

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



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

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 May 29, 2020. 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; and
- 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. All applications will be kept on hand for one year.



Community Appreciation

In spite of the changes and uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative would like to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to all those unsung heroes working the front lines and to those diligently doing their part by staying home to keep our families and community safe.

From Our Families To Yours, We Thank You!

...**JUNE 2020**...
POWER PLANT TOUR
IS STILL A GO!
WITH LIMITED SEATS LEFT,
SIGN UP NOW! °

*SEE PAGE 4

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

MAY & JUNE 2020

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



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.

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Leroy Riewer, <i>President</i> | Bagley |
| Greg Spaulding, <i>Vice President</i> | Bagley |
| Robert Johnson, <i>Secretary</i> | Bagley |
| Greg Renner, <i>Treasurer</i> | Shevlin |
| Gary Mathis | Gonvick |
| Kim Solberg | Gonvick |
| Bill Lanners..... | Shevlin |
| Bruce Bjerke..... <i>General Manager</i> | |

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

MILO DURKIN, MATTHEW JOHNSON, DALE HAMNES & DAVID LEWIS

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Office Will Be Closed For The Following Holidays

May 25, 2020 in honor of Memorial Day
July 3, 2020 in honor of Independence Day

INFORMATION UPDATE REQUEST

Excellent communication with co-op members is a top priority to Clearwater-Polk Electric. Whether it's communicating planned outages or work being done in your area, changes made to your account, questions regarding your service, etc., it is important that the co-op has your most current, up-to-date contact information. If you have had any recent changes to your contact information, or if you are not certain what Clearwater-Polk Electric has on file for you information, please call our office at 218-694-6241. You can also complete and return the form below. Thank you in advance for your information updates.

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be (John Godtland) received by the 10th of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

For Sale: 9 ft. Artificial Christmas tree, with lights, \$50, 4-1/2" metal cutting band saw, \$100; 2000W Inverter generator, \$250; GE minifridge, 4.4 cu. ft., \$130; complete arc welding station \$350 218-657-2853

PLEASE UPDATE MY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME _____ ACCOUNT #: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

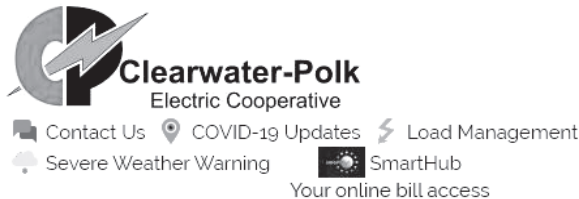
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PRIMARY PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS WHILE THE CLEARWATER-POLK LOBBY IS CLOSED

Our members and employee health are as much a priority as it is to continually provide you with reliable electric service. As many of you already know, Clearwater-Polk has been unable to accept in-person payments while our office is closed; however, there are many convenient payment options available to you. So convenient, you may even choose to use these options long term!

1. **WEBSITE:** Visit and get to know your cooperative website at www.clearwater-polk.com. Create a SmartHub® account to access your bill online. Have your electric bill and email address handy.
 - From your home computer: Located on Clearwater-Polk's website homepage, click the purple SmartHub® link.



- From your mobile device: Download our SmartHub® Mobile App from the App store.
 - Once you have created your SmartHub® account, you can access it by computer or by your mobile device.
2. **PAY BY PHONE:** To pay by debit/credit card, call "Paymentus" toll-free **1-877-506-3120**.



For this option (2), you need to know:

- Your account number-it **MUST** have 8 digits. If your account number is **NOT** 8 digits, simply add as many zeros as needed to the end of your standard account number to create an 8-digit account number.
- This service only accepts a \$300.00 maximum payment, but it will ask you before hanging up if you would like to make another payment. You do not need to re-enter your card information when making an additional payment.
- You can find the Paymentus "PAY BY PHONE" contact number in the lower left corner of your billing statement or by visiting Clearwater-Polk's website.

3. **DROP BOX:** Use our secured drive up drop box located at the south end of Clearwater-Polk's parking lot.



- PLEASE ENSURE PAYMENT IS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH ACCOUNT NUMBER PROVIDED
- ENVELOPES AVAILABLE AT OUR LOBBY FRONT DOOR

4. **AUTOPAY:** Sign up for Autopay by downloading and completing the Auto-pay form available on Clearwater-Polk's website. Or, have the form mailed to you by calling Clearwater-Polk's office at 218-694-6241. We do not set up Autopay by phone.
5. **PAY BY MAIL:** Please include bill stub with your payment. If you do not have your bill stub, please submit a note with the account number, the name listed on the account and a contact phone number in case office staff has any questions.

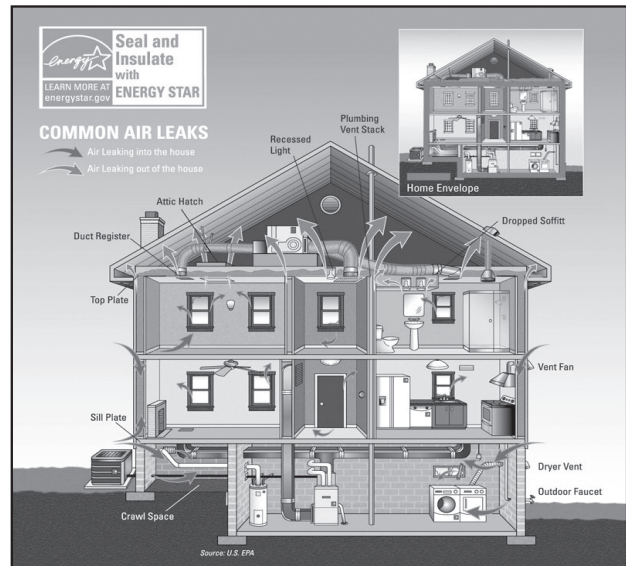
If you are experiencing a hardship due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and are having difficulty paying your electric bill, please call our office and we will be happy to work with you to help avoid any service interruptions.

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

GENERAL SAFETY ELECTRIC GUIDELINES

- Avoid downed power lines.
- Call 911 immediately if you see a downed power line.
- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet.
- Never touch someone who has come into contact with a powerline.
- Call the utility company before digging.
- Keep all equipment away from power lines.
- Familiarize yourself with local and state laws.
- Refrain from attaching anything to energized powerlines or electrical equipment.
- Never climb power poles or other electrical equipment.
- Don't attempt to remove objects tangled in power lines.
- Avoid working in stormy, icy or rainy weather.

Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR



Sealing air leaks around your home and adding insulation can help your home be more comfortable and energy efficient and provide up to a 10% savings on your annual energy bills. Simple fixes include installing weather stripping on doors and caulking around windows, while bigger jobs might include sealing leaks and adding insulation in your attic. Prioritize your air sealing and insulation projects and decide if you can do it yourself or find a qualified professionals who can help you do the job.



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 Darn 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. Accomodations 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



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. -



Bruce Bjerke

Our Mission Stays the Same

The past few weeks have taken us into unfamiliar territory. We have had to create new ways to work, shop, educate the kids, care for ourselves and our families and interact with others. Social distancing has become a couple of words that have seen a lot of use. Through all of this, our commitment to ensure a reliable supply of electricity has remained unchanged. Keeping the power flowing is job number one for everyone involved in maintaining our electric grid. That starts with Minnkota, our power supplier, who has taken extreme measures to ensure its workforce is healthy and its power plants are functioning as needed.

At Clearwater-Polk, we want to assure you the safety of our members, staff and community remains our highest priority. As an essential service, we are highly aware of the importance of keeping our staff healthy.

On March 19th, we temporarily closed our lobby to the public to minimize the risk of exposure to our employees. We are encouraging our members to use our drop box at the south end of our parking lot, online and phone payment options (Douglas Ulrich) or the U.S. Postal Service to pay electric bills. More payment details are included with this newsletter and listed on our web site. We have also installed an intercom system by the front door if you need to communicate with our receptionist. Please reach out to the cooperative if you are having financial difficulties regarding paying your electric bill. We are always willing to work with members who communicate their need with us.

With a small office staff and each having a separate office, most are still coming to work. We are practicing social distancing and have

increased cleaning practices. Our member service department is working from home, and most in-home visits with members are on hold.

As of March 20th, to improve social distancing, the line crews no longer ride together in one vehicle and have the advantage of working outdoors. Some of our linemen are taking their truck or pickup home to avoid mingling at the office and warehouse with other employees. During an outage, they will be responding with a line truck and pickup. The procedure to report an outage remains the same.

So far, it's working well. I would like to thank all our employees for adapting to these changes and keeping a positive attitude. Everyone is doing their part to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

At our March board meeting, the directors officially postponed our annual meeting. The meeting was scheduled for April 15th, but amid COVID-19 concerns and with regard for the safety and health of the members and employees, it will be rescheduled when it has been determined by the best available information that it is safe to have the meeting. The membership will be notified of the new meeting date in accordance with our Bylaws. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

April has a couple important dates I typically acknowledge at our annual meeting. With the annual meeting postponed I would like to give recognition now. April 13th was Lineman Appreciation Day! Thank you to our linemen who are the first responders of the electric cooperative family. There would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men who comprise our group of linemen.

April 22nd was Administrative Assistant Day. Thank you to our administrative assistants, receptionist, and other administrative support professionals. Administrative workers certainly do deserve recognition and appreciation. They serve a key role in keeping organizations functioning efficiently and are the right hands of other busy employees who wouldn't be able to perform their jobs without them.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Clearwater-Polk running smoothly. Electricity is very important to help maintain some sense of normalcy during this unique and unprecedented time.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Clearwater-Polk, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards. Electricity

plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cell phones and lighting; to running heating or air conditioning systems and appliances. When we flip a switch, we expect those systems or devices to do the job. Clearwater-Polk is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to all our members and we hope you'll take the time to check both inside and outside your home for possible risks. Farming can also be a dangerous profession. Every year farmers are eager to begin planting, we ask them to please stay safe and always keep an eye out for powerlines.

Another very important day is May 10th, Mother's Day. A day to honor, celebrate and thank Moms for the critical role they play in our lives. In our childhood, she stood ahead of us to set an example. As we grew up and become teenagers, she was always behind us to lend support whenever we needed it. Once we became an adult, she started to walk beside us so we could be friends forever. A mother is always there for her child. Thank you to all the Moms!

May is also Military Appreciation Month. While enjoying various Memorial Day festivities on May 25th, I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

As I am writing this article today, I received a text and picture from our son, I'm Papa again! We have been blessed with three wonderful grandsons, and today we welcome a precious granddaughter. The hard part is not being able to see her until they leave the hospital because of visitor restrictions. I sure enjoy the title of Papa!

Our focus is to do our part to keep your life as normal as possible throughout this challenging time. We encourage you to support local businesses and families during COVID-19 restrictions. When our local economy and businesses are strong, we are all strong. The cooperative way has brought us this far and it will help us through this crisis as well. By working together, we can keep our community safe and healthy.

As always, I welcome any questions or concerns.

Bruce

ENERGY ASSISTANCE UPDATES

COVID-19 RELIEF THROUGH ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE MINNESOTA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HAS RELEASED **REVISED** INCOME GUIDELINES & PROGRAM EXTENSION EFFECTIVE APRIL 1ST, 2020

| Application Signature month: | Provided month of income proof: | Number of household members: | GROSS income = (I) month: | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| April 2020 | March 2020 | 1 | \$2,253 | |
| May 2020 | April 2020 | 2 | \$2,947 | |
| June 2020 | May 2020 | 3 | \$3,641 | |
| APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY JULY 1ST 2020 | | | 4 | \$4,334 |
| | | | 5 | |



Additional income levels available. Contact your Energy Assistance Provider to apply!

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

Inter-County Community Council
207 Main St
Oklee, MN 56742
888-778-4008

Polk County Social Services
240 SW Cleveland Ave
McIntosh, MN 56556
218-435-1585

MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)
120 North Central
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229
218-732-7204

White Earth Energy Assistance
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
218-473-2711

Red Lake CAP Program
15533 Main Ave
Red Lake, MN 56671
(218)-679-1880

Bi-County Cap
6603 Bemidji Ave N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
800-332-7161

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC
RECENTLY HIRED Teresa Olson
AS THE NEW Cashier/Receptionist



Clearwater-Polk is proud to welcome Teresa Olson! Teresa has joined our team with a strong educational background and local community ties.

Teresa and her husband Dan have resided just north of Bagley for more than a decade. They have three children. Lucas who is stationed in West Point NY with the Army, their daughter Marissa, working for Cornerstone Senior Care and youngest son Gunnar in the 9th grade.

Teresa enjoys spending time with family and friends, shopping with friends and attending her youngest son's sporting events.

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



JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH

Salute to the Minnesota Dairy Farmer

Thank you for the year-round hard work and dedication to the Dairy industry!



CHEF'S CORNER

Summer Salad

Lynette Bakke (Gonvick, MN)

Ingredients:

- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 T. sugar
- 4 T. salad oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 T. white vinegar

- 1 cucumber, sliced
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1 onion, cut in rings
- 1/2 cup diced green pepper

Preparation: Combine first five ingredients. Add remaining ingredients.