

# CURRENT

## ACTIVITIES



**Clearwater-Polk**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

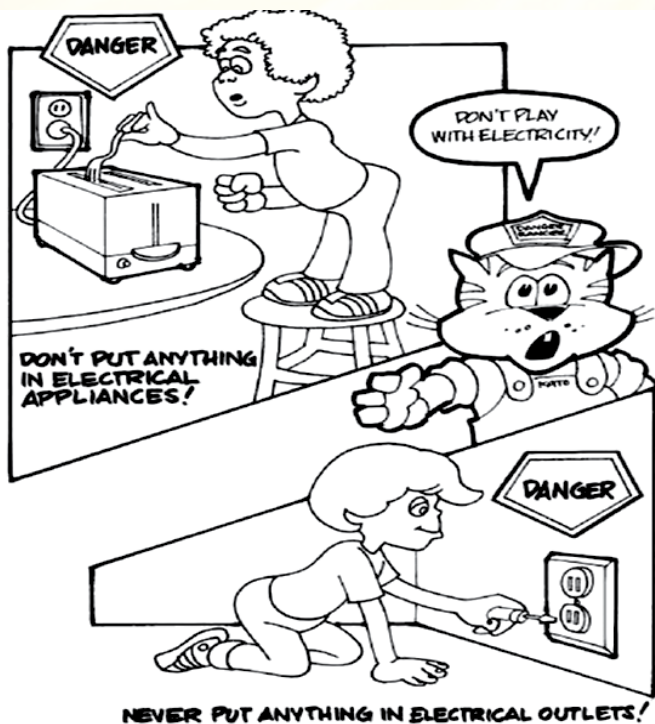
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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.



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

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** Must be postmarked by OCTOBER 13, 2023

**Must be 12 or younger to enter**



Congratulations to Luke TeHennepe son of DJ & Melanie TeHennepe, 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 19th and Friday, October 20th. Co-op members can also sign up to win an energy certificate to be applied to their account. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend. We hope to see you on the 19th or 20th!

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

**SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023**

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





**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.



## 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**



## CHEF'S CORNER

### **Zucchini Bread**

Karen Hopke - Bagley, MN

#### Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 3 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp soda
- 3 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp baking powder

#### Directions:

Mix all together and bake at 350 for 1 hour and 10 minutes. Makes 2 loaves.

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *Interim President*.... Shevlin  
Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley  
Kim Solberg, *Secretary* ..... Gonvick  
Cheryl Grover ..... Bagley  
Bill Lanners ..... Shevlin  
Dennis Engebretson ..... Clearbrook  
Deanna Lefebvre, *General Manager*

## SWAP SHOP

**RULES:** Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be (Kenneth L. Lathrop) 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.

**WANTED:** Standing pine; telehandler. 218-533-6029

**FOR SALE:** Round above ground swimming pool. Steel prism frame with pump, cover, ladder, like new. \$150. Dog kennel, large, like new, \$50. 1996 Bretta car, low milage, runs great, good tires, easy on gas, \$3,900. Call or text 218-280-2849

**FOR SALE:** 955L track loader cat with root rake, \$15,000. Call 218-368-6925.



**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.

## 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.

## 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

**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**

DANIEL GOLDSTEIN

JOE KAISER

KORY T. ERICKSON

WALCHUK F. MASON



## 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 50 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 50 percent of the state median household income.*

### MEDIAN INCOME

Household Size	Gross Income per month
1	\$2,722
2	\$3,559
3	\$4,397
4	\$5,235
5	\$6,072
6	\$6,910

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 50% 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 50% of the state median income (\$62,822 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2024.

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

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance (Theresa Powers) 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.

## 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 its 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.

Clearwater-Polk Electric would like to thank everyone who stopped by to visit at our 2023 fair booth. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

## August 2023 Clearwater County Fair!



### Meter Seal Guessing Game Winner

Total meter seals was 153

**Kelly Bellefy**

*Received a Clearwater-Polk insulated shopping bag filled with:*

- Clearwater-Polk bamboo cutting board
- Clearwater-Polk heavy duty scissors
- Clearwater-Polk mini extendable flashlight
- A changing color night light
- LED bulbs
- Plug adaptor
- Power surge protector with 2 built in USB ports

### Toy Replica Digger Truck Winner

Luke TeHennepe son of  
DJ & Melanie TeHennepe

### Energy Credit Winners!

\$50 - Carol Peterson  
\$50 - Nichole Ekre  
\$50 - Shawn & Kim Hanse  
\$50 - Tammy Loiland

## 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 27, 2023. Application blanks can be found on our website [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com), or from one of the committee members, Marilyn McCollum, 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 (James L. Solien) 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.

# MANAGERS MESSAGE



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

This past week I attended Minnesota Rural Electric Association's Energy Issues Summit. They had a great lineup of topics and speakers/panels. One of the keynote speakers included Erick Rheam. Mr. Rheam's credentials include working for a decade in the public power industry for two municipally owned utilities, a military police officer and special investigator in the United States Army in Bosnia Herzegovina and Europe, speaker, published author, and more. His speaking topic headline was "Rise Above Chaos" and in his speech he referred to a quote by Mark Twain that I have had taped on my computer monitor for a long time, "The two most important days of your life is the day you were born and the day you find out why."

When I stepped into this position as General Manager, I asked myself if this is my why. I felt that it was a big part of it but couldn't quite settle on an absolute "Yes!" I always believed that I will just know when it comes. Then, Mr. Rheam said something that made complete sense to me. He said that you will find your why where your passion and your strengths intercede.

There are three primary things I am passionate about: 1) my faith, 2) my family, and 3) my work. I am sure having three primary things that I am passionate about has contributed to why my "why" has eluded me.

I stumbled into this career over 24 years ago. Unless you go to school to be a lineman or an electrical engineer, the chances of you stumbling into a career

in this industry versus planning for it are pretty good.

My passion for my work has everything to do with working for an electric cooperative, a not-for-profit business model with the primary purpose to serve the community in which it operates. It is an atmosphere of people helping people - the members we serve, coworkers, and colleagues alike. I thank God every day for his hand in having me stumble into this career and guiding me on this path.

It stands with reason that one of my favorite events happens to be when we celebrate Cooperative Month by hosting our open house each year in October. Please mark your calendars and make plans to stop by Clearwater-Polk Electric on either Thursday or Friday, October 19th or 20th to help us celebrate. 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!

## My Door is Open

I want to take a moment in this article to make sure that it is clear to everyone that my door is always open for a visit. Whether it is just to stop in and say hi, to give a compliment or complaint, or to visit about something that is weighing on your mind, I encourage you to stop by.

With 4,500 different members, you will find 4,500 different personalities with many different passions, principles, values and opinions. They can be from one side of the spectrum to the next with many in between on any number of topics or issues. What might be most important to one person can really tip the scale leaving an equal and opposite reaction to what someone else feels is their "most important".

It is possible that, at one point or another, a decision is made that may be in opposition to your personal principles, values or opinions. My hope is that if this happens, you don't assume that we don't care, respect, or value your position or opinion. I can assure you that is not the case. We do not have the luxury of choosing one person's opinion over another's. Decisions are made by what is determined to be in the best interest of the Cooperative and its members as a

whole. We are a cooperative, a not-for-profit business with the primary purpose to serve you, our members, with safe, affordable and reliable electricity with consideration for the environment. With each decision, the management and board of directors work hard to find the right balance.

## Time of Change

On August 3rd I was saddened to receive a letter of resignation from Board of Director and President, Greg Spaulding. Greg stated in his letter that his family wants to spend more time with him, and he agreed to do that. He has four kids and eleven grandchildren and all of them live in different states and none of which are in Minnesota.

Greg has been an invaluable member of the board, representing District 3. He has served all of Clearwater-Polk Electric's members well for the past 10 years. Greg is held in high regard by not only his fellow Clearwater-Polk board members, employees and staff, but also the Minnkota Power Cooperative board of directors that he served with, as well by his colleagues throughout the electric cooperative industry.

Pursuant to Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. the board of directors will be appointing a member of the Cooperative to fill a director vacancy for District 3 until the next meeting of the members that will take place on April 10, 2024.

Thank you, Greg, for everything you have done for me, the employees and especially for the members of Clearwater-Polk.

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

Deanna

## SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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



# HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES