Clearwater-Polk Electric’s Annual Membership Meeting is Wednesday, April 11th at the Timber Event Center in Bagley. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. All co-op members and community members are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served following the 10:30 a.m. meeting. We hope to see you there.

ATTENTION CO-OP AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Are you a part of a youth or community organization looking to clock in some volunteer hours? Or perhaps you are just ready to get outdoors? As a participant and co-sponsor of Project GreenTouch, Clearwater-Polk Electric is seeking volunteers to help get Itasca State Park ready for the new season. Meet us at Itasca State Park on Saturday, May 5th, 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Lunch will be served at noon free to all the volunteers. All help is appreciated and everyone is welcome. Bring the family and make a day of it. For more information please contact Clearwater-Polk’s Member Services at 218-694-6241.
Don’t Waste. Insulate!

Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort. R-values measure a material’s resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value rating, the greater the effectiveness of the insulation. Below are recommended R-values for areas of the home that should be insulated.

*Recommendations on R-values are subject to regional climate conditions.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

TYPES OF INSULATION

- Batt
- Foam
- Blow-in

DUCTWORK

Whether it’s made of metal or plastic (PVC), insulated ductwork protects your investment in conditioned air year-round. Minimal R-values of 4.3 are recommended for blanket-style wraps secured with tape. Insulated ductwork rated at R-6 is also available.

EXTERIOR WALLS

There are multiple options for insulating exterior walls. Rock wool or fiberglass batts of R-13 to R-20 value are preferred behind drywall, but each inch of blown-in polyurethane foam insulation provides an R-value of 3.9.

BENEATH LIVING SPACE

Whether your home has a full basement, a crawl space or an attached garage, having an insulation value of R-19 under the living space floor will help increase comfort year-round.

SLAB FOUNDATION

Properly installed foam boards around the exterior edge of the slab of an existing home can reduce heating bills by 10 percent or more.

NRECA’s Straight Talk

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

for April 2018

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

CHEF’S CORNER

Chicken Cordon Bleu Lasagna

Kiley Netland (Bagley, MN)

2 eggs
1 container (15 oz) ricotta cheese
1 cup cottage cheese
½ cup grated parmesan cheese
¼ cup fresh parsley
2 cups diced ham
2 cups cooked, diced chicken
¼ tsp. garlic powder
1 jar (16 oz.) cream garlic Alfredo sauce
6 uncooked lasagna noodles
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
2 T. chopped parsley

In medium bowl, beat eggs, stir in ricotta, cottage cheese and parmesan and¼ cup parsley. Set aside. In another bowl, mix chicken, ham, garlic powder and Alfredo sauce.

In ungreased 13x9 glass baking dish, spread about ½ cup chicken mixture, then top with 3 uncooked noodles. Add another layer of meat mix and noodles and top with mozzarella and Swiss cheese. Repeat layers ending with mozzarella and Swiss. Cover lightly with foil and bake at 350° for 1 hour or until bubbly. (Betty Chevalier) Let stand covered for 15 minutes before serving. Sprinkle top with fresh parsley.

If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share with Clearwater-Polk Electric members, please send to:
CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC COOP P.O. BOX 0 BAGLEY, MN 56621

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.

MARCH WINNERS:
Wayde Christ • Jeff Solberg
Understanding the ENERGYGUIDE Label

The ENERGYGUIDE label is a great tool that helps consumers compare the energy use and costs of new appliances. Use the sample below to better understand how to use the information found on the label.

Lists key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost range below.

The cost range helps you compare the energy use of different models by showing you the range of operating costs for models with similar features.

An estimate of how much electricity the appliance uses in a year based on typical use. Multiply this by your local electricity rate on your utility bill to better judge what your actual operating cost might be.

If you see the ENERGY STAR logo, it means the product is better for the environment because it uses less electricity than standard models.

The make, model and size tell you exactly what product this label describes.

What you might pay to run the appliance for one year, based on its electricity use and the national average cost of energy. The cost appears on labels for all models and brands so you can compare energy use.

Sign up for BUDGET PAY

The Budget Payment Plan is offered as another option in paying your electric bill. This program is being implemented to make paying your electric bill easier and avoid the high winter months getting you behind! What this means is you will be able to avoid paying those high winter electric bills by paying one standard amount all year long.

The budget payment amount is calculated by taking your previous 24 months electric bills and factoring in changes in rates, or warm winters and divide by 24. This equals your average monthly electric bill. This amount will be rounded to the nearest five and used as your budget payment amount. Once a year in May, your budget payment amount will be trueup to what your bills would have been. In some cases you may have a credit coming or it may be a balance due. This program also works well with AUTO PAY (a bill payment process automatically deducted from your checking or savings). Contact our office to sign up, 218-694-6241.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
Leroy Riewer, President ................. Bagley
Vernon Hammes, Vice President ........ Gonvick
Robert Johnson, Secretary .............. Bagley
Harian Higberg, Treasurer .............. Bagley
Gary Mathis ................................... Gonvick
Greg Spaulding ............................. Bagley
Keith DeMaris .............................. Shevlin
Bruce Bjerke ................................. General Manager

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING
Held at the Clearwater-Polk Electric board room at 8:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.
Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative to implement Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge to Qualifying Facilities Interconnected after May 1st, 2018

At its March Board meeting, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative’s Board of Directors voted unanimously to begin charging a Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge to all qualifying facilities interconnected after May 1st, 2018. This additional charge will be implemented to return a level of fairness of how the electric distribution grid is paid for.

There is a fixed cost to deliver electric power to our members; the poles, the wires, the equipment and the people that get the power to you and keep it reliable and safe. This fixed cost is recovered in two ways, through our monthly customer charge ($57.00/month for single phase residential customers), and as a portion of your kilowatt hour (kWh) rate. Putting some of the fixed cost within the kWh rate was done on the assumption that the more energy a member used, the more demand they put on the grid and the more they should pay to maintain it. Distributed Generators demand as much (or more) from the grid than the rest of the membership. But, because they offset some of their energy usage, they no longer pay their fair share to maintain the grid. The intent of this additional charge is to return fairness to all of our membership to pay their fair share. This additional charge was made allowable by the state legislature in 2015.

How is the Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge calculated?

The DG grid access charge seeks to recoup that portion of the fixed costs of serving the distributed generator that are included in the kWh rate. The charge is calculated using a cost of service approach and is different for each electric cooperative based on the true cost of serving the member, the kWh rate, and the current fixed charge. Because the cost shift is different based on the size of the distributed generation facility, the fee is applied per kW of installed distributed generation nameplate capacity that exceeds 3.5 kW.

This additional charge will affect all distributed generation facilities (wind, solar, etc.) interconnecting after May 1st, 2018. However, the law does not affect those net-metered accounts that had connected their qualifying facility to the utility’s distribution system prior to May 1st, 2018.
Manager’s Message

HELP US CELEBRATE 71 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bruce Bjerke

A group of area farmers organized Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative 71 years ago, in hopes of bringing electricity to rural farms and homes. Thanks to the vision of those founding fathers, the countryside was electrified, changing the lives of our rural members.

As we look back, we are so grateful for all of our past directors and employees who worked so hard to get us to where we are today. Now, so many of us take electricity for granted every time we flip on a light switch, turn on an appliance, or charge up a cell phone! It’s only when it goes off that we realize what it’s really like to be without electricity.

Please come and join us and your fellow members on April 11th for our 71st Annual Meeting at the Timber’s Event Center in Bagley. Registration starts at 9:00. After registration, go through the health fair. Clearwater County Nursing Service will be available to check your blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol. Then, enjoy a cup of coffee and cookie while playing a few games of Bingo called by Harvey Miller. The meeting will be called to order at 10:30, invocation by Pastor Mark Nelson followed by Stacy Pittman singing the National Anthem. The election will be held and reports will be given.

Our guest speaker this year will be Robert “Mac” McLennan, President & CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative. Mac always does a great job informing our members of what the current issues are and what the electric industry may look like, locally and nationally, in the future.

At the conclusion of the meeting, you will be treated to a nice noon meal and door prizes will be drawn. We look forward to seeing you at Clearwater-Polk’s 71st Annual Meeting!

LIVES ON THE LINE

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our service territory. Eight lineworkers maintain our 1,503 miles of distribution line. Without them, our world would be dark.

The NRECA board of directors has designated the second Monday of every April as Lineworker Appreciation Day. This year, April 9th is the special day to honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. They repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time - day or night, weekday or weekend - if the lights go out, so do they.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS’ DAY

Administrative Professionals’ Day highlights the important role of administrative professionals. It is on the Wednesday of Administrative Professionals Week, which is on the last full week of April.

On April 25th we recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals. Administrative workers certainly do deserve recognition and appreciation. They often have tough jobs, they serve a key role in keeping organizations functioning efficiently and, in many cases, they function as the right hands of other busy employees who wouldn’t be able to perform their jobs without them. And support work is hard – anyone who has ever worked in an admin role can tell you it’s a lot harder than it looks from the outside. Good admins make it look easy – being calm and composed is part of doing the job well – but it can be stressful, challenging work.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Clearwater-Polk running smoothly. A big thank you to all of our employees for their hard work and dedication to the members we serve!

—Bruce Bjerke
More than 15,000 electric cooperative lineworkers serve on the front lines of our nation’s energy needs, maintaining 42 percent of electric distribution lines.

Lineworkers perform intricate work, often in dangerous conditions, to ensure we receive the safe, reliable power we depend on.

Investing in distributed generation (DG) is a big decision with a lot of questions about financing, return on investment, interconnecting with Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative’s facilities, and the expected life of the system.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative will be more than happy to answer any questions about these processes as you get involved. Check out our web site for examples of what this grid access charge may cost at www.clearwater-polk.com.

With questions, please call Clearwater-Polk Electric’s Member Services Department at (888) 694-3833 or 218-694-6241.