

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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

Official Notice of 73rd Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative will be held at the:

TIMBER EVENT CENTER (ALSO DA Roo's PIZZA)
LOCATED ON US HIGHWAY 2 WEST, BAGLEY, MINN.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

1. To pass upon reports of previous fiscal year;
2. To elect two directors of the Cooperative;

The following candidates have been nominated via petition in accordance with the bylaws:

District 1
(Three -year term)
Dennis Engebretson

District 2
(Three-year term)
Harlan Highberg
Greg Leintz

3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

Robert Johnson, Secretary Dated: February 24, 2020



Daylight Savings
Begins
March 8th!

9:00 a.m. Registration
Coffee and cookies served
Health fair sponsored by Clearwater Nursing Service
Bingo called by Harvey Miller

10:30 a.m. Call meeting to order
Invocation by: Pastor Verlyn Strenge
National Anthem sung by: to be announced
Reports of manager, officers and employees
Election of Directors
Guest speaker: Robert "Mac" McLennan, President & CEO,
Minnkota Power Cooperative
Noon meal will be served following the meeting
Drawings for door prizes will be held during the meeting.

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

MARCH & APRIL 2020

Phone 218-694-6241 - or - toll free (888) 694-3833





Congratulations Debbie on your Retirement

Debbie Olson joined Clearwater-Polk Electric as a full-time employee on April 1, 1989. Now, after over 30 years of service, she has decided to retire. Congratulations Debbie and best wishes for a long and happy retirement from all of us at Clearwater-Polk Electric.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

COGENERATION NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS

In compliance with Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board. Interested members should contact Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN 56621 or call 218-694-6241.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Leroy Riewer, *President* Bagley
- Greg Spaulding, *Vice President*..... Bagley
- Robert Johnson, *Secretary* Bagley
- Greg Renner, *Treasurer* Shevlin
- Gary Mathis Gonvick
- Kim Solberg Gonvick
- Bill Lanners Shevlin
- Bruce Bjerke..... 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

Bruce Bergstrom, Eric Johnson, Emily Homen, Ann Bardwell-Ross



Voting Ballot - Election of Directors April 15, 2020

District # 1

(3-year term)
Vote for one

Yes

Dennis Engebretson

District # 2

(3-year term)
Vote for one

Yes

Harlan Highberg

Greg Leintz

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Robert Johnson, being duly elected Secretary of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that I have caused to be deposited in the United States mail, the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on March 5, 2020. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

Robert Johnson

MAIL IN BALLOT NOTIFICATION

If you are a Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Member, wish to vote in the election of Directors and cannot attend Clearwater-Polk's annual meeting on April 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., contact our office by phone, in person or by mail to receive a mail in ballot. The ballot must be received by our office either in person or through the mail by 9:00 a.m., April 15, 2020.

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
Okelee, 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

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.

FOR SALE: Twin size children's mattress in very good condition \$50.00; Twin size Adult mattress-Restonic Brand in excellent condition, like new \$200.00. Please call 218-487-5412 or 218-230-0189.

FOR SALE: Log Cabin, \$2,500. Good guest or hunting cabin. 218-766-8176.

WANTED: John Deere Haybine 1209 or 1219 for parts (especially roller) Call (218) 776-3281.



CHEF'S CORNER

Chocolate Peanut Fudge Bars

Carol Connell - Trail, MN

Ingredients:

Crust:

2 cups choc. cookie crumbs
1/2 Cup butter or margarine, melted

Filling:

1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese, softened
1 cup powdered sugar

1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
2 T. milk

Topping:

2 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
1 cup peanuts, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter

Preparation: In a medium bowl, combine crust ingredients. Mix well. Press firmly on bottom of 9x13" pan. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes. In another medium bowl, combine filling ingredients. Blend at low speed 2 minutes or until light and fluffy. Spread over crust. In a medium saucepan, melt chocolate chips over low heat, stirring constantly until smooth. Stir in (Chad Smith) peanut butter and blend well. Stir in peanuts. Spread over filling. Refrigerate at least 4 hours. Store refrigerated.

Clearwater Polk Electric's Director Candidates



NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT 1 DENNIS

ENGBRETSON

Dennis, along with his wife Jacky live 4 miles northeast of Clearbrook on the family farm that was homesteaded in 1903 by his grandfather Ole and Ole's mother Anna. Dennis and Jacky have two children, their daughter Maria and son, Philip and his wife Laura and infant son Baruch.

Sheep, dairy, beef, chickens, horses, elk are some of the livestock that have been raised on the farm.

Birdsfoot Trefoil has been one of the crops raised for the last 50 years as well as mixed hay and some small grains.

Dennis graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1971, and then graduated from Bemidji Vo-Tech in Carpentry. He also took several years of Farm Management from the Vo-Tech school.

Dennis has served in 4-H leadership, enjoyed serving a number of years on the Clearbrook Elevator board, served on church trustee board and is currently serving on the Advocacy board with Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op. He is also currently serving on the Sustainable Sheep

& Fiber Community board.

Dennis has enjoyed many years of bowhunting, watching the local youth play ball, visiting with family and friends, collecting maple syrup, and trying to catch trout in the pond.



NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT 2 HARLAN HIGHBERG

Harlan and his wife Gayle reside in Copley Township North East of Bagley on the farm where Harlan was born and raised.

Harlan is now retired to the farm full time where he and Gayle raise and sell hay and maintain the pasture fences for their pasture renters.

Harlan spent 32 years as the County Executive Director of the Clearwater County USDA Farm Service Agency in Bagley.

He previously enjoyed serving as a member of the Clearwater-Polk REA board of directors for six years. During that time, he completed courses in the Credentialed Cooperative Director training programs.

Harlan stated that he would like to put that training to work again and would appreciate another opportunity to represent you as a director on your REA board.



NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT 2 GREG LEINTZ

Greg and his wife Marsha have lived just north of Bagley in Copley township since 1986. Marsha works as a Registered Nurse and together they own Galens Fresh

Food Market/Hardware Hank in downtown Bagley where Greg has worked for over 30 years. They have 3 grown children all raised in Bagley. Greg believes his board experience with other organizations will be of benefit on the Clearwater-Polk Electric Board. That experience includes current member and past president of the Bagley Rotary Club, current member and past president of The Bagley Area Chamber of Commerce, board member of Twin Pines Golf Course, Bagley Industrial Development Commission, and Bagley Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Greg and Marsha are members of Faith Lutheran Church.

VOTING BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Voting Ballot – Election of Directors:

1. Mark the enclosed “Voting Ballot - Election of Directors” with an “X” in the space provided adjacent to the candidate’s name you have selected for each vacant seat.

There should be two (2) marks on your BALLOT, as there are two seats to be filled this year: District 1: *one director, three-year term.* District 2: *one director, three-year term.*

2. To ensure secret balloting, place your marked Election Ballot inside the envelope marked “Privacy Envelope” and seal the Privacy Envelope.

There should be NO MARKS on the PRIVACY ENVELOPE.

3. Place the sealed “Privacy Envelope” inside the “Return Identification Envelope.”

In order to ensure that your ballot is counted, PRINT your name, ENTER your account number, SIGN your name, and AFFIX proper postage to the RETURN IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE.

Pursuant to the Bylaws Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Art. I., Sec. 9(i), the following information is provided along with the enclosed Voting Ballot - Election of Directors:

- 1) *The names of the candidates, submitted via petition, for the director positions to be filled is enclosed;*
- 2) *Fifty (50) members present in person or represented by mail vote are necessary to meet a quorum;*
- 3) *The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each directorship will be elected;*
- 4) *The Mailed Ballots must be received before 9:00 a.m. on April 15, 2020 to be counted.*

Voting Ballot Checklist

Have you

- Marked your ballot clearly and legibly and only in the appropriate spaces?
- Enclosed the sealed privacy envelope inside the return identification envelope?
- Enclosed in the return identification envelope a “Designation of Voting Representative” if you are voting on behalf of a corporation, school board, church, etc.
- Enclosed the ballot in the privacy envelope and sealed the envelope?
- Printed your name and account number and signed the return identification envelope?

* ATTENTION CORPORATE MEMBERS *



If you are a member Corporation, Cooperative, School, Church, Township (or other non-natural person) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative and want to be represented at Members’ Meeting(s), please have the following form completed and signed by an authorized officer of the organization.

In order for the member Corporation, etc., to participate in business matters, this form must be received by the Secretary of Clearwater-Polk on or before the date of the Members’ Meeting(s). This form may be mailed to Clearwater-Polk or presented at registration at the Members’ Meeting(s).

— THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY —

Designation of Voting Representative

_____ hereby authorizes

PRINT Name of Organization

PRINT Name of Designated Voting Representative

to represent the organization in any and all business, including voting, that may be conducted at
Members’ Meeting(s) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative held in 2020.

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer

Date



Bruce Bjerke

Are You Prepared?

Being prepared for a power outage is something we all need to think about.

In recent years, Mother Nature has been the culprit for major outages affecting our members. Thankfully, we escaped any major outages in 2019! Except for the early heavy wet snowfall in October of 2018, it has been severe summer storms that has caused the extended outages in recent years. A power outage in the summertime has its share of challenges; however, enduring a power outage in the winter can prove to be more critical for the unprepared!

On January 17th, about 9:20 in the morning our office phone lines began to light up with calls coming in because of power outages out of our Dudley substation located between Leonard and Shevlin. I'm sure there was some frustration when many of you were getting a busy signal when trying to call and report the outage. We only have three phone lines into the office and our employees were doing their best to answer as many as they could. Many of you were also using the option of email and text messaging to contact our office.

Within a few minutes after the outage was reported, our linemen were at the substation and discovered the substation transformer had failed. Minnkota owns the substations feeding our distribution lines, so they were called to see what the options would be. Minnkota has a portable substation that could have been brought in, but they also had a spare transformer in Grand Forks, which was the better option.

Our linemen used two of our skid steers to remove the snow and make room for all the equipment that was needed to change out the transformer. Shortly after, Minnkota's outpost linemen arrived at the substation. Our linemen helped them take wiring off the failed transformer and have it ready for removal. A large crane was brought in from Bemidji to move it. Everything was ready for the new

transformer to be installed as soon as it arrived.

There were blizzard conditions coming from Grand Forks and the roads were icy. It was 3:00 p.m. when the new transformer arrived at the substation. By 5:00 p.m. Minnkota employees had it installed and powered restored to many thankful members.

I would like to thank our office staff for handling all the phone calls and updating our members regarding the outage and when power was expected to come back on. They were also using our web site and Facebook to communicate with members. Thank you to our linemen for the great job they did clearing out the snow, getting the failed transformer removed and working closely with Minnkota employees to get the substation powered back up as soon as possible. Thank you to Minnkota and their employees for their great response and excellent work.

It's our hope that this outage didn't cause too many problems for our members. I was one of the members without power and did a lot of thinking in regard to the extended outage. I wasn't at home at the time, but my wife was. Thankfully, we had backup heat to keep the house comfortable. Her cell phone was running low on charge, and we had a backup charger, so I was able to keep in contact with her.

But what if it would have been an outage that would have lasted for a day or more? Would we have been prepared? The best option for any power outage is to have an automatic generator that will start when the power goes out and shut down when the power is restored. This option can be expensive and not affordable for everyone.

Clearwater-Polk's job along with Minnkota is keeping the power flowing 24/7 and maintaining a complex network of power

plants, transformers, poles, wires and everything else to deliver you safe and reliable power. Numbers collected from electric (Sam Seyller) utilities show that power in the United States is incredibly reliable. According to these figures, the percentage of time that the average American has electricity at the flip of a switch is 99.97 % of the time. Clearwater-Polk members had electricity 99.98% of the time in 2019. However, we need to be ready for the unpredictable.

Are you prepared for a power outage? During the winter, what type of heating system do you have? Can you stay comfortable or keep your home from freezing during cold temperatures? Would you have enough water, food and a way to cook the food? Do you have a way to communicate and receive weather updates by radio? For more great tips to help you be prepared for power outages, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>. Or give our office a call. We're here to serve you.

There are also things to remember when the power comes back on. It's always a good idea to shut your breakers off in the home to protect your sensitive appliances and equipment. Just leave power on to a light that will show when the power comes back on. Then turn the rest of the circuits back on when you know the power is stable and not flickering. Another great idea is to check with your insurance company to make sure you have the coverage you need when things like this happen.

Help us celebrate 72 years of serving you. Please come and join us and your fellow members on April 15th for your Annual Meeting at the Timber's Event Center in Bagley. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.

Bruce



Lignite Energy Council's 35th Annual Lignite Education Seminar, June 8-11, 2020

Register by April 17, 2020

Registration is now open for the Lignite Energy Council's 35th Annual Lignite Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment. The four-day seminar gives elementary, middle and high school teachers in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana and Iowa a first-hand look at North Dakota's fifth largest industry – lignite mining and related energy production. The seminar will be held June 8 – 11, 2020, at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck, N.D.

This year's seminar will have a greater focus on the future of the industry, such electric vehicles and new markets to add value to the state's vast lignite reserves.

Lignite Energy Council pays for two professional development graduate credits if

the teachers attend and complete a lesson plan.

Teachers who attend and complete a lesson plan can choose from one of three North Dakota institutions from which to receive their graduate credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

The seminar provides instruction on history, geology, land reclamation, environmental protection, and economics of the lignite industry, the need for more workers, energy conservation, and transmission. Besides the classroom instruction and the tours, teachers will take-home handouts, videos, coal samples and activities that can be used in the classroom.

The online application for all teachers is available at <http://www.lignite.com/teachers>.

GREENTOUCH AT ITASCA STATE PARK SET FOR SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

Clearwater-Polk Electric is looking for volunteers for GreenTouch, our annual Itasca State Park clean-up day, set for Saturday, May 2nd. If you, or if you know someone or group organization, would like to volunteer to help, please call Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or email Tara at twebb@clearwater-polk.com

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



**Power Plant Tour 2020
June 17th & 18th**



Power Plant Tour Registration Form

Names of Participants _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Account Number _____

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

MAIL TO: Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, PO Box 0, Bagley, MN 56621

- YOU WILL BE MAILED A LETTER OF CONFIRMATION WITH MORE TOUR INFORMATION. -

Make plans today to travel with your friends and neighbors through scenic North Dakota for the two-day power plant tour offered by Clearwater-Polk Electric. The tour is scheduled for June 17th and 18th, 2020.

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks. From there, a tour of the Garrison Dam Hydro Plant in Riverdale. The evening will be spent at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Bismarck, which will include a banquet sponsored by Minnkota Power.

The second day includes a tour of the Milton R. Young generation station near Center, ND.

Weather permitting, a tour through the BNI coal mine operation is scheduled, also. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate is \$80 per person for double occupancy and \$100 for single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Clearwater-Polk Electric members and/or spouses. Accommodations are limited, so reserve your spot now by returning the form to the left.

Any questions please call Clearwater-Polk at **218-694-6241** or **888-694-3833**