

FOR JUST THE CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET, YOU CAN MAKE SOME DELICIOUS SLOW-COOKER SOUP OVER **FIVE HOURS** USING ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.



PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR KILOWATTS – THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.





# Demand response season has arrived!

Winter season is here, and we're hearing that this could be a doozy. The Farmers' Almanac isn't always right when it comes to predicting the weather (it was well off the mark last winter, when a projected cold, snowy winter ended up unseasonably mild) but the publication's longstanding climate formula suggests a colder-than-average December-March is on the horizon.

Whatever happens, you need to make sure your heating system is ready for the chill, especially if you are a voluntary member of Clearwater-Polk Electric's demand response program (often referred to as off-peak). Last year's mild winter meant demand response was deployed for fewer than 85 hours – well below the anticipated level. This year, our cooperative system is preparing for 200 hours of estimated demand response.

When winter demand for electricity gets high (like when many homes and businesses are using electric heat for extended periods), our power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, initiates the demand response program across the region. Those who are enrolled are automatically switched to a non-electric backup heat source, like fuel oil, propane or natural gas. If those backups have not been tested or fuel sources haven't been refilled, a homeowner may not know there is an issue until demand response hits.

If you are on the demand response (off-peak) program, check your backup heating sources to make sure your fuel tanks are full and functioning. Members should reach out to Clearwater-Polk with any questions or concerns.

Why do we need demand response?

Minnkota is typically able to cover its demand with its own energy resources – a mix of coal, wind and hydropower. However, there

are times during planned generator outages, extreme weather events or low wind supply that Minnkota must buy power from the energy market. By reducing the demand across the region, Minnkota can protect itself from costly market purchases for peak need that (Kurt Ness) only comes a few times a year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumer-members – like you! By being a part of the demand response program, you can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

If you would like more information on how you can save during the winter season, give us a call at the co-op or visit [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com)



Clearwater-Polk Electric employees and board members donated 58 pounds of food and \$400 cash to Clearwater County Food Shelf to help them get through the holiday season.

## The winners of the Clearwater-Polk Co-op month coloring contest

Eli was the winner in the 9-12 age group and Brinlee was the winner in the 5-8 age group.



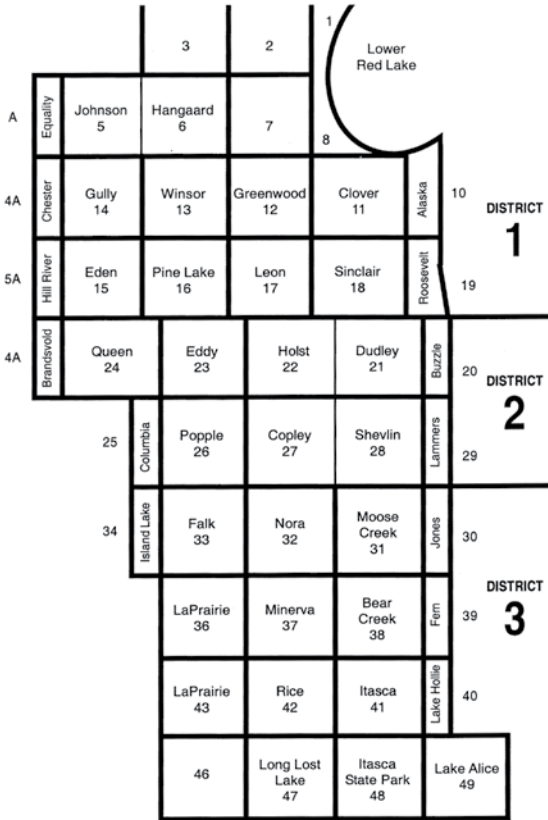
# MAP OF DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3



**Clearwater-Polk**  
Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box O  
315 Main Ave N  
Bagley, MN 56621-1001  
Phone (218) 694-6241  
Toll-free 1-888-694-3833  
Fax (218) 694-6245

## PETITION FOR NOMINATION



The following Members wish to nominate [insert name] \_\_\_\_\_, for the (please check one)

3-year term director position for **District 1**

OR

3-year term director position for **District 2**

OR

3-year term director position for **District 3**

and to place such name on the ballot for the April 23, 2025 election, at the annual meeting of the Clearwater- Polk Electric Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws.

	Printed Name	Signature	Account Number
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____

### WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DIRECTOR?

The bylaws of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director. These are:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected prior to being nominated for director; provided, further that "primary residence" is defined as the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;

2. Not be, nor within three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination have been, an employee of the Cooperative;

3. Not be, become, nor shall have been at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the Cooperative;

4. Not be a close relative of an employee or director, where as found in these bylaws "close relative" means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling, or principally resides in the same residence;

5. Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any director, individual or entity which either is:

(i) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(ii) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(iii) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member's total hours of employment, sales, or income on an annual basis;

6. Not be or become the full-time employee or agent of, or be or become the full-time employer or principal or, another director;

7. Not be absent, without being excused by the

board, from three (3) or more regular meetings of the board of directors during any twelve (12) month period;

8. Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

9. If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and

10. Never have been convicted of a felony.

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than close of business February 21, 2025. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 23, 2025, elections will be held for the following districts where Director's terms are expiring:

**District 1**  
Kim Solberg (3-year term)

**District 1**  
Cheryl Grover (3-year term)

**District 3**  
Betty Surdez (3-year term)

Any 10 or more members who reside in the district, up for election, may nominate an eligible member for a director's position. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of a joint Membership, only the signature of one member shall be acceptable.

# MANAGERS MESSAGE



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

## Navigating the Impact of Wholesale Power Rate Increases

As members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, you are part of a community dedicated to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity. We take this responsibility seriously, and every decision we make is rooted in our commitment to serve you with transparency and fairness. On your December 3rd billing statement message we informed you that Clearwater-Polk's wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power, announced a rate increase of 8.3% effective in 2025. This announcement is significant.

As a cooperative, Clearwater-Polk purchases electricity from Minnkota, which constitutes about 62% of our overall costs. When these costs rise, it inevitably impacts our financial position and necessitates adjustments to ensure that we can continue to provide the service and reliability you expect.

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative board of directors and management are carefully analyzing this rate increase and its implications for our cooperative. We are dedicated to ensuring that any rate adjustments required to address this change are implemented fairly and equitably across all rate classes. Here, I want to outline the factors at play and our approach to managing this situation responsibly.

### Understanding the Increase

The 8.3% rate increase announced by Minnkota reflects various challenges in the energy sector. Factors such as per-

sistent supply chain issues, inflation, and electric market conditions are pressure's that utilities across the country are facing, and Minnkota nor Clearwater-Polk is not immune to these broader trends.

While we strive to maintain stable rates, fluctuations in wholesale power costs are beyond our control. However, we can control how we respond to these changes—with the same care and diligence that you, as member-owners, expect from us.

### Assessing the Financial Impact

At the direction of the board of directors, management is conducting a comprehensive review of Clearwater-Polk's financial health and cost structure. Our goal is to ensure that we recover the increased costs associated with wholesale power responsibly while maintaining our commitment to financial stewardship. We are exploring several key considerations, including:

- **Operational Efficiency:** Ensuring our operations remain as efficient as possible to minimize the impact of external cost increases.
- **Rate Fairness:** Analyzing the financial impact of any potential rate adjustment to ensure fairness across all rate classes—whether residential, commercial, or industrial.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Balancing immediate needs with the cooperative's long-term goals, including infrastructure investments, facilities, and maintaining service reliability.

### What This Means for Clearwater-Polk Members

A rate adjustment will be necessary to account for the 8.3% increase in wholesale power costs. While the specifics of the adjustment are still under discussion, our focus remains on minimizing the impact on members while ensuring the cooperative's financial health.

Members can expect transparent communication, fair and equitable adjustments to ensure that rate changes are applied fairly across all rate classes, and continued support for members as these rising costs can place a strain on household budgets.

We encourage members to take proactive steps to manage their energy consumption. Simple measures like upgrading to energy-efficient appliances, weatherizing your home, or taking advantage of

cooperative programs can help reduce your energy usage and lower your bills. While these measures reduce energy usage, members are also encouraged to consider when they use their energy.

Unlike energy usage, which is measured by total kilowatt-hours used over time, electric demand measures the highest level of power (kilowatts) used instantaneous (or peak) within a billing period. Members can also lower their bills by spreading out their electricity use throughout the day, reducing their demand. (To view a video explaining electric demand, please visit Clearwater-Polk's website at [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com)).

In the next couple of months, we will finalize our analysis and the board will determine the best path forward. We are confident that through careful planning, we can address this rate increase while continuing to provide the reliable service you, our member-owners, depend on.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Clearwater-Polk is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

As always, stay safe, happy and healthy.

Deanna

## 78th Annual Meeting set for April 23, 2025

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 78th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Meeting location will be at the old Clearbrook School in Clearbrook, MN. Registration, entertainment, and meal will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 6 p.m. Please look for more details in the next March/April issue of your Current Activities newsletter!



### 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**



# Winter storm outages happen. **PREPARE FOR THEM.**

Clearwater-Polk Electric prides itself on high power reliability, but sometimes outages are out of our control. Just last winter, Cass County Electric Cooperative in southeastern North Dakota experienced an unprecedented Christmas storm that iced up power poles and wires to their breaking point. Hundreds of members were without power for several days until the lines could be repaired. It could happen again – anywhere.

Be prepared for a winter storm with this checklist from Clearwater-Polk Electric.

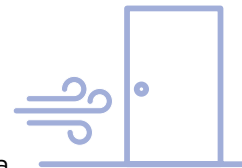
## Before Storm

- Adjust your refrigerator/freezer to the coldest settings.
- Gather and test flashlights/portable radios and have extra batteries on hand.
- Fully charge electronics, including cellphones and laptops.
- Get out extra blankets, coats, hats and mittens.
- Prepare an outage emergency kit with items you would need for several days without power, including nonperishable food and water. Don't forget medications or pet supplies.



## During Outage

- Dress warmly using layers.
- Unplug sensitive electronics – power may surge when restored.
- Check for restoration updates on your co-op website and/or social media.
- If you lose heat, close the doors of unused rooms and place towels under the doors.
- If using a generator, only run it outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows and doors.



## After Outage

- If you see downed power lines, assume they are energized – don't touch them or drive on them.
- Restock your outage emergency kit.
- If your refrigerated/frozen food has been exposed to 40-degree temperatures for longer than two hours, throw it out.

