

CURRENT ACTIVITIES



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



Operation Round-Up awards OVER \$22,500

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust awarded over \$22,500 in the latest chapter of Operation Round-Up on Nov. 8, 2022. Twenty-three entities were recipients. Checks were given to recipients on Nov. 15, 2022.



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

Front L to R: Tamara Edevold, Annie Butler Ricks, Stella, Christine Musselman, Cooper, Laura Lindgren, Gladys Lueken. Middle row L to R: Lloyd Engen, Evon Quern, Kalie Gray, Ashley Nordlund, Sara Tramm, Kim Hanse, JaNelle Melbo, Jill Torgerson, Janet Brademan, Bonnie Friborg, Bethe Huschle, Laurie Pemberton (Clearwater-Polk Trust Board Member) Back row L to R: Darien Northup, Sharon Braaten, Lyn Schroeder, Andy Bennett, Casey Dahl, Andrew Floyd, Tim Hoyt, Melissa Larson.



Clearwater-Polk Electric employees and board members donated over 50 pounds of food and \$304 cash to Clearwater County Food Shelf to help get them through the holiday season.



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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

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



In Search of Caterer

Clearwater-Polk Electric is looking for recommendations to hire a caterer for our annual meeting on April 12, 2023. Please call 1-888-694-3833 or 218-694-6241 for details.



CHEF'S CORNER

Spicy Sweet Honey Chili

Ingredients:

2 lb. ground beef
1 c. chopped sweet onion (Vidalia)
1 chopped or pressed garlic clove
½ c. chopped green bell pepper
½ c. chopped red bell pepper
½ c. chopped yellow bell pepper
3 jalapeno peppers
2 cans chili beans
¼ c. brown sugar
1 can black beans
1 can white beans
2 cans diced tomatoes
3 tsp. chili powder
2 tsp. cumin
2 tsp. thyme
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ -1 c. honey, depending on sweetness

Preparation: Crumble beef in large pan and brown. Add onion, bell peppers and garlic. Cook until onion is translucent/brown and drain any excess liquid. Add remaining ingredients except honey and brown sugar. Stir and simmer on low for 25 min. Add brown sugar and stir again. Add honey and stir again. Can be served over rice or spaghetti or great with cheese and crackers or corn bread. Serves 6-8 with prep time of 1 hr. 20 min.

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

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



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.

Free: Old Wurlitzer Organ – Electric. Foot pedal and sound pedal. Two keyboards. 218-668-2400

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

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

NATHAN MERSETH
JOHN L. COOPER
DANIEL WACHTLER
RYAN PAULSON

MAP OF DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3



Clearwater-Polk
Electric Cooperative

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
(please check one)

☐ 3-year term director position for **District 1**

OR

☐ 3-year term director position for **District 2**

OR

☐ 2-year term director position for **District 2**

and to place such name on the ballot for the April 12, 2023 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 10, 2023. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 12, 2023, elections will be held for the following districts where Director's terms are expiring:

District 1

Dennis Engebretson (3-year term)

District 2

Harlan Highberg (3-year term)

District 2

Robert Johnson (2-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.

(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 (Taylor McCollum) 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.

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:

A SOLID ENERGY PLAN FOR A VOLATILE WINTER

Clearwater-Polk Electric members should prepare for increased demand response hours this season

If you're a member enrolled in your co-op's off-peak (or demand response) program, knowing the "why" behind the moments your dual fuel heating is temporarily switched is likely important to you – especially during the long, cold months of winter. Our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, makes the decision of when to shift off-peak members to their backup heat source for a variety of reasons, but it all comes down to affordability and reliability.

In a typical winter season, Minnkota tries to keep its demand response hours managed to 250 hours. This year, the goal is the same, but there will be unique obstacles to overcome in order to meet it. One of those challenges is a three-month planned maintenance outage on Unit 2 of the Young Station, one of the largest sources of power for Minnkota's members.

"The outage is at beginning of the season, September into December, which is generally a light demand response period for us. The outage has the potential to

increase our hours at the beginning of the season," said Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "That, combined with the volatile energy market that we're seeing, is going to play a part in how close we are able to manage to that 250-hour level."

When Minnkota needs additional energy to meet the needs of its members (perhaps when there's no wind for the turbines and demand is extremely high), it looks to purchase energy from a regional market. Over the past few months, that market has seen dramatic spikes in price – something Minnkota tries to avoid to protect its membership.

"The biggest things that are playing into the volatility are transmission constraints in our area, as well as the price of natural gas," Trebil explained. "Right now, the price of natural gas is actually the lowest it's been in the past few months. That was somewhat anticipated, but it's also anticipated that it will go back up come December or January."

It's important for members to prepare now for increased demand response this winter.

Individuals with off-peak dual fuel heating systems should check that they have adequate fuel for their backup source (propane, fuel oil, etc.). Off-peak members are sometimes caught by surprise when demand response kicks in for the first time, especially when it's early in the season.

Remember that your co-op's demand response program is a win-win-win for all involved. Enrolled members are thanked with a reduced electric rate (and no interruption in comfort), the co-op can navigate high-demand days while avoiding expensive market purchases, and the entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand.

"We're in an interconnected system," Trebil said. "When the grid gets into a potentially unstable situation, it's because of tight conditions between generation and demand. So we're able to respond in those situations with our demand response to not only help us and our members, but the grid as a whole. Lowering our demand helps balance the entire footprint."

Wrapping Up 2022!

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Year 2022 is almost in the books as I am writing this today, and Christmas is just a week away. I always say that this is my favorite and the most wonderful time of year. Employees here actually gave me a sign for my office that says that very thing – apparently, I say that a lot ☺.

This year has been challenging, yet again, primarily due to the rising costs and supply chain issues. This is common for everyone and challenges are a part of life, so for now, I am not going to go into that. We are coming into a new year and I am going to start this first article out on a positive note.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Members have seen Clearwater-Polk employees at the Clearwater County Fair, Ag Safety Day, and of course when they have stopped in the office to help celebrate Co-op Month, just to name a few. This year employees have become more active in donating time to assist with the food shelf, deliver meals on wheels, and participated in Bagley's big truck event. Concern for Community is one of the seven cooperative principles and Clearwater-Polk takes pride in being involved and helping to make a difference in the communities we serve. If there is a community event that you feel would be a great fit for Clearwater-Polk to participate in, please contact our office or stop in for a visit.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

As you know, this past April we celebrated Clearwater-Polk Electric's 75th annual meeting. If you recall, we had one of the worst travel conditions of the year with heavy sleet and treacherous roads. Amazingly though, we had one of our best turnouts for our annual meeting that we have seen in a few years. We had a variety of things on display along with a bake sale and a lefse fundraiser. There was great entertainment, good food, and lots of socializing. Along with the reports given during the business meeting, members viewed a documentary video on the history of Clearwater-Polk. If you haven't had a chance to see it, it was posted on Clearwater-Polk's Facebook page. The evening was a great success and a real joy to see everyone who attended.

Please mark your calendars to attend the 76th Annual Meeting that is set for Wednesday, April 12, 2023. With Robert Johnson's decision to retire from the board of directors, there will be an open seat up for election in District 2. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in serving your electric cooperative by becoming a director of the board, please see this issue of the Current Activities newsletter or stop by Clearwater-Polk Electric's office in Bagley for more information.

2022 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 October approximately \$204,000 in capital credits was returned to Clearwater-Polk Electric's member-owners for allocations received in 1988 (100%) and 1989 (25%). Over history, Clearwater-Polk Electric has returned over \$3,126,000 in capital credit refunds to its member-owners.

THANK YOU...

I want to say a special thank you to all the employee and board members for a wonderful year working side by side. Your cooperative is led by the finest people, from the board of directors to the employees. It is truly a blessing to work with such a great group and I couldn't be prouder. At the beginning of December, we all got together and celebrated the Christmas season and it was an absolute joy to have everyone come together in celebration of this special time of year. A BIG thank you to all of you for what you do for Clearwater-Polk Electric and all our members.

To all the employees, members of the board, and all Clearwater-Polk Electric's members, may all of you be blessed in the new year! And, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

Notice of 76th Annual Meeting

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 76th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars (Patti Peroni) and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. 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!

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 Thursday & Friday, 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: Andrew Damann Jr of Shevlin, Rolland Evermoen of Bagley, Carl Christofferson of Shevlin and Bradley Halverson 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!

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



Emma of Clearbrook – Winner in the 9-12 age group.



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