

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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

Clearwater-Polk Holds 75th Annual Meeting

The 75th Annual Membership meeting held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, was a great success. Approximately 178 co-op and community members attended. Thank you to those who made time in their busy schedule and ventured out in the bad weather to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric's 75th Annual Meeting.

Special recognition to those who had a key role in the evening's activities. The meeting wouldn't have been a success without you. They include:

American Legion Post #256 who presented the flags.

Stacy Peterson of Bagley and Hudson Hood of Solway who graced us with their beautiful voices by singing the National Anthem.

Pastor Larry Dorman started the meeting by giving the invocation and prayer.

Attorney Gared Paul who led us through the voting process. He explained the nomination process, the voting procedure and announced the Director positions that were up



Lakai Rivera & Grandpa Daryll Lee.

for election. Attorney Paul indicated that Kim Solberg for the 3-year term District 1 position and Greg Spaulding for the 3-year term District 3 position were running uncontested. A motion and a second was received from the floor to elect Kim Solberg for District 1 and Greg Spaulding for District 3.

Annual Meeting...continued on page 3



Clearbrook Legion Post #256.

PLUG INTO SAFETY



May is Electrical Safety Month

*Make electrical
safety a priority
this month, and
every month!*

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

MAY & JUNE 2022

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



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 Thursday, May 26, 2022. Application blanks can be found on our website 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.

MAY
NATIONAL
MILITARY
APPRECIATION
MONTH

**WE HONOR
YOUR SERVICE**

Holiday Closings

05/30/2022

for Memorial Day

07/04/2022

for Independence Day



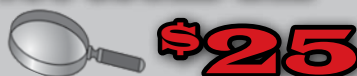
**SIGN UP FOR
AUTO-PAY AND YOU
WILL BE ELIGIBLE
TO WIN**

\$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
ELIZABETH HARGREAVES
TERRY WAGGONER
ALAN M. BERGERSON
MINERVA TOWNSHIP HALL

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.

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

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

THE ANNUAL MEETING...CONTINUED

Directly following the annual meeting, a reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted. The seat in District 2 that was up for election was open and received no petitions. During the reorganization meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Robert Johnson this next year. This seat will be open for nominations by petition next year to complete the last two years of the three-year term. Other business included election of officers for 2022. They include: Greg Spaulding as President, Greg Renner as Vice President, Kim Solberg as Secretary and Harlan Highberg as Treasurer.

Angie Schneider the office & finance manager presented the membership with the 2021 financial report.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op General Manager, Deanna Lefebvre, gave a brief review of the Co-op for 2021 and included a special video presentation on the history of Clearwater-Polk Electric.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op Board President, Greg Spaulding, gave a brief board review for 2021.

Special Guests John & Barbra Brooks and family, Elnora Paulson and family and Gretta Whealy (unable to attend) who were kind enough to be part of our history video. Also receiving special recognition was 6-year-old Lakai Rivera as Clearwater-Polk Electric's honorary lineman.

K & K's Café prepared and served a delicious meatball dinner.

And finally, special recognition and thank you goes to all the Board Members and Employees of Clearwater-Polk. They play a key role in not only the success of the annual meeting, but also the success of the Co-op all year long.



Karla and Cheryl Netland making lefse.



Retiring the colors.



Clearwater-Polk members enjoying a meal.



History display at the Clearwater-Polk Annual Meeting.

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

M&M PIZZA BAR

Ingredients:

1 c. brown sugar	2 c. oatmeal
1/4 c. butter	30 caramels
1 egg	2 T. water
1 tsp. vanilla	1 c. chocolate chips
1-1/4 c. flour	1 c. chopped nuts (opt.)
1/2 tsp. salt	1 c. M&M's (baking)
1/2 tsp. baking soda	2 or 3 sq. almond bark

Preparation: Cream together brown sugar, butter, egg, and vanilla. Add flour, salt, baking soda and oatmeal. Put in jellyroll pan. Bake crust at 350° for 12-15 minutes. Melt together caramels and water. (Merry Streng). Spread over crust as soon as crust is done. Then put on chocolate chips, nuts, and M & M's. Melt almond bark and drizzle over bars.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Elk display by Dennis Engebretson



Thank you to Dennis Engebretson for providing an elk display and scoring contest for members to enjoy at this year's annual membership meeting. Winners were as follows with the first place receiving a stick of elk summer sausage.

6-year-old sheds scored 379-3/4": 1st Rick Paulson 385" • 2nd Rod Paulson 393" • 3rd Todd Waggoner 395"

11-year-old sheds scored 442-3/4": 1st Rick Paulson 427" • 2nd Marilyn Lanners 480" • 3rd JJ Solberg 499"

12-year-old bull scored 589" (pictured): 1st Viola Myklejord 586" • 2nd Ordell Langseth 620" • 3rd Gayle Highberg 630"



Safety demonstration at the annual meeting.



Clearwater-Polk members watching a documentary video on the history of the Co-op.

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

We thought that after a year like 2020 and when the COVID pandemic would be over that things would be back to normal. It didn't take too long in 2021 to realize that we were going to be faced with new challenges due to the aftermath of COVID.

In the very beginning when services were first brought to Clearwater-Polk Electric members, getting materials was a challenge. In 2021 that piece of history repeated itself and it continues today to be one of the biggest challenges we are facing.

In January of 2021 an order was placed to purchase a new utility truck to replace our 2013 Dodge 5500 that is used primarily for maintenance. It is now April of 2022 and we are still waiting on it. After learning the wait time for new equipment, at the June board meeting I asked the board to approve the purchase of a new digger truck which had an estimated wait time of 12 to 18 months. In the past, if we had a piece of equipment in the budget, it would be ordered and received within that same calendar year. If we ordered wire or other inventoried material it would be received typically within a week or two. Today it might arrive by the end of the year, but there are no guarantees. Currently, our Operations Manager is working on placing an order for materials for the 2023 construction season.

Although we were faced with many challenges, we are very thankful that Clearwater-Polk's system was not hit with any major storms in 2021 and we ended the year with a reliability rate of 99.97%. Animals and trees continue to be the primary causes. One of our largest expenses in 2021 was maintaining the right-of-way. Last

month Clearwater-Polk's insurance provider, Federated Rural Electric Insurance, came for a safety inspection. One of the things they inspect is our right-of-way corridor. I am happy to report that he recognized Clearwater-Polk's time and money spent and said that it was some of the best right-of-way clearing he has seen.

We have consistently seen growth in our utility plant and 2021 proved to be an exceptionally busy year. There was a total of 62 new services built that included 29 for new homes and 14 for camp sites. The rest of the new services consisted of garages, shops, street lighting, cell tower sites, wells, irrigation pumps and bin sites. For one new service we converted 1 mile of single-phase overhead line to 3-phase underground to serve a new business.

We rebuilt 23 services to increase their capacity while retiring 16 services on idle accounts and converted 1 mile of single-phase overhead to 3-phase overhead.

In 2022 crews will be replacing 3 miles of 3-phase underground and converting 3 miles of single-phase overhead to 3-phase underground.

About every three years Clearwater-Polk employees, management and directors meet to define our strategy by setting goals for our future that will lead the co-op in the direction that strengthens our current practices and implements new initiatives.

One of the initiatives (Patrick Goodwin) that I would like to highlight is the Investment in community education. There are seven cooperative principles and this initiative touches on two of those principles, Education, Training & Information and Concern for Community.

In 2021 Clearwater-Polk Electric participated in the following community events: Farm Safety Day, Breakfast on the Farm, Bagley Crazy Days, Clearwater County Fair, Gonvick Pumpkin Days, and a Food Drive for Clearwater County Food Shelf. It is important to note that for many of these community events employees donated their own personal time and money to the success of these events. Most recently time has been donated to delivering meals on wheels to our cooperative members.

The seven cooperative principles define who we are, and they are the key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first. I am proud

that one of our strategic goals focused on community as it was because of the gathering of community members over 75 years ago that has brought us here today.

Today, Clearwater-Polk Electric has about 1,515 miles of line that serves over 4,500 electric services. It is governed by 7 cooperative members serving as directors and employs 15 full-time employees. A total utility plant of almost \$30 million, total equities over \$12 million, total liabilities of \$9.9 million and margins & equities as percent of assets at approximately 55%.

Clearwater-Polk will continue to move forward building on the strong foundation that began over 75 years ago.

When I first came to work for Clearwater-Polk in 2015 it took me about a second to realize that the cooperative was going to be going through some tough changes over the next 5-6 years. There are seven full time inside employees and five of them were going to be retiring. This past March the last of those five has now retired. Joel Rendahl dedicated 20 years serving Clearwater-Polk members first as the Member Services Representative, and then later as the Member Services Director. Joel's retirement led to the hiring of a new Master Electrician. This February we welcomed Matt Rendahl to our cooperative family. Although I was sad to see Joel leave, I am happy that we have come to the end of this turnover in the office and hope to now, finally, settle into our new normal.

This first year as General Manager has flown by and every once-in-a-while someone will ask me how it is going. It is without a doubt challenging but I couldn't do this job without the amazing group of employees that I get to work with every day and a great board of directors who are dedicated to the success of Clearwater-Polk Electric. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you. I am very blessed.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all those, past and present, who have contributed to the success of Clearwater-Polk Electric, your member-owned electric cooperative. Thank you.

If you would like a complete copy of the 2021 Annual Report, please call or stop by Clearwater-Polk's office, or visit our website at www.clearwater-polk.com.

As always, stay safe, happy & healthy!
Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

SAYING THANKS!

Celebrating our Electrical Workers

April 11th was National Electric Lineman's Appreciation Day and Clearwater-Polk was excited to celebrate

them. This year, however, we put our own spin on the day and included all our electrical workers.



Pictured left to right: Mike Girtz, Ian Willborg, Tim Mullan, Josh Hendricks, Travis Trefz, Travis Huot, Adam Sweno, Ben Eastley, Todd Waggoner and Matt Rendahl.

Linework is physically and mentally taxing. Work needs to get done no matter the weather conditions or the time day or night. Restoring power is no easy task, especially while looking out for your safety and your crew members. Linemen work long hours with minimal days off and it takes dedication and hard work. We talk about essential workers often these days and we can't overlook the workers who keep us connected and respond when no one else wants to.

Clearwater-Polk linemen and electrical workers deserve our thanks and recognition for the hard work they do every day. Thank You!

Congratulations to the draw prize winners at our 75th Annual Membership Meeting

Winners include the following:

\$100 energy certificate-Glenn Olson. **Wesco Distributing: Shop Vac**-Margaret Larson; **\$25 The Vault gift card**-Steve Norman. **Stuart Irby: Card & Dice game in wallet**-Jackie Engebretson. **Border States Supply: Sweatshirt**-Brady Godtland; **\$25 energy certificate/Border States stocking hat**-Betty Surdez; **\$25 Subway gift card**-Julie Paulson. **Dakota Supply Group: Portable Battery Pack**-Rick Paulson; **\$25 Merschman's Ace Hardware gift card**-Gayle Highberg; **\$25 Orton's gift card**-Larry Djernes. **Border States Supply: \$50 Scheel's gift card/hat**-Bruce Sly; **\$25 Kubiak's Foods gift card**-Beth Erickson; **\$25 Harwood Oil gift card**-Rosemary Smith-Gardner. **Stuart Irby: Rtic Tumbler**-Iris Christianson. **Resco: Tool Box**-Darryl Tveitbakk; **\$25 Cenex gift card**-Julie Norman; **\$50 Fireside gift card**-Theresa Nattrass. **Border States Supply: Sweatshirt**-Brad Borene; **\$25 Galen's Super Market gift card**-Roxanne Engebretson; **\$25 Galli Furniture gift card**-Shirley Solheim. **Dakota Supply Group: Portable Battery Pack**-Ordean Swanson; **\$25 energy certificate/Border States stocking hat**-Rodney Paulson. **Stuart Irby: Rtic Tumbler**-Dan Olson; **\$25 energy credit/BS stocking hat**-Jim Michel. **Border States Supply: \$50 Scheel's gift card/hat**-Renae Marsh; **\$100 energy certificate**-Debbie Bjerke.

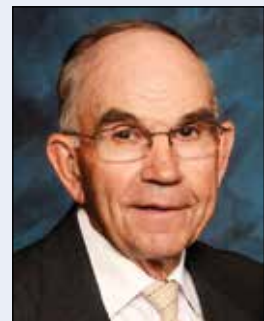


Drawing winners announced at Clearwater-Polk Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to our Re-elected & Appointed Board Members



Re-Elected to District 1, Kim Solberg



Appointed for 2022 to District 2, Robert Johnson



Re-Elected to District 3, Greg Spaulding