


CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



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

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 76th Annual Meeting is Wednesday, April 12th

Co-op members and their families, as well as community members are invited to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 12th at the Clearbrook Community Center, Clearbrook, MN with registration beginning at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting to convene at 6:00 p.m. This is not just a business meeting, it is a social event and all ages are welcome.

Highlights include: Report on 2022 cooperative business, election of directors, discussion on Economic Development, Ask a Lineman panel (from 5:30-6:00 p.m.), bake sale, great meatball and mashed potato supper, scavenger hunt, and various booths.

It is going to be a great evening and we hope to see you there!

Minnkota Power's Economic Development Administrator to lead a conversation on building up economic development in our communities.



Matthew Marshall

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE 76TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative will be held at the:

Clearbrook Community Center
located at 200 Elm St SW, Clearbrook, Minnesota
6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023

For the following purposes:

1. To pass upon reports of previous fiscal year;
2. To elect three directors of the Cooperative;

One director shall be elected in District 1 for a term of three years; one director shall be elected from District 2 for a term of three years; and one director from District 2 shall be elected for a term of two years. A member who is absent from a member's meeting may vote by mail on an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available by request. A properly executed absentee ballot must be received on or before April 12, 2023 to be counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting. The following candidates have been nominated via petition in accordance with the bylaws:

District 1
 (Three-year term)
Devin Aakre
Dennis Engebretson

District 2
 (Three-year term)
Harlan Highberg

District 3
 (Three-year term)
Cheryl Grover
Janell Strandberg

3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

Kimberly Solberg, Secretary
 Dated: February 24, 2023

76TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 12, 2023

Schedule of Events

Registration & meal.....4:30 p.m.
 Ask a Lineman Panel.....5:30 p.m.

Annual meeting convenes – 6:00 p.m.

- Call to Order6:00 p.m.
- Presentation of Flags and National Anthem
- Invocation
- Reading of the Notification of Mailing
- Call for Motion to Approval of the Minutes for April 6, 2022 meeting
- Introduction of Guests
- Introduction of Present Board
- Explanation of the Voting Process
- Introduce Candidates
- Call for Motion to accept Candidates
- Financial Report
- Manager's Report
- President's Report
- Call for Old, New Business or questions
- Adjournment
- Draw Prizes

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



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*

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.

For Sale: Folding wheeled walker w/o seat, brand new in the box, \$50. Call 218-694-4075.

For Sale: Daybed w/ gold frame & trundle w/ mattress. Like new, new sheet set, bedspread, and matching valences. 218-694-4075

Wanted: Telehandler. 218-533-6029

For Sale: Log cabin, sleeps 6-8. 218-533-6029

Free: Old Wurlitzer Organ – Electric. Foot pedal and sound pedal. Two keyboards. 218-694-6477.



CHEF'S CORNER

Leftover Easter Candy Crispy Treats

Ingredients:

- 4 Tbsp
- 1 – 10 oz bag mini marshmallows
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- Kosher salt
- 6 c crispy rice cereal
- 1 c chopped sugar-coated marshmallow chicks (about 8)
- 1 c candy coated mini chocolate eggs or other candy-coated chocolates
- 1/3 c chopped chocolate bunnies (about one 1.5 ounce hallow bunny)

Directions:

1. Line an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with a sheet of foil large enough to leave a 2-inch overhang on all sides. Grease the foil with 1 tbsp of butter.
2. Melt the remaining 4 tbsp butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the marshmallows, stirring occasionally until the melt completely, about 5 min. Remove from the heat and stir in the vanilla and a pinch of salt.
3. Working quickly, add the rice cereal and candy to the pot and stir with a rubber spatula until evenly coated. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and press into an even, compact layer. (Wet your hands to keep the mixture from sticking.) Let sit at room temperature until firm, about 30 min. Cut into 16 squares.
4. Store the treats at room temperature in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

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.

Cogeneration Notification to Members

In compliance with Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board. Interested members should contact Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 315 Main Ave N, Bagley, MN 56621 or call 218-694-6241.

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

**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

LARAYNE DAHLBERG
 SCOTT M. LUNDEEN
 GARY N. WILKINSON
 CLINT BRAATEN, JR.

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

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT #2

3-YEAR TERM

HARLAN HIGHBERG (INCUMBENT)

Harlan and his wife Gayle reside in Copley township northeast of Bagley on the farm where Harlan was born and raised.

Harlan is now retired to his farm full time after spending 32 as the County Executive Director of the Clearwater County USDA Farm Service Agency in Bagley.

He has enjoyed serving as a member of the Clearwater-Polk REA board of directors for eight years.

During that time, he has completed numerous courses in the Cooperative Credential Director training programs.

Harlan stated that he would appreciate another opportunity to serve as your director on your Clearwater-Polk REA board and continue to put that training to good use.



NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT #1

3-YEAR TERM

DENNIS ENGBRETSON (INCUMBENT)

Dennis, along with his wife Jacky live 4 miles northeast of Clearbrook on the family farm that was homesteaded in 1903 by his grandfather Ole and Ole's mother Anna. Dennis and Jacky have two children, their daughter Maria and son, Philip and his wife Laura, son Baruch and daughter Aliyah. Philip and Laura and their two children are the fifth & sixth generations living on the family farm.

Sheep, dairy, beef, chickens, horses, elk are some of the livestock that have been raised on the farm.

Birdsfoot Trefoil has been one of the crops raised for the last 50 years as well as mixed hay and some small grains.

Dennis graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1971, and then graduated from Bemidji Vo-Tech in Carpentry. He also took several years of Farm Management from the Vo-Tech school.



Dennis has served in 4-H leadership, enjoyed serving a number of years on the Clearbrook Elevator board, served on church trustee board, Clearwater-Polk Advocacy board and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op. He is also currently serving on the Sustainable Sheep & Fiber Community board.

Dennis has enjoyed many years of bow-hunting, watching the local youth play ball, visiting with family and friends, collecting maple syrup, and trying to catch trout in the pond.

NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT #2

2-YEAR TERM

JANELL STRANDBERG

Jenell Strandberg and her husband Mark reside on the Strandberg family farm by Little Pine Lake. Their son, Tyler, and daughter-in-law, Maddie, live in the farmhouse. Jenell & Mark are looking forward to the arrival of their first grandchild in April.

Jenell is a member of the Clearwater County Agricultural Society. She enjoys spending time with family & friends, as well as raising Corgis.

Jenell is the Director of Accounting Operations at Digi-Key Electronics. Headquartered in Thief River Falls, MN, Digi-Key Electronics is recognized as both the leader and continuous innovator in the high service distribution of electronic components and automation products worldwide.

NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT #1

3-YEAR TERM

DEVIN AAKRE

I'd like to introduce myself and give my background to those that don't know me yet. My name is Devin Aakre and I live on the Aakre family farm North of Clearbrook. The farm was homesteaded by my Great Grandfather in 1928. I have worked for First National Bank of Bagley for 7 years as a loan officer. When



I'm not working, I enjoy hunting, fishing, and farming with my father. In my spare time I feel it is important to give back to the local communities, I have served for the last 8 years as a member of the Gonvick Fire Department and for the last 6 as the treasurer. I have also been fortunate to serve as Chairmen of the Gonvick Diamond Jubilee, working to improve our communities and helping them to continue to thrive. I am interested in serving on the Clearwater Polk board as I feel its important to be a voice for our cooperative members, to look for ways to help keep our electric costs affordable, and at the same time keep the cooperative evolving in today's ever-changing world.

NOMINEE FOR DISTRICT #2

2-YEAR TERM

CHERYL GROVER

My name is Cheryl Grover; my husband is John (married 53 years); mother of three (Trent, Jamie & Trisha) Grandmother of 5 (we happily gained two additional Grandsons when Trisha married Collin Strain). We will be Great Grandparents to a Baby Girl Grover in February and a Baby Boy Grover in July! I was born in Bagley and have lived and owned property in Bagley most of our married life.

My husband and I both graduated from Bagley High School and our 3 children and 5 grandchildren will graduate from BHS – we are very proud of this fact.

My two main careers were Administrative Secretary at Bagley High School followed by 23 years in the Clearwater County Assessor's Office. After retiring from being the County Assessor, I started a Public Affairs job with a company whose main client for me was Enbridge Pipeline.

My involvement with helping to get the Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project permitted and constructed is what has really challenged me to step up and get more involved with Clearwater Polk Electric Cooperative. My work with permitting and the PUC has made me so aware of the role that fuel and energy will continue to play in our lives and how the role and construction of renewable energy will be evolving. I think my background with both County Government and the Energy Arena will make me a strong candidate to serve on the Clearwater Polk Electric Board – your support is greatly appreciated.



VOTING BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Voting Ballot – Election of Directors:

1. Mark the enclosed “Voting Ballot - Election of Directors” with an “X” in the space provided adjacent to the candidate’s name you have selected for each vacant seat.

There should be three (3) marks on your BALLOT, as there are three seats to be filled this year: District 1: one director, three-year term. District 2: one director, three-year term. District 2: one director, two-year term.

2. To ensure secret balloting, place your marked Election Ballot inside the envelope marked “Privacy Envelope” and seal the Privacy Envelope.

There should be NO MARKS on the PRIVACY ENVELOPE.

3. Place the sealed “Privacy Envelope” inside the “Return Identification Envelope.”

In order to ensure that your ballot is counted, PRINT your name, ENTER your account number, SIGN your name, and AFFIX proper postage to the RETURN IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE.

Pursuant to the Bylaws Clearwater- Polk Electric Cooperative, Art. I., Sec. 9(i), the following information is provided along with the enclosed Voting Ballot - Election of Directors:

- 1) *The names of the candidates, submitted via petition, for the director positions to be filled is enclosed;*
- 2) *Fifty (50) members present in person or represented by mail vote are necessary to meet a quorum;*
- 3) *The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each directorship will be elected;*
- 4) *The Mailed Ballots must be received before 9:00 a.m. on April 12, 2023 to be counted.*

Voting Ballot Checklist

Have you

- Marked your ballot clearly and legibly and only in the appropriate spaces?
- Enclosed the ballot in the privacy envelope and sealed the envelope?
- Enclosed the sealed privacy envelope inside the return identification envelope?
- Printed your name and account number and signed the return identification envelope?
- Enclosed in the return identification envelope a “Designation of Voting Representative” if you are voting on behalf of a corporation, school board, church, etc.

ATTENTION CORPORATE MEMBERS



If you are a member Corporation, Cooperative, School, Church, Township (or other non-natural person) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative and want to be represented at Members’ Meeting(s), please have the following form completed and signed by an authorized officer of the organization.

In order for the member Corporation, etc., to participate in business matters, this form must be received by the Secretary of Clearwater-Polk on or before the date of the Members’ Meeting(s). This form may be mailed to Clearwater-Polk or presented at registration at the Members’ Meeting(s).

— THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY —

Designation of Voting Representative

_____ hereby authorizes

PRINT Name of Organization

PRINT Name of Designated Voting Representative

to represent the organization in any and all business, including voting, that may be conducted at Members’ Meeting(s) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative held in 2023.

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer Date

Plans for the 76th Annual Membership Meeting

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Annual Meeting

Plans are being made for your cooperative's 76th annual membership meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 12th at the Community Center in Clearbrook with registration, entertainment and meal beginning at 4:30 p.m. and the meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

Last year, despite the horrific weather and road conditions, Clearwater-Polk members came out in great numbers to attend their cooperative's 75th annual meeting. It was a new location and a new format to the meeting which included a change in the time. It was the first time the meeting was held in the evening. When changes to an event like this are made, it is not always easy to determine if it was the changes that increased the turnout, or if it was just good timing. The main event of the evening is the business meeting, but it is also a social event. It gives Clearwater-Polk employees an opportunity to visit and get to know the members one on one. It is an event where all ages, young and old are welcome and encouraged to come.

Various booths will be on display for members to visit again this year including a safety demonstration, a member services booth and a bake sale. Something new includes a booth where members will be challenged to identify electric system components

that are used to provide them their electric power. Members will also have an opportunity to ask a panel of Clearwater-Polk linemen questions from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

As I have reported in previous articles, Concern for Community is one of the 7 Cooperative Principles, and as I have said before, it is my favorite. Concern for Community emphasizes humanity. I am extremely proud that the actions of being kind to others, helping to build up our community through positive actions and making a difference where we can have been so embraced by your electric cooperative employees and members.

This year at the annual meeting during our guest speaker portion, Matthew Marshall, Minnkota's Economic Development Administrator, is going to lead a conversation about Economic Development and how Clearwater-Polk Electric, co-op members and community members can work together to build up our communities and work to take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

I have always been an advocate for attendance at your Cooperative's annual meeting. The time change in this year's annual meeting directly relates to our attempt to try and accommodate as many people's schedules as possible. Cooperatives bring people together in a democratic and equal way, and there is strength in numbers. For the strength of your cooperative, I encourage you not to underestimate the importance of your attendance and I hope to see you there.

Financial Audit

Reporting to members on the Cooperative's financials and sharing financial statements to the membership is important for transparency. Clearwater-Polk staff is currently working with BradyMartz, an independent auditor, to provide their professional opinion on the financial health of the cooperative. Their audit of Clearwater-Polk

Electric's financials takes place the middle of February and the audited financials will be presented to your board of directors at the March board meeting and will be included in the annual report.

Spring Projects

With spring just around the corner, I encourage you to think ahead if any of those projects will require the assistance of Clearwater-Polk. Late spring, summer and fall are the busiest times with a full schedule for our crews. Although they are great accommodating the needs of our members, advanced notice is always appreciated.

Also, please keep safety in mind when working around or near power lines. Call 811 before you dig to have a locate done to check for any underground utilities, and always look up and be aware of where the power lines are at.

As always, stay safe, happy & healthy!

Deanna

Are you experiencing a power outage?

Do you know what to do if your power goes out? First, if you lose power, check your breakers to make sure they are not tripped. The best way to know if it is a Clearwater-Polk's outage is to look at your meter. If the meter is blank, there is no power going to your meter. That's when you need to call Clearwater-Polk to notify us of the outage.

To report your power outage, you can call Clearwater-Polk's office directly during office hours at 218-694-6241 or 888-694-3833 or our after-hours number at 877-881-7673.

If you do not report your outage, Clearwater-Polk may not (Mary J. Goldie) know that you are out of power. Too many people wait and think someone else will call it in. By reporting an outage it helps speed up the restoration of power by giving us a better idea of the area out of power. If you have any information about the outage, such as a tree on a wire or wire down, please make sure you inform the person taking your outage information because it is very helpful to us. It could also be a hazardous condition that we need to take care of immediately.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Kimberly Solberg, being duly elected Secretary of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that I have caused to be deposited in the United States mail, the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on March 3, 2023. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

Kimberly Solberg

MAIL IN BALLOT NOTIFICATION

If you are a Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Member, wish to vote in the election of Directors and cannot attend Clearwater-Polk's annual meeting on April 12, 2023, contact our office by phone, in person or by mail to receive a mail in ballot. Mailed ballots must be received by 9:00 a.m., April 12, 2023. All other absentee ballots turned into Clearwater-Polk Electric's office will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on April 12, 2023.



Clearwater-Polk
Electric Cooperative

VOTING BALLOT

April 12, 2023

Election of Directors

District # 1
(3-year term)

District # 2
(3-year term)

Vote for one	Yes
Devin Aakre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Engebretson (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for one	Yes
Harlan Highberg (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>

District # 2
(2-year term)

Vote for one	Yes
Cheryl Grover	<input type="checkbox"/>
Janell Strandberg	<input type="checkbox"/>



Meet Louie the Lightning Bug!

Louie will be the star of the scavenger hunt. Members will have an opportunity to participate during registration at the Co-op's annual meeting. Look for Louie and enter to win the scavenger hunt prize!

**Power Plant
Tour 2023**

**June 27th
& 28th**



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. -

Make plans today to travel through scenic North Dakota for the two-day power plant tour offered by Clearwater-Polk Electric. **The tour is scheduled for June 27th and June 28th, 2023.**

The first day of the trip will include a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperatives headquarters in Grand Forks, the replica of Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan and a visit at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. The evening will be spent at the Comfort Inn & Suites, which will include a banquet and presentation 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 as well. You are guaranteed to have a better understanding of the process involved with generating the electricity that serves you.

The cost to participate is \$100 per person for a double occupancy and \$175 for single occupancy. This includes transportation, meals and lodging. The tour is open to all Clearwater-Polk Electric members and/or spouses. Please reserve your spot now by returning the completed Power Plant Tour Registration form. Spots are limited. Any questions, please call Tara at Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-8205 or 1-888-694-3833 EXT: 1006

Come and join us!