


CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



Clearwater-Polk
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

73rd Clearwater-Polk Annual Membership Meeting Election Results and Board Of Director Changes

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW AND RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



OFFICER CHANGES INCLUDE

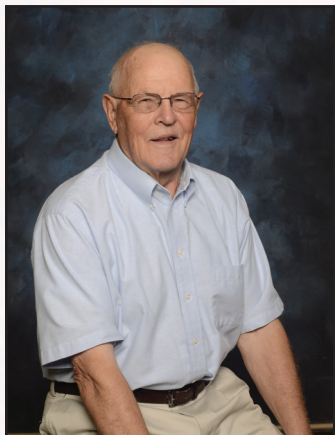
Greg Spaulding as President
Greg Renner as Vice President
Harlan Highberg as Treasurer
Kim Solberg as Secretary



NEWLY ELECTED

Dennis Engebreston as new District 1 Director
Harlan Highberg as new District 2 Director

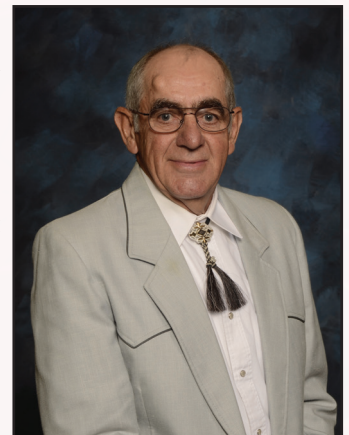
Riewer and Mathis Retire from Clearwater-Polk Electric's Board of Directors



Clearwater-Polk Electric would like to thank Leroy Riewer and Gary Mathis for their years of service and dedication to the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric.

Leroy... Thank you for the services you've provided since 1956 when you first came on board with Clearwater-Polk as a lineman, then moving up the ranks to the cooperatives General Manager. Although you retired in 2001, we were happy to have you back in 2005 on the board of directors representing District 2, as well as serving on the Minnkota board.

Gary... Thank you for 26 years of service on the board of directors, representing District 1. You brought much needed insight to the board with the additional background of serving on Square Buttes board since 1989 as well. Thank you again and best wishes to you both.



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

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

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



Military Cold Weather Rule

According to Minnesota law, a utility may not disconnect the service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station.

A military household can qualify for exemption:

- If the household income is below the state median household income or the customer is receiving energy assistance, AND the customer has entered into a satisfactory payment agreement with the cooperative and remains reasonably current with payments under that agreement.
- If the household income is above the state median household income AND the customer has entered into an agreement with the cooperative establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the agreement.

If you have any questions regarding payment policies and procedures please contact Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 or stop by our office located at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN.

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

**Minnesota's
 Cold Weather Rule
 Goes Into Effect October 15**

It's time to remind all Clearwater-Polk members about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, which is designed to keep families warm during winter, especially those who may have challenges paying their monthly bill. Per the Cold Weather Rule, CPE must not disconnect and must reconnect, the utility service of a residential customer during the period of October 15 to April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residence and all of the following conditions are met:

- The member enters into, and makes reasonably timely payments, under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- The member receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the member's energy bills.
- The household income of the member is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. The utility may verify income on forms it provides, or obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A member is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the member receives any form of public assistance that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

MEDIAN INCOME

| Household Size | Gross Income for the last 3 months |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$7,066 |
| 2 | \$9,240 |
| 3 | \$11,415 |
| 4 | \$13,589 |
| 5 | \$15,763 |
| 6 | \$17,937 |

Unpaid bills must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. CPE does not want to interrupt service of any member, but all members suffer when a bill remains unpaid.

If you cannot pay your electric bill, are having financial difficulties or do not meet state guidelines for cold weather protection, please contact Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 to set up an acceptable payment agreement in order to avoid having your electricity disconnected.

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
 ROLLAND EVERMOEN, JANELLE LANGSETH, CAROL LIEN & BRIAN CALDWELL

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

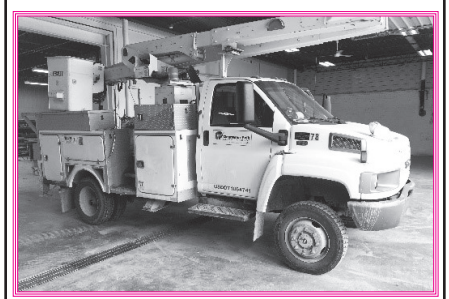
SWAP SHOP

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.

FYI Free - For Sale - Give Away - or Wanted Ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members

• • • • •

FOR SALE ON SEALED BID ONLY 2008 GMC Topkick, 6.6L Duramax Diesel 403 CID V8 4WD , Allison Automatic Transmission, 179,041 miles and 1995 hours, 40' Versa lift aerial bucket (OPERATING ISSUES-FAILED INSPECTION), Fiberglass utility body with 2 enclosed Aluminum top boxes, Remote operated spotlight, Rear tires approximately 70% tread, Unsuccessful inspection, Sealed bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 30th. Contact Todd Waggoner at Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative 218-694-6241 or 888-694-3833 Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. All items are sold "As is -where is. No warranty." Equal Opportunity Provider.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates condition and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Bruce Bjerke, the General Manager.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250; the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after all alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY.

Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer.

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

(1) a notice of proposed disconnection;

(2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;

(3) a list of local energy assistance providers;

(4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and

(5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility

service.

Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subd. 4. Application to service limiters.

For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

ALERT-ALERT

Payment changes effective 09-27-2020

Effective 9-26-2020 at midnight, Paymentus will no longer support Clearwater-Polk online member payments. Online payments can only be processed through Smart Hub. There is no charge to you, our member, for using this option.

Please take the time to visit our website at www.clearwater-polk.com to set up your Smart Hub account if you haven't already.

Clearwater-Polk will continue accepting payments by phone. These payments will no longer be processed by the third-party company, Paymentus. You may continue making payments by phone by calling the number on your bill and using your Clearwater-Polk electric account number ***AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR BILL***. Account numbers entered by phone will no longer require additional zeros.

For questions or concerns, please contact our office at 1-888-694-3833.



Visit: www.clearwater-polk.com to download your rebate forms or contact the office at 1-888-694-3833

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE REBATES

HEAT PUMPS – NEW INSTALL OR REPLACEMENT

- Air-Source Heat Pump
- Mini-Split Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump
- Supplemental Heating Source ASHP
 - Ground-Source Heat Pump: Open or Closed Loop
- Central Air Conditioning Tune-Up
 - Specific Heat Pump Tune-U

WATER HEATER SIZE – NEW OR REPLACEMENT

- Electric Water Heater
- Minimum 80 Gallon total Capacity
- Must be controlled on Load Management Program

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE REBATES

ELECTRIC HEAT – NEW INSTALL OR REPLACEMENT

- Forced-Air Furnace
- Baseboard Heater/Cove Heater
 - Hanging/Wall Unit Heater
 - Plenum Heater
- Radiant Underfloor Heat
 - Electric Boiler
- Brick Storage Room Unit
- Brick Storage Electric Furnace/Boiler
 - Slab Storage-Electric Cable
 - Air-Source Heat Pump
 - Mini-Split Heat Pump
 - Ground-Source Heat Pump

WATER HEATER SIZE – NEW OR REPLACEMENT

- 55 gallon or less
- 56-99 gallon
- 100 gallon or greater

Additional rebate for new building construction.

Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater.

Let Clearwater-Polk Electric Brighten Your Night For Your Home Or Business

Did you know we offer an outside dusk to dawn Security Light Program starting at as little as \$3.00 a month with no maintenance fees?

We will install a security light on existing Clearwater-Polk Electric poles at no extra (Lois Elgin) charge. Please contact our office today for your outside lighting needs!

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*

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.

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Office Will Be Closed Monday September 7th in observance of Labor Day



Bruce Bjerke

CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC HOLDS 73RD ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, August 12th, like an assembly line, Clearwater-Polk Electric members came in, registered, voted, received a meal to go and out the door they went. Although it was not the usual format, Clearwater-Polk Electric's 73rd Annual Membership Meeting finally took place after being postponed for the first time in history.

The annual meeting is the most important member event of an electric cooperative. Not only are members informed on the financial position of the co-op, it is when director elections take place. It is the time when co-op members vote on the people, they want representing them.

Some years incumbents run uncontested, but this year Clearwater-Polk Electric had two long-standing board members retire from the board, Gary Mathis from District 1 and Leroy Riewer from District 2, leaving two seats open. Again, a big thank you to Gary and Leroy for your service and leadership representing the members of your districts and dedication to the co-op!

Submitting petitions for nominations for District 1 was Dennis Engebretson of Clearbrook. Dennis ran uncontested and, by majority vote, was elected to the 3-year term for District 1.

For District 2, there were two petitions for nominations submitted. Harlan Highberg and Greg Leintz, both of Bagley, ran for the District 2 seat. With Harlan Highberg receiving the majority votes, Harlan was elected to the 3-year term serving for District 2. Congratulations to the newly elected board members.

A big Thank You to all the candidates, and to the members who took time to register and vote, for taking a valued interest in your electric cooperative. The investment of your time and dedication to Clearwater-Polk Electric is very much appreciated!

HAVE A SAFE AND BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

It can be an exciting and exhausting time, the culmination of a season of hard work. However, the rush to harvest can also yield tragic outcomes. Things people see every day can fade from view and in the busy-ness of harvest time, it's easy for farm workers to forget about the power lines overhead.

Review with all workers the farm activities that take place around power lines. Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance. Keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines – above, below and to the side – a 360-degree rule.

Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result. Use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck. Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines. Do not let the spotter touch the machinery while it is being moved anywhere near power lines.

As with any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination. Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path! Know where and how to shut off the power in an emergency. Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Operators of farm equipment or vehicles must also know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line: Stay on the equipment, warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not get off the equipment until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. If the power line is energized and you step outside, touching the vehicle and ground, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Some electrocutions have occurred after the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

It is very important that all farm workers

and seasonal employees are informed of electrical hazards and trained in proper procedures to avoid injury.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

There's an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Clearwater-Polk members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on September 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Clearwater-Polk board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Research candidates to learn about issues that are on the ballot and get out and vote!

As always, I welcome your questions and concerns.

Bruce



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Source: energy.gov



CHEF'S CORNER

Zucchini Casserole

Nancy Lee (Gully, MN)

Ingredients:

1 medium onion, sliced thin
1-2 Zucchini, sliced thin
1 tsp basil or tarragon or margoram
1-2 tomatoes, sliced thin
5-6 slices Swiss or Provolone cheese

Preparation: In a casserole dish, layer the vegetables and sprinkle the spice of your choice over the top. The top layer should be the cheese slices. Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes or until the veggies are tender.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH OPEN HOUSE CANCELLED

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Cooperative Month in a different way this year. Although we are unable to open our doors for the annual open house, we want to share our 7 principles, which are posted on our website at www.clearwater-polk.com and the benefits of your Co-op Connections Card.

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible;

benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and (Peter Anderson) employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

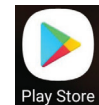
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Co-op Connections

A great benefit Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative encourages all members to take advantage of is using your "Co-op Connections" card. This card offers savings and discounts locally, online and when traveling. You can pick up your Co-op Connections card at our office or download the APP (Android) from The Play Store/Google Play or (Apple) the App Store.



TO THE DRAW PRIZE WINNERS AT OUR 73RD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Winners include the following: \$100 Energy Certificate – Janice Marsh; \$25.00 Energy Certificate-Joel Hood; \$25.00 Energy Certificate-Charlotte Stavig; \$25.00 Energy Certificate-Wesley Luggar; \$50 Fireside gift card-Linda Tikkala; \$25 Mark's Hardware gift certificate-Richard Netland; \$25 Hardwood Oil gift certificate-Karen Hopke; \$25 Cenex gift card-Hazel Trogstad; \$25 Subway gift card-Gary Bonik; \$25 Kubiak's gift card-James Espeseth; \$25 Galens gift card-Rolland Evermoen; \$30 L&M Fleet gift card donated by Dakota Supply Group-Fred Muhs; Duracell battery charger 4AMP donated by WESCO-Sidney Young; Chefman cordless glass electric kettle donated by WESCO-Ron Sovick

Thank you to everyone who attended Clearwater-Polk Electric's 73rd Annual Membership meeting and congratulations once again to all the draw prize winners.

If you're a local business wishing to be part of the Co-op Connections Program, you can join for no cost to you. Just contact Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative at 1-888-694-3833 or email twebb@clearwater-polk.com to sign up.

For more information on the Co-op Connections Program and benefits, visit connections.coop.