

# CURRENT

## ACTIVITIES



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



## Cooperative Month Coloring Contest

Winners will receive a new bike.  
Drawing is for 1 winner in  
each age group 5-8 and 9-12.



**DON'T TOUCH! CALL YOUR ELECTRIC UTILITY!**

Pick up Entries at our office:  
Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative  
315 Main Ave. Bagley, MN 56621

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** Must be postmarked by OCTOBER 14, 2022

**Must be 12 or younger to enter**



Congratulations to William Olson, son of Sara and Kevin Olson, who won the digger truck at the fair.

## October is National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month and Clearwater-Polk wants to extend an invitation to our Co-op Members and the community members to help us celebrate. Stop in at the Co-op's office located at 315 Main Ave N in Bagley to enjoy homemade pie and cookies, coffee and juice on Thursday, October 20th or Friday, October 21st. Co-op members can also sign up to win draw prizes. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We hope to see you on the 20th or 21st!

**Moving up  
Semi Annual Operation  
Round Up Application deadline.  
Please see page 4  
for details.**

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



# 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-ForSale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

## 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

## Pumpkin Pie Squares

### Ingredients:

- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 c. quick oatmeal
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. butter, softened
- 2 c. canned pumpkin
- 1 (13-oz.) can evaporated milk
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 2 T. butter

**Preparation:** Combine flour, oatmeal, 1/2 cup brown sugar and butter. Mix until crumbly. Press into 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Combine pumpkin, milk, eggs, sugar, salt and spices. Beat well. (Daniel Dockter) Pour on crusts. Bake 20 minutes. Combine pecans, 1/2 cup brown sugar and 2 tablespoons butter. Sprinkle over pumpkin filling. Return to oven and bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until filling is set. Cool in pan. May top with whipped cream.

# OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Spaulding, *President* ..... Bagley  
 Greg Renner, *Vice President*..... Shevlin  
 Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley  
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary* ..... Gonvick  
 Robert Johnson ..... Bagley  
 Bill Lanners ..... Shevlin  
 Dennis Engebretson ..... Clearbrook  
 Deanna Lefebvre..... *General Manager*

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

DELORES SUNDQUIST  
 TAMMI TEIGLAND  
 RONALD MORRISON  
 DAVID MORTENSEN



Know what's below.  
**Call before you dig.**  
**Call Before You Dig**  
**811**  
**It's the law!**

Call 811 to locate underground wires. You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays, or emergencies).

Clearwater-Polk Electric will only locate the underground wires that are owned by Clearwater-Polk Electric, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location. Members need a signed Underground Locating Waiver to have personal lines located.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.

## 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

# Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule goes into effect October 1

It's time to remind all Clearwater-Polk members about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, which is designed to keep families warm during winter, especially those who may have challenges paying their monthly bill.

Per the Cold Weather Rule, CPE must not disconnect and must reconnect, the utility service of a residential customer during the period of October 1 to April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residence and **all** of the following conditions are met:

- *The member enters into, and makes reasonably timely payments, under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.*
- *The member receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.*
- *The household income of the member is at or below 60 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides, or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A member is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the member receives any form of public assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 60 percent of the state median household income.*

**MEDIAN INCOME**

Household Size	Gross Income for the last 3 months
1	\$8,809
2	\$ 11,520
3	\$14,230
4	\$16,941
5	\$19,651
6	\$22,362

Unpaid bills must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. CPE does not want to interrupt service of any member, but all members suffer when a bill remains unpaid.

If you cannot pay your electric bill, are having financial difficulties or do not meet state guidelines for cold weather protection, please contact Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 to set up an acceptable payment agreement in order to avoid having your electricity disconnected.

## Cold weather rule & energy assistance program notice

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 60% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Clearwater-Polk Electric or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Clearwater-Polk Electric.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Clearwater-Polk Electric must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

**Energy Assistance Program**

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters

and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$67,765 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance:

**Polk County Social Services**  
218-435-1585

**White Earth Energy Assistance**  
218-473-1585

**Inter-County Community Council**  
888-778-4008

**Red Lake CAP Program**  
218-679-1880

**Mahube-Otwa (For Hubbard Co.)**  
218-732-7204

**Bi-County Cap**  
800-332-7161

Clearwater-Polk Electric exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 to set a payment plan.

## Military Cold Weather Rule

According to Minnesota law, a utility may not disconnect the service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station.

**A military household can qualify for exemption:**

- If the household income is below the state median household income or the customer is receiving energy assistance, AND the customer has entered into a satisfactory payment agreement with the cooperative and remains reasonably current

with payments under that agreement.

- If the household income is above the state median household income AND the customer has entered into an agreement with the cooperative establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the agreement.

If you have any questions regarding payment policies and procedures please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or stop by our office located at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN.

## CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC TRUST FUNDING AND DONATIONS

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Fund committee is scheduled to meet in June for the grant-funding meeting. Request for funds will be accepted until Friday, October 28, 2022. Application blanks can be found on our website [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com), or from one of the committee members, Cindy Benson, Lois Rydeen or Laurie Pemberton. 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.

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 newspapers and the 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**



Clearwater-Polk Electric would like to thank everyone who stopped by to visit at our 2022 fair booth. Congratulations to the lucky winners below!

## August 2022 Clearwater County Fair!



### Energy Credit Winners!

- \$50 Grace Borud
- \$50 Robert & Sharon Tervola
- \$25 Virginia Flateland
- \$25 Pam & Tom Goebel
- \$25 Wesley Luggar



### Toy Replica Digger Truck Winner

William Olson  
Son of Kevin & Sara Olson

### Meter Seal Guessing Game Winner

Daniel & Melanie Tehenpe



## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates condition and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of it's facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries

and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Deanna Lefebvre, the General Manager.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after all alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre  
General Manager

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who stopped by the Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative booth at this year's Clearwater County Fair. I got to take my turn manning the booth on Friday afternoon/evening. I personally love it when I get the opportunity to interact with our membership one on one, so thank you for taking the time to stop and visit.

It was in February of 1999 when I applied for a position with an electric cooperative. Getting this job would mean that I would be relocating back to my home area. When I told my dad that I had an interview with the local electric cooperative I remember as if it were yesterday how he very profoundly said, "If you get a job with the REA you better hang on to it!" I smiled and said, "Okay Dad."

It wouldn't be until sometime later that I could appreciate what he meant by that. At the time, I only knew that electric cooperatives were companies who provide electricity to people who live in rural areas. I humbly admit that I was ignorant to what it really means to be a part of a cooperative.

As defined, a cooperative "is an association of persons (organization) that is owned and controlled by the people to meet their common economic, social, and/or cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled business (enterprise). The people of the cooperative are those who use its products, supplies, and/or services."

That is the definition of a cooperative, and these are the Seven Principles of a

Cooperative:

1) *Voluntary and Open Membership:* Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities and meet the requirements of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2) *Democratic Member Control:* Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.

3) *Member Economic Participation:* Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

4) *Autonomy and Independence:* Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

5) *Education, Training, and Information:* Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

6) *Cooperation among Cooperatives:* Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7) *Concern for Community:* Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

We have included these in the Current Activities newsletters before, but what we haven't written about is the everyday practice of these. This is our culture. It is who we are.

Clearwater-Polk Electric is celebrating 75 years this year. There is so much pride in the work and the effort that went in to forming this cooperative...YOUR electric cooperative. The employees today work hard to build on that legacy that was started all those years ago. It is not just a job to all of us, it is a passion. I am proud of the Cooperative business model and the culture that we have built here at Clearwater-Polk.

If I had one wish it would be to have all our members understand what it truly means to be a member of their electric cooperative and the important role their membership has in helping to

keep Clearwater-Polk moving forward.

A documentary video on the history of Clearwater-Polk Electric was put together and viewed at the annual meeting held back in April. This video has been uploaded to our Facebook page. (Heather Funk) If you haven't had the opportunity to watch it yet, I encourage you to visit Clearwater-Polk's Facebook page.

My dad was right! In my 23+ years of working for an electric cooperative I couldn't imagine working any place else.

### Celebrating Co-op Month

October is Cooperative Month and like every year we enjoy celebrating this with all of you. Please mark your calendars and make plans to stop by Clearwater-Polk Electric on either Thursday or Friday, October 20th or 21st to help us celebrate Cooperative Month. We will be serving homemade pie, cookies, coffee and juice. Members who stop by will also have an opportunity to win a draw prize. I look forward to another opportunity to visit with you, so I hope to see you then!

Until next time, and as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna



1¢

An evening  
of anniversary  
dancing at home?

It's a powerful experience, powered  
by just 1 cent of smart speaker energy.

VALUE OF  
ELECTRICITY

# Preparation and Awareness are Keys for Farm Electrical Safety

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.

- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.

- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.

- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.

- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.

- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.

- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as

ladders, poles, or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.

- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the

line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

## LOOK UP FOR POWER LINES THIS HARVEST SEASON

Harvest is one of the busiest times of the year in our region, but no one is ever too busy to be reminded about the importance of electrical safety. Don't fall powerless to power lines by not taking the time to look up for potential hazards. Here are some simple things to keep everyone safe this harvest season.

LOCATE AND IDENTIFY	WORK AT A SAFE DISTANCE	LOWER BEFORE YOU GO	STAY AWAY AND STAY CALM
Make sure you, your family and your farm workers know where power lines are located on your property. Everyone should know the height of all your farm equipment and how high nearby power lines are to prevent accidental contact. If you need to work close to an energized line, use a spotter to make sure you and your equipment remain safe. Non-metallic items such as lumber, rubber and hay can conduct electricity depending on the dampness or dust contamination.	It is best to always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. Make sure everyone understands that any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious - even fatal - accident. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet away from all power lines.	Lowering your equipment to the lowest possible setting is one way to not fall powerless to power lines. Make sure that extensions, portable augers and other equipment are under 14 feet tall before transporting. Wind or uneven ground can cause you to lose control of extended equipment and possibly make contact with a power line.	If your equipment ever comes in contact with an electric pole, do not get out and examine it. Call 9-1-1 and wait until the line has been de-energized before exiting your equipment. If your equipment catches fire or it is no longer safe to remain inside, do not touch any part of it as you attempt to exit. Cross your arms over your chest to protect yourself from creating any electrical pathways and jump clear of the equipment with both feet together. Bunny hop as far as you can away from your equipment keeping your feet together.



**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 15<sup>th</sup> and win \$25 off your next bill.