

CURRENT

A C T I V I T I E S



Clearwater-Polk
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Your Electric Cooperative...

rooted in community, driven by service

Linemen teach electrical safety

Linemen Tim Mullan and Mike Girtz led the electrical safety session for 202 area 6th graders who participated in the 2025 Progressive Ag Farm Safety Day. Schools in attendance were Clearbrook-Gonvick, Bagley, Fosston, and Win-E-Mac schools.

In addition to the electrical safety, sessions also included fire safety, chemical safety, mental health and wellbeing, grain bin/tractor safety, ATV safety, first aid safety, cyber security and the roll over simulator (to show youth what happens in a crash if you do not have a seat belt on). The Clearwater County Extension organizes the event.



Co-op Participates in Delivering Meals on Wheels to Clearwater County Residents

General Manager, Deanna Lefebvre, had help delivering Meals on Wheels to area residents. Thank you to Minnkota Power's Matt Marshall for stopping in for a visit and offering a helping hand to our community!



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

JULY - AUGUST 2025

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





CHEF'S CORNER

Ring Macaroni Salad Shirley Solheim, Clearbrook

Ingredients:

1 cup diced cucumber
1/4 cup white vinegar
1/2 cup diced celery
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup diced onion
7 oz ring macaroni, cooked
1/2 cup salad dressing (Miracle Whip)

Directions:

Mix all together. Keeps well.

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: Schwinn AD6 Air-Dyne exercise bike. Call 218-785-2285

For Sale: Nice cabin, sleeps 4-6, \$5,800. Call 218-533-6029

Wanted: Woven and welded wire fencing. Call 218-533-6029

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

YOU COULD WIN



\$25

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.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

*Wishing You a
Safe & Happy*

LABOR DAY



**Our office will be closed
Monday, September 1st, 2025**



**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

ROGER C. JOHNSON

DWIGHT O. JOHNSON

GARY E. DAHLKE

JOAN BENSON



Co-op Members Donate to Clearwater County Food Shelf

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Clearwater County Food Shelf during the Co-op's annual meeting. Contributions received a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card. Through this food drive the Clearwater County Food Shelf (Tristan Wagner) received donations of 67 pounds of food and \$445 cash.

CLEARWATER-POLK HOLDS 78TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 78th Annual Membership meeting held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, was a great success. The theme of this year's meeting was "Our Power is in Our People", and we appreciated seeing approximately 200 co-op and community members who were in attendance. Thank you to those who made time in their busy schedule to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric's 78th Annual Meeting.

Special recognition to those who had a key role in the evening's activities. The meeting wouldn't have been a success without you. They include:

American Legion Post #256 who presented the flags.

Stacy Peterson of Bagley who graced us with her beautiful voice by singing the National Anthem.

Pastor Michael Wright who provided the Invocation

Gladys Lueken provided a presentation of two Quilts of Valor. Congratulations to the recipients, Doug Lindgren and Bob Johnson.

The Clearbrook-Gonvick school lunch staff prepared and served a delicious meatball dinner.

Attorney Adam Bothun who led us through the voting process. He explained the nomination process, the voting procedure and announced the Director positions that were up for election. Attorney Bothun indicated that Kimberly Solberg for the 3-year term District 1 position was running uncontested. Trevor Dally and Cheryl Grover both ran for the 3-year term in District 2. Betty Surdez for the 3-year term in District 3 was running uncontested.

For the contested election for the 3-year term in District 2, Cheryl Grover received 102 votes and Trevor Dally received 31 votes. Congratulations to Directors Solberg, Grover and Surdez.

Office & Finance Manager, Angie Schneider, presented the membership with the 2024 financial report, and General Manager, Deanna Lefebvre, and Board President, Greg



Bob Johnson receives his "Quilt of Valor".

Renner also presented their 2024 reports.

Something new on the agenda was an "Ask a Lineman" panel. The panel included Line Foreman Travis Huot, and Journeyman Linemen Tim Mullan and Ian Willborg.

And finally, special recognition and thank you to all the Board Members and Employees of Clearwater-Polk. They play a key role in not only the success of the annual meeting, but also the success of the Co-op all year long.

If you were unable to attend the annual meeting and would like a copy of the 2024 annual report, please contact our office.

Directly following the annual meeting, a reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted.



Doug Lindgren receives his "Quilt of Valor".

Business included an election of officers for 2025. Accepting officer positions include Greg Renner as President, Cheryl Grover as Vice President, and Kim Solberg as Secretary/Treasurer.



Operation Round-Up donates over \$8,500

A number of local organizations were recipients of Clearwater-Polk Electric's Operation Round-Up recently. A total of \$8,600 was awarded to 18 entities.

Operation Round-Up builds funds when Clearwater-Polk Electric members agree (Jeremias M Yourczek) 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



The following are the people who were in attendance to collect the checks: Front L to R: Sara Larson, Evon Quern, Gladys Lueken, Melanie Nelson. Back L to R: Justin Netland, Jodi Quade, Marilyn Hood, Isabelle Harmon, Glen Trembath, Kara Waldvogel, Cassie Dahl, Keith Larson (Operation Round Up board member) Beth Erickson (Operation Round Up board member).

CO-OP MEMBERS TOUR POWER PLANT

With 25 Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative members and nineteen Red Lake Electric Cooperative members, we hit the road on June 16th to visit Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider), the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, and we toured Fort Mandan. On day two (June 17th),

we traveled to the Milton R. Young Power Plant and the BNI Coal Mines. We had safe travels throughout both days with Anderson Coach of Frazee getting us from place to place.

Look for the full article in the September-October issue of your Current Activities newsletter.



MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Welcome Summer

As we welcome the long, warm days of summer, there's a renewed energy across our communities. Whether you're spending time at the lake, working in the fields, or enjoying a backyard barbecue with family and friends, summer is a special time for us in Northern Minnesota. At Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, summer also marks one of the busiest times of year for construction, maintenance, and system planning. And this year, it brings some important developments we want to share with you.

Electric Safety in the Summer Months

With more outdoor activity comes a greater risk of electrical accidents, many of which are preventable with a few basic precautions. Please be mindful of overhead power lines when setting up ladders, trimming trees, or using tall equipment. Teach children to never climb trees near power lines. And if you plan on digging — whether to plant a tree, install a fence, or put in a new mailbox — remember to call 811 before you dig to locate underground utilities. These small steps can prevent major accidents.

Also, if you're using extension cords for outdoor events, make sure they are rated for outdoor use and are not frayed or damaged. Keep electrical appliances

and cords away from pools, sprinklers, and wet grass. Electricity and water do not mix — and even a small oversight can have serious consequences.

Your safety is always a top priority at Clearwater-Polk, and we encourage all members to take extra care while enjoying the outdoors.

Cost of Service Study Completed: Board Reviewing Rate Options

We also want to share an update on our recent financial planning efforts. Earlier this year, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative engaged the services of our financial partner, the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), to conduct a comprehensive cost of service study (COSS). This study examines how the cooperative's costs — including energy purchases, infrastructure investments, operations, and maintenance — are allocated among different rate classes. The purpose of the study is to ensure that rates remain fair, equitable, and aligned with the actual cost of providing electric service to each member class.

The final results of the study were presented to the Board of Directors at their April 30th meeting. After careful analysis, it is clear that a rate adjustment is necessary to reflect the true cost of providing reliable electric service in today's economic environment. Costs have continued to rise across the utility industry — from the cost of power we purchase from our wholesale provider, to the materials and equipment we need to maintain our system, to labor and regulatory compliance.

The Board is now in the process of evaluating the study's findings and weighing the available rate design options. While no final decision has been made, it is anticipated that a rate increase will go into effect on **August 1, 2025**. Details about the changes, including any adjustments to the access charge, demand charge, and energy usage rates, will be shared with members once the board has approved the changes. Information will be posted on the Cooperative's website, the bill print message and upcoming newsletters.

We recognize that no one wants to see their electric bill go up. That's why this process has been approached with diligence and care. Our goal is to implement a rate structure that recovers necessary revenue while maintaining fairness and transparency — and without overburdening any one group of members.

Construction Season in Full Swing

Summer also means construction season is in full swing. Our line crews are working hard on new service installations, system upgrades, pole replacements, and the many maintenance projects that keep our system safe, reliable, and strong. This work is critical to meeting our long-term reliability goals and ensuring the electric system is ready to handle both today's demands and tomorrow's growth.

If you see crews working near your home or along the roadside, we kindly ask you to give them plenty of space to do their job safely. Slowing down in work zones, avoiding distractions while driving, and keeping a safe distance from work areas all help us avoid accidents and protect the men who keep your power flowing.

Right-of-Way Maintenance: Keeping the Lines Clear

Along with construction work, we continue to prioritize our right-of-way maintenance program. Trimming and clearing vegetation along power lines is one of the most important things we do to prevent outages — especially during summer storms, which can bring high winds and heavy rain. Trees or branches in contact with lines are not only a leading cause of outages but can also pose significant fire and safety hazards.

Our crews and contractors follow best practices for vegetation management, and all work is done with an emphasis on environmental responsibility, long-term system reliability, and member communication. If a crew is working in your area, you may receive a notification

...MANAGER'S ARTICLE
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ahead of time. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we carry out this important preventive work.

In Closing

At Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, our commitment to you — our member-owners — remains strong. We work every day to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service, and we believe that clear, honest communication is part of that responsibility. From the planning and review of our rates to the ongoing investment in system infrastructure, everything we do is rooted in our mission to serve you.

As always, if you have questions about your service, rates, or any of the projects mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to help.

We wish you a safe, enjoyable, and energized summer season! And, as always, stay safe, happy, and healthy!

~Deanna

Clearwater-Polk Electric hopes to see
you at our
2025 Clearwater County Fair Booth



July 31st - Aug. 2nd
Each day from
1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

*****REGISTER TO WIN*****

Drawing for adults
and kids!



Annual GreenTouch Day

On Saturday, May 3rd, an estimated 22 people volunteered with GreenTouch at Itasca State Park. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative teamed up with neighboring cooperative, Itasca-Mantrap. Volunteers included many electrical cooperative employees, some employee spouses, children, directors and members. Working together on projects like pruning and trimming trees, removing bud caps, planting pine trees and installing tree cages made the 2025 volunteer project a great success! Clearwater-Polk would like to thank everyone who was involved this year and in previous years.

