


CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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



Operation Round-Up awards OVER \$13,000

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust awarded over \$13,000 in the latest chapter of Operation Round-Up on Dec. 15. Fifteen entities were recipients. Checks were given to recipients on December 21st.

Recipients were as follows:

Bagley Elementary School Art Department
Bagley Elementary School 6th Grade
Bagley Senior Center
Clearbrook-Gonvick All School Reunion
Clearbrook/Leonard Senior Center
Clear Waters Life Center
Clearwater Christmas project food, toys
Clearwater County Historical Society
archival materials
Community Christmas Day dinner
Family Safety Network
FHL Academy
Gonvick Community Club Santa days
Gonvick Lions Club - guest speaker for
traveling Veterans wall
Northern Exposure for Lifelong Learning
programming
United Way of Bemidji Area for Imagination
Library Program

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



Clearwater-Polk Electric employees and board members donate over 55 pounds of food and \$300 cash to Clearwater County Food Shelf to help get them through the holiday season.

HAPPY New Year

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

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



Capital Credits Paid to Members

The 2021 General Capital Credit Retirement was processed in December. Clearwater-Polk Electric Board of Directors approved the retirement of the remaining portion of 1986 and all of 1987 at the value of just over \$244,000.

Current members who were also active members during 1986 and 1987 received a credit on their January 4th billing statement. Over 600 checks were mailed to inactive members.

Thank you to all Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative members for your patronage and support (Susan Shegrud) of your electric

cooperative!

If you have questions about capital credits or your cooperative membership, please call Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 and we will be happy to help.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

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*

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

Cajun Chicken Pasta

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves, cut into thin strips
- 4 tsp. Cajun seasoning
- 4 T. butter or margarine
- 16 slices each green & sweet red pepper
- 8 lg. fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 2 to 4 c. heavy cream
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- ½ tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 8 oz. linguine, cooked & drained
- Grated Parmesan cheese (opt.)

Preparation: Place chicken and Cajun seasoning in bowl or plastic bag; toss or shake to coat. In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté chicken in butter until almost tender, about 5 to 7 minutes. Add peppers, mushrooms and onion; cook and stir for 2 to 3 minutes. Reduce heat. Add cream cheese and seasonings; heat through. Add linguine and toss; heat through. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

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

Wanted: Standing red and white pine, 10" diameter and larger. 218-766-8176

For Sale: Miller welder thunder bolt ac/dc. 30-225 amp ac, 30-50 amp dc. 218-785-2250

Wanted: Any history of Alida pictures etc. Also, anything in Clearwater or Polk County. Old long gone towns, any tokens from any bars or stores from pre 1960. 320-249-8708 leave message.

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 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

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

- CHARLES BURNS
- L.M. STINAR
- SAM S. SMITH
- DAVID L. ANDERSON, JR.



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 1 or 2 or 3] _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 6, 2022 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 February 5, 2022. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 6, 2022, elections will be held for the following districts where Director's terms are expiring:

- District 1**
Kim Solberg (3-year term)
- District 2**
Robert Johnson (3-year term)
- District 3**
Greg Spaulding (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.

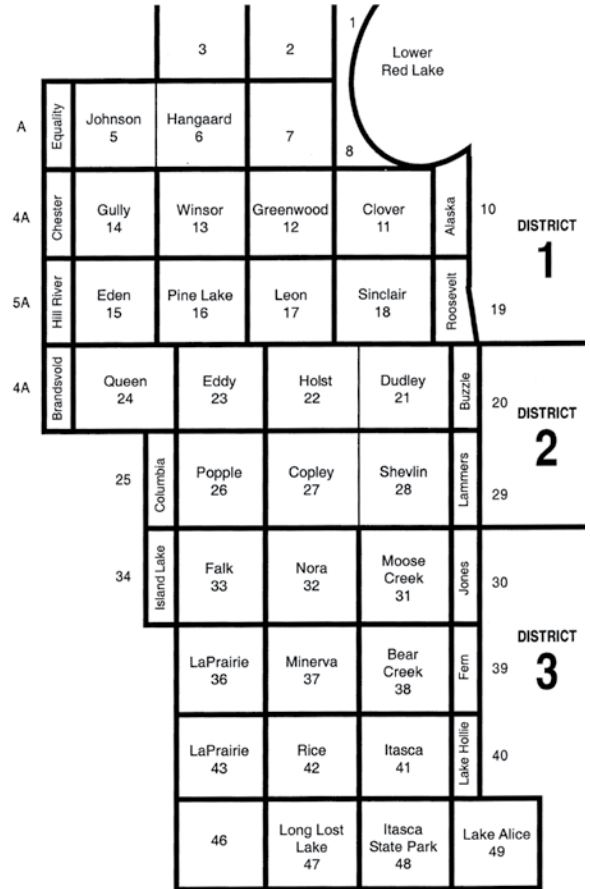
WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DIRECTOR?

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.

MAP OF DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3



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

Value during volatility

Minnkota and its members expect active off-peak load control season spurred by volatile energy markets

Last winter, a polar vortex event sent energy market prices soaring. Fewer resources across the country were able to generate electricity in the historic cold, and demand was high for the few resources that that were generating enough to sell into the electric grid.

Utilities are experiencing those high market prices again – but it's not because of a single major weather event this time. It's the climbing cost of natural gas.

"Natural gas is one of those resources that typically help manage the variability in electricity generation, and we're seeing prices that are significantly higher than what we've seen in the past 10-15 years," explained Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply & resource planning for Minnkota Power Cooperative, Clearwater-Polk's wholesale power provider. "We're seeing prices double and triple what they were last year, or even over the last couple of years."

While the energy markets soared for only 7-10 days in February 2021's polar vortex, Sailer says this volatility could last throughout the winter season, or longer. That's good insight for cooperative members (Gary P. Duray) on the demand response – or off-peak – program, which allows the co-op to temporarily interrupt service to a participant's off-peak loads (electric heating, large-capacity water heaters, electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in exchange for a lower electric rate.

"The projection is that these high prices will likely drive our demand response more than we've seen in the past years," Sailer said.

Minnkota's energy marketers are preparing for 200 hours of off-peak electric heating load control this winter, but Sailer says that could rise if natural gas prices continue to climb. He also notes that load control could be spread out over more days and not always coincide with major weather events.

"If we have days of low intermittent resources in the region, like wind power, the expectation is that the markets will respond and you'll see higher markets, which will result in more off-peak control," he said.

Ultimately, the cooperative will deploy off-peak load control when it needs to protect itself from buying high-price energy from the market. This system was established years ago to avoid building more generation facilities for peak need that only arises a few days out of the year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumers. By being a part of the off-peak load control program, consumers can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

As we enter the winter, Sailer urges those who are a part of the off-peak program to make sure they have adequate backup fuel supply. When the cooperative runs its load control tests before the peak of the cold season, confirm that all parts of your heating system are running smoothly.

"It's not just natural gas – it's propane, it's all fuel sources that have seen an increase in cost. Which leads to people reliant on their off-peak system," Sailer said. "Members should be making sure their system works."

Thank you to everyone who stopped by during our Co-op Month Open House!



We had a great turnout for our open house celebrating Co-op Month on Wednesday & Thursday, October 20th & 21st. It was great to see and visit with everyone who took the time to stop in.

Members were treated to homemade pie, cookies, coffee and juice. They also signed up for a chance to win one of four \$25 energy certificates. Congratulations to the lucky winners who were: Stanley Diseth of Bagley, Virgil Norquist of Bagley, Winfield Pittman of Bagley and Benhart S. Sorom of Shevlin.

Thank you to all of you who stopped by to help celebrate Co-op Month and make our open house a great success!

Notice of 75th Annual Meeting

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 75th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022. **Location and time has changed:** 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 6:00 p.m. Please look for more details in the next March/April issue of your Current Activities newsletter!

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

We all have been met with a lot of change these past two years. It is a challenge to know whether we can still hope for things to go back to normal, settle into the idea that this is our new normal, or brace for more change that is yet to come.

Like our members, Clearwater-Polk has been met with several changes this year and navigating through some of those changes has been challenging. I guess I would have to say that the most significant change for our Co-op was the change in management. This Co-op is blessed with an amazing group of employees, and a board that through their leadership has helped make this transition smoother than anyone could have hoped for. And yes, Bruce stops in every once and a while and says he is really enjoying his retirement.

Bruce's retirement and my promotion to General Manager created a vacancy for our Office and Finance Manager position. At the end of March Angie Schneider started at Clearwater-Polk as the new Office and Finance Manager. Angie came with some accounting and electric co-op experience and has proved to be a great asset.

When changing to a new mapping software Clearwater-Polk was met with some challenges there as well. The Co-op's system map is very detailed and complex. Unfortunately, the conversion from the old system to the new did not come through as clean as we hoped for. To correct this was proving to be very time consuming for our line department. It is crucial to have the system map be accurate and so the decision was made this past summer to hire a temporary GIS Technician to help make the necessary changes. In August we welcomed Christian Johnson from Bemidji as the temporary

GIS Technician. Christian has been working closely with Operations Manager Todd Waggoner and making great progress ensuring accuracy with our system map.

This past August long time employee, Joel Rendahl, announced that he will be retiring in early 2022. Joel's knowledge of Clearwater-Polk Electric's system and Co-op members is not only invaluable, but extensive. It was important that we hire a Master Electrician right away to give him as much time as possible to work with Joel. On November 1st Roy Fisher was hired as Clearwater-Polk Electric's new Master Electrician. Roy has been working side by side with Joel and I am confident that when Joel retires Roy will do a great job taking over for him and meeting the needs of Co-op members.

Community has always been important to Clearwater-Polk, but this year one of the goals set by the employees and board during a strategic planning session was to find more ways to participate and give back to our community. I am proud of the additions to our commitment to community that we incorporated this past year. Along with existing activities like Ag Safety Day, the Clearwater County Fair, Co-op month, etc, Clearwater-Polk participated in the following events:

- Bagley Crazy Days by hosting a bake sale and donating the proceeds to the Meals on Wheels program;
- Coloring Contest for children ages 5-12 promoting electrical safety;
- Clearwater County Breakfast on the Farm event;
- Gonvick's Pumpkin Days;
- An employee/director food drive for Clearwater County's food shelf; and
- We had a special day with one of our young co-op members who has been battling Leukemia.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Clearwater-Polk's participation in these events possible. They were a huge success!

As we navigate through all the changes, Clearwater-Polk's Board of Directors and employees are committed to the mission of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, to "...strive to provide economical and reliable energy services while ensuring the safety and well-being of our employees and members with consideration for the environment." We are thankful for our member-owners and our community. Clearwater-Polk Electric could not exist without you.

I am looking forward to Clearwater-Polk Electric's 75th Annual Meeting coming Wednesday, April 6, 2022 to give you a more

detailed report on 2021. This day also comes with some changes. This meeting will be held in the city of Clearbrook at the old school. Registration, entertainment and supper will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. Please look for more details in March/April issue of the Current Activities newsletter.

2021 CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

Cooperatives are member-owned, member-governed businesses that operate for the benefit of their members. As a member-owner you see an ownership in the business through capital credits.

Capital credits are the margins that is left over at the end of the business year after all bills for doing business have been paid. Each member-owner is entitled to these capital credits, or a share of the refund based on your energy use. Before members receive their capital credits refund, Clearwater-Polk uses this capital to offset the cost of debt for the operation and maintenance of the Co-op's electric distribution system. This working capital represents your ownership equity in Clearwater-Polk.

In December just over \$244,000 in capital credits was returned to Clearwater-Polk Electric's member-owners for allocations received in 1986 (remaining 50%) and 1987 (100%). Over history, Clearwater-Polk Electric has returned over \$2,785,000 in capital credit refunds to its member-owners.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Each year we celebrate employees and directors who reach a career milestone with Clearwater-Polk Electric. This year we had one employee, Line Foreman Travis Huot, who celebrated his 10th year of service to our Co-op members. Congratulations Travis and thank you for all you do for the Clearwater-Polk.

I would also like to congratulate Ian Willborg who completed his 8,000 hours this fall to earn his promotion from Apprentice to Journeyman. Congratulations Ian!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope all of you had a very blessed Christmas and were able to enjoy the company of family and friends. On behalf of all the employees and Board of Directors, thank you for patronage and support in 2021. We wish you a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous new year and look forward to serving you 2022!

Stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

2022 Sessions are set for Continuing Education for Electrical Contractors

Clearwater-Polk electric is once again co-sponsoring the continuing education sessions for area electrical contractors, instructed by Tim Pull, giving contractors an opportunity to earn eight code credits.

Online Registration and Payment Only. Visit www.minnkota.com to complete your registration. For more information contact: contractortraining@minnkota.com or call Minnkota at 701-795-4292.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday, January 4

Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND



Tuesday, January 18

Bemidji Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Ave SE
Bemidji, MN

Wednesday, January 5

Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND



Tuesday, February 1

Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND

Tuesday, January 11

Fergus Falls Eagles Club
120 S Peck Street
Fergus Falls, MN



Wednesday, February 2

Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND



Clearwater-Polk Electric would like to welcome Roy Fisher to our electric co-op family of employees. Roy started his employment with the Co-op on November 1st as our new Master Electrician.

Roy grew up in the Solway area. He enjoys spending time with his 7-year old son Brody, working on old Chevy's and hanging out with family and friends.



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



Maggie of Bagley – Winner in the 5-8 age group.



Emily of Fosston – Winner in the 9-12 age group.