

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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

OPERATION ROUND-UP AWARDS NEARLY \$6,000...



The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust awarded nearly \$6,000 in the latest chapter of Operation Round-Up on Dec. 7. Ten entities were recipients. Checks were mailed to recipients this time due to COVID-19.

Recipients were as follows:

Bagley Art in the Park
for Lauraloons & musical groups
Bagley Elementary School Library for books
Bagley Senior Center, Inc.
Clearbrook-Gonvick School technology accessories
Clearbrook-Gonvick School yoga/mindfulness practices
mats and mat bands
Clearbrook/Leonard Senior Center
Clear Waters Life Center Enhanced
home services
Clear Waters Life Center MSH
community transitional apartment
Gully 100!
Northwest MN Foundation
(Red River Valley Emerging Leadership Program)

*We encourage the recipients to spread the word
to other organizations that
Operation Round-Up has money to share.*

NOTICE OF Annual Meeting

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 74th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 7th, 2021.

Details to come in the next newsletter.

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





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 three-year [insert District 2 or 3] _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 7, 2021 election, at the annual meeting of the Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws.

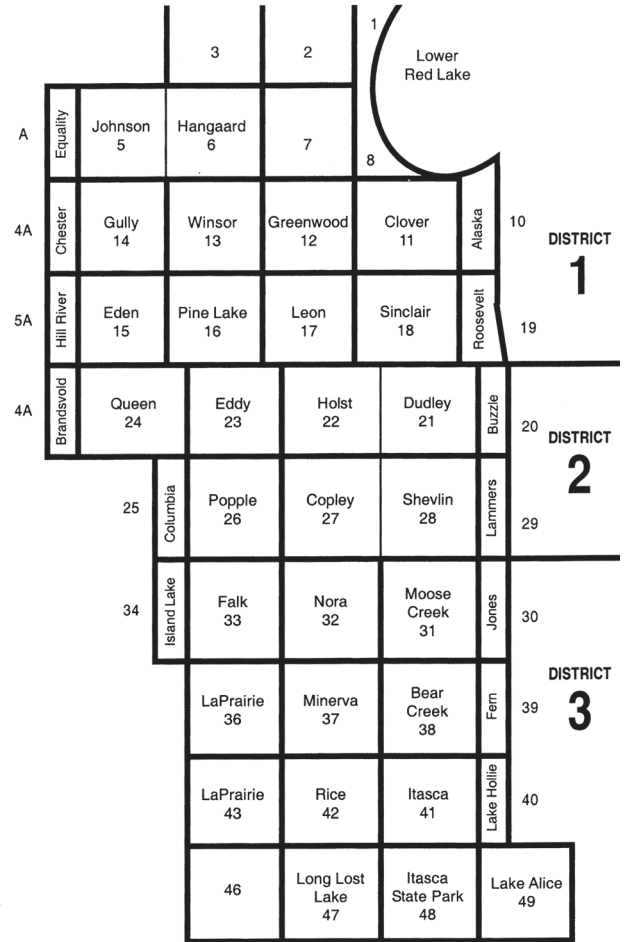
Printed Name	Signature	Account Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than close of business January 29, 2021. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 7, 2021, elections will be held for the following districts where Director's terms are expiring:

- District 2**
Greg Renner (3-year term)
- District 3**
Bill Lanners (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.

MAP OF DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3



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.

Stable Warmth In Unstable Times

Cooperative energy planners predict an average winter season of demand response

Uncertainty has been the name of the game for much of 2020. But as we slip into the last few weeks of the year, Clearwater-Polk Electric feels certain about one thing – your continued warmth and comfort throughout the winter.

The energy planners at Minnkota Power Cooperative (power provider for Clearwater-Polk Electric) expect a standard season for members with electric heat on demand response. The voluntary program allows the cooperative to temporarily interrupt service to a member's off-peak loads, like electric heating and large-capacity water heaters, in exchange for a lower electric rate. For technologies like air-source heat pumps and plenum heaters, the system automatically switches to a backup fuel source such as propane, so there is no break in comfort.

Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager of power supply and resource planning, says he expects the level of winter demand response to be comparable to the past 4-5 years – less than 100 hours. Members should always be prepared for up to 200-250 hours of management, but have historically encountered much less. Last winter, Minnkota only logged 10 hours of interruption due mild weather and low wholesale energy prices.

“The only things that are really

going to drive that up are a shift in the energy market, which is typically going to be weather related,” Sailer explained. “If you get a polar vortex or a wind event where there's simply no wind during high loads, that's where that number suddenly goes from 70 to 250 hours really quick.”

Demand response doesn't just happen during extreme cold. A planned generator outage or extended lack of intermittent resources across the region can push the program into action. “When we see there's no wind in North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and those areas where there's often a lot of wind, that's when we start to see high markets, and that's when you'll see more demand response.” Sailer said.

Although Minnkota expects a typical level of demand response this year, COVID-19 may change *when* it activates. When more people are working and learning from home, times of peak energy usage shift, which impacts the availability of excess resources to cover energy demand.

“Instead of demand response from 7-9 a.m., it might be from 8-11 a.m.,” Sailer said. “The load curve changes, so it might change how we actually implement our load management.”

Clearwater-Polk Electric will run a demand response test sometime in early December. During that time, make sure your

system is working properly and that you have adequate backup fuel before the coldest days arrive. If you are not a participant in the program but are interested in how to save money with an all-season air-source heat pump, a cost-effective plenum heater (Dan Lavine) or zero-maintenance underfloor storage heat, call your energy experts at Clearwater-Polk Electric.

The demand response program began as a way to manage power during peak seasonal need without building additional generation resources – a costly solution for only a few days a year. But the electric heating technologies that have evolved within the program are helping our members enhance their comfort and safety, things we could all use a little more of in 2020.



CHEF'S CORNER

Marinade for Deer Venison

Karla Netland, Bagley, MN

Ingredients:

2 cloves garlic, minced
 1/4 c. vinegar
 1/4 c. soy sauce
 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp oil
 1/2 c. water

Preparation: Blend all ingredients thoroughly. Use to marinate venison.

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.

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events (Yvonne J Hetland) 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.

FOR SALE: Panasonic 2.2 Cu. Ft. 1250W Genius Sensor countertop microwave oven w/ inverter technology (Black). \$195 (Leonard) Excellent like new condition. Purchased May 2020. Model # NN-SN946. Call 218-776-2018

FOR SALE: Arines snow blower, approximately 8 years old. If interested please call 218-785-2250.

FOR SALE: Cub Cadet Chipper Vac, approximately 6 years old. If interested please call 218-785-2250.

FOR SALE: 1996 Beretta Z26, dark red exterior, gray interior, 69,000 miles. Drives nice, good gas mileage, nice looking car, \$4,000. Call 218-780-2849

FOR SALE: Wooden shadow box shelf-oak approx. 20" x 22", like new, \$25. Bathroom shelf/cabinet, like new, \$20. If interested text 218-280-2849. I can send a picture.

FOR SALE: Walker, like new, \$20. Shower chair, \$20. Call 218-780-2849.

FOR SALE: 42" snowblower for Cub Cadet, Model # 190-032-101 weights, chains & manvel included. Good condition, used 1 year. Make an offer. 218-694-4075.

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
- Bruce Bjerke..... *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.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION!

Members who use electricity as their primary source of residential heat are exempt from paying taxes on the electricity purchased during the billing months of November through April. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable only if it is the primary source of heat for the largest period of time during the heating season.

To apply for the sales tax exemption, members must complete the exemption form, available at www.clearwater-polk.com or in our office. If you have already applied for a sales tax exemption, there is no need to re-apply; your enrollment will automatically carry forward each year.

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

- PEDERSON BROS.
- TIMOTHY QUINN
- CHRISTINE M ROSS
- JOHN STEVENS

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

Clearwater County Social Services
216 Park Ave NW
Bagley, MN 56621
218-694-6164

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

Manager's Message



Bruce Bjerke

Grateful for My Career at Clearwater-Polk

I feel blessed to be finishing up my 22nd year at Clearwater-Polk, but it comes with mixed emotions as this will be my last newsletter and I will be retiring the first part of 2021.

It was March 1st, 1999, when Leroy Riewer hired me to work for Clearwater-Polk in the member services department. As I was introduced to my coworkers, many of whom had been working at the co-op for many years, I realized it's a great place to work.

In the beginning, my main job was helping to install the new automatic meter reading system (The Turtle) and off-peak heating. It was nice to get out and learn the system while meeting so many of our great members. At that time, the other issue everyone was talking about was Y2K and fear of the possible havoc it may bring as the year changed from 1999 to 2000. Thankfully, it wasn't a big deal.

In August of 2005, the Board

of Directors trusted me to become the next general manager. It was a huge change for me. I am thankful for the board's experience and leadership, an outstanding group of employees with a lot of knowledge and understanding regarding the operation of the co-op, and the neighboring co-op general managers and CEO's, who were just a phone call away and always willing to share their knowledge. It made the transition much easier for me.

This job has taken me down an interesting path. I have enjoyed the variety of challenges and friendships I have made throughout the years. Being a part of the cooperative family and meeting so many great people through NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association), MREA (Minnesota Rural Electric Association) and Minnkota was wonderful. Thank you to my wife Debbie, who has been extremely supportive throughout the years! Fortunately, she has been able to join me at some of the meetings; we are both going miss the friendships we have made.

I think we all agree, 2020 and the year of COVID may be a year we would like to forget. Most of the meetings were either canceled or held virtual, and we have not been able to have face-to-face contact. At this time, we will not have the opportunity to personally say goodbye and thank you to all the special people we have met. Saying goodbye is never easy!

I've been asked what my plans are

after retirement. Well, when things get back to normal, we would like to do some traveling. I love to golf, hunt and fish, but haven't done much of that for many years. Most importantly, I hope to spend a lot of time with our sons, Brandon and Jason, and their families! We have four grandkids and like I have mentioned in previous newsletters, I sure love being Papa!

By the time you receive this newsletter a new general manager will likely be chosen. Final interviews are going to be held by the board on December 18th. My final day hasn't been set; it will be determined by when the new person is able to start. Watch our web site and Facebook page for updates.

In closing, I would like to thank the members for the support you have given to the cooperative, our hard-working employees who take pride in providing safe and reliable electricity, and the privilege of working with and for a dedicated Board of Directors. We have been through a lot together. I am so thankful to have worked with such a great group and proud to be a part of the heritage of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous, and joyful New Year. God bless you all!

Humbled and Grateful!

Bruce





Sponsors

- Beltrami Electric Cooperative
- Cass County Electric Cooperative
- Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative
- Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative
- Nodak Electric Cooperative
- North Star Electric Cooperative
- PKM Electric Cooperative
- Red Lake Electric Cooperative
- Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association
- Roseau Electric Cooperative
- Wild Rice Electric Cooperative



Instructor: Tim Pull

Tim Pull has been preparing electricians for the job site and for state electrical licensing exams for three decades. He spent 31 years teaching in the electrical department at the North Dakota State College of Science and is now providing training independently through TJP Electrical Training.

Tim has presented hundreds of seminars on the National Electrical Code. He knows what information electricians need, and - just as importantly - he knows how to present that information in an understandable, engaging, memorable way. He uses graphics to illustrate key concepts, provides clear answers to questions and does not waste time on unnecessary material

Class Dates

- Tuesday, Jan. 5
- Wednesday, Jan. 6
- Tuesday, Jan. 12
- Wednesday, Jan. 13
- Tuesday, Jan. 19
- Wednesday, Jan. 20
- Tuesday, Jan. 26

Technology Requirements

- Computer or tablet with strong internet connection
- Download of GoTo Meeting software (free)
- Web camera is on at all times

Registration

- Online registration and payment at Minnkota.com
- Link to the course and materials will be provided via email following registration

Class Schedule

- 7:15 - 8 a.m. - Virtual sign-in
- 8 a.m. - noon - Workshop
- Noon - 1 p.m. - Lunch break
- 1 - 5 p.m. - Workshop

Online Class Description

The Lows and Highs of the NEC

This online 8-hour course, titled The Lows and Highs of the NEC, covers the NEC rules for low-voltage systems and high-voltage systems of over 1,000 volts. Low-voltage system articles covered include Articles 725, 805, 411 and others. The high-voltage portion of the course includes discussion on shielded cables, terminating, splicing and the NEC rules that apply to the installation of high/medium voltage cables. Article 311 and the "over 1,000 volts" parts of other articles are discussed.

- Online registration and payment only at Minnkota.com.
- Link to the course and materials will be provided via email following registration.
- Participation qualifies for eight code credits in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.
- Reduced credit hours for this course are not available.
- Course qualifies for power limited credits.
- Fees - \$50 for 8-hour session.
- Each attendee will be mailed a Continuing Education Certificate upon class completion.

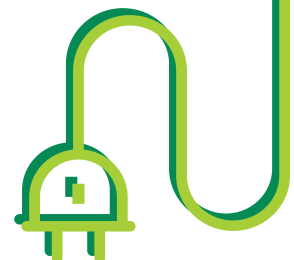
For more information contact: contractortraining@minnkota.com
 Minnkota Power Cooperative • 701.795.4292
 Website: Minnkota.com

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov



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