

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



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

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, April 10th featuring local Elvis Impersonator, Emory Schmidt

"It's not just an annual meeting, it is a social event!"

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 77th annual meeting is set for Wednesday, April 10th at the Clearbrook Community Center in Clearbrook with registration and the meal beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting convening at 6:00 p.m.

While the ballots are being counted, members and guests will get to enjoy entertainment by local Elvis Impersonator, Emory Schmidt.

When asked to tell us a little bit about himself, this is what Emory had to say: "I was asked to say a few words about myself. First of all Jesus is Lord of my life. I have been into music as early as 3 years old. Music has been a big part of my life. I have been doing rock and spiritual for many years. I feel it down deep. I guess its great when an audience feels the same, that makes it all worth it."

"Emory, and his wife Linda, have been long time members of the Cooperative and we are excited to have him be part of our evening." said General Manager Deanna Lefebvre.

Other evening highlights include: Report on 2023 cooperative business, election of directors, bake



sale, meatball and mashed potato supper, find Louie the Lightning Bug scavenger hunt, and various booths for members and guests to visit. This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy an evening of great food, great entertainment and great socializing with your neighbors and fellow cooperative members. We look forward to having you with us!

This past year the Clearwater County Food Shelf has experienced a significant increased need from community members for food donations. Please join Clearwater-Polk Electric employees and board members to help stock the shelves. Bring in a donation and receive an entry for a special draw prize. Cash and food donations are greatly appreciated!

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE 77TH 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 10, 2024**

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 2 for a term of three years; one director shall be elected from District 3 for a term of three years; and one director from District 3 shall be elected for a term of one year. 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 10, 2024 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 2 - (Three-year term), **Greg Renner**
District 3 - (Three-year term), **Doug Lindgren**
District 3 - (One-year term), **Betty Surdez**

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

Kimberly Solberg, Secretary
Dated: February 28, 2024

Meet the candidates on page 3

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

MARCH - APRIL 2024

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



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

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.



CHEF'S CORNER

M & M Pizza Bar

Ingredients:

- 1 c. brown sugar
- ½ c. butter
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1-1/4 c. flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 2 c. oatmeal
- 30 caramels
- 2 T. water
- 1 c. chocolate chips
- 1 c. chopped nuts (opt.)
- 1 c. M & M's (baking)
- 2 or 3 sq. almond bark

Preparation: Cream together brown sugar, butter, egg and vanilla. Add flour, salt, baking soda and oatmeal. Put in jellyroll pan. Bake crust at 350 for 12 to 15 minutes. Melt together caramels and water. Spread over crust as soon as crust is done. Then put on chocolate chips, nuts and M & M's. Melt almond bark and drizzle over bars.



We will be closed
March 29 for
Good Friday

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*.....Shevlin
Cheryl Grover, *Vice President*Bagley
Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*.....Bagley
Kim Solberg, *Secretary*Gonvick
Bill LannersShevlin
Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
Betty SurdezBagley
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: 100 15qt. galvanized maple syrup buckets. Log bed, bunk bed. 218-533-6029.

We have a plethora of puppies. 1 week old. Put your order in now. 218-657-2391

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

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 (Ashley Shango) 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.

SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

\$25.00

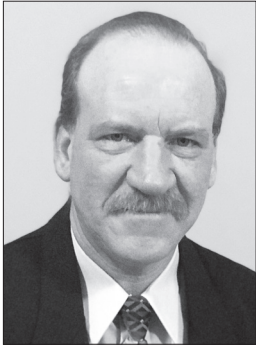
EACH MONTH WE DRAW TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS

- STARLA DROOGSMA
- MICHAEL HANSE
- CAROL NELSON
- MATTHEW WILDE

MEET THE CANDIDATES

GREG RENNER, incumbent
DISTRICT 2, 3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE



Greg & his wife Jeanne live in rural Shevlin. They have 1 son, Dylan (fiancé Cassandra), grandchildren John & Auna.

Greg grew up on a beef & hog farm in rural Shevlin where they reside on a

century plus farm.

Greg has been a part of the construction industry, retail sales, plumbing and HVAC installation and service for 43 years. He carries a Technology Systems Electrical License. He is also the Production & sales manager at Hill's Plumbing & Heating.

Greg's hobbies include fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, farming and spending time with his wife, son, his future daughter in law and grandchildren.

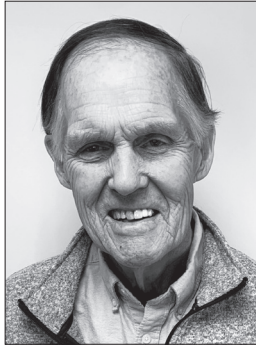
Greg has been a Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative District 2 board member for 6 years, and currently serves as the board president. On February 12th of this year Greg completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director Program which consists of 5 education courses. These course topics include Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning, and Financial Decision Making.

Greg's interest as a board member is to not only be a voice but a representative for our cooperative members and help protect our electrical costs for today and tomorrow while conserving & protecting our environment.

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 10, 2024, 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 10, 2024. All other absentee ballots turned into Clearwater-Polk Electric's office will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on April 10, 2024.

DOUG LINDGREN
DISTRICT 3, 3-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE



Doug Lindgren married to Colleen, 3 children Jeremiah, Justin, Rebekiah and son in-law John. I was born and raised in Bagley, graduated high school, and Bemidji State University with a degree

in elementary education. Served in the U.S. Navy as a RM2 with an honorable discharge.

I owned and operated Harwood Oil with my wife for 25 years. I served on the Copley township board for 15 years. Served in the Minnesota State Representative. Currently serve as Deacon at First Baptist church in Clearbrook, MN, Commander of Post 16 Bagley, Board of Directors Bagley Senior Center and the Board of Directors of the Farmers Independent.

BETTY SURDEZ, incumbent
DISTRICT 3, 1-YEAR TERM CANDIDATE



My name is Betty Surdez. I was born and raised in Clearwater County by my parents, Ralph and Doris Ellis.

I have been married to my husband Paul for 50 years. We have twin

daughters and five grandchildren. We live on a farm south of Shevlin where I am an avid gardener.

I worked many types of jobs in my younger days, but my career was as a Rural Letter Carrier for the USPS for 30 yrs. I delivered Rt. 3 Bagley for 28 years and retired in 2017.

I served on the Clearwater-Polk Advocacy Board for two years before being appointed to Clearwater-Polk Board of Directors in September 2023. On February 12th I completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Credentialed Cooperative Director courses and am now an accredited Cooperative Director. I am enjoying serving District 3 and would like to continue doing so. Thank you for your support.



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 4, 2024. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

Kimberly Solberg

VOTING BALLOT

April 10, 2024

Election of Directors

District # 2
(3-year term)

District # 3
(3-year term)

Vote for one Yes

Greg Renner, incumbent	<input type="checkbox"/>
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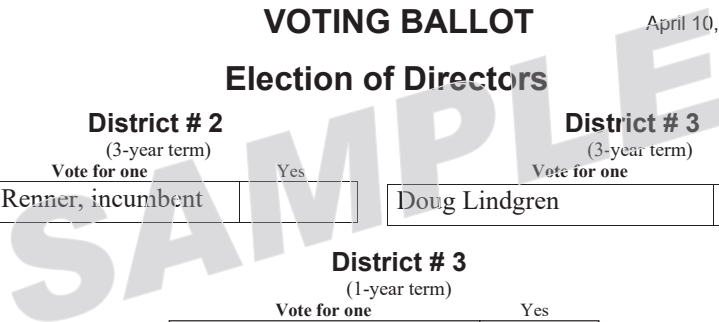
Vote for one Yes

Doug Lindgren	<input type="checkbox"/>
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District # 3
(1-year term)

Vote for one Yes

Betty Surdez, incumbent	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 2: one director, three-year term. District 3: one director, three-year term. District 3: one director, one-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 10, 2024 to be counted.*

Voting Ballot Checklist

Have you

- Marked your ballot clearly and legibly and only in the appropriate spaces?
- Enclosed the sealed privacy envelope inside 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.
- Enclosed the ballot in the privacy envelope and sealed the envelope?
- Printed your name and account number and signed the return identification envelope?

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 2024.

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer

Date

MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Annual Meeting

Plans are being made for your cooperative's 77th annual membership meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 10th 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.

At last year's annual meeting our featured topic was on economic development. It is an important topic and Minnkota's Matt Marshall did an excellent job. This year we are lightening up the night and featuring some great entertainment. As seen on the front page of this newsletter, this year we will be entertained by local Elvis Impersonator, Emory Schmidt. Emory and his wife Linda are long time members of the cooperative. I love it when we can incorporate the talents of our members into cooperative events. I am looking forward to watching Emory's performance.

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. Last year we introduced electric system components that are used to provide the electric

power to our members. It was a great addition and a challenge for members to see how many they could identify. This booth will be setup again and hope you stop by and take part in the challenge.

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. This past year the Clearwater County Food Shelf has experienced a significant increase in demand from community members in need of food donations. To help, Clearwater-Polk will be sponsoring a food drive during this year's annual meeting. We will be accepting donations, cash or non-perishable food, for the food shelf. Anyone who brings in a donation for the food shelf will receive a special entry into a separate drawing. Your support is very much appreciated!

I have always been an advocate for attendance at your Cooperative's annual meeting. 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 Coop-

erative'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

SmartHub Redesigned 2024!
SmartHub now offers a more user-friendly interface, simplifying your SmartHub experience.

The screenshot displays the SmartHub interface for a Clearwater-Polk Electric member. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'BILL & PAY', 'USAGE', 'CONTACT US', and 'SETTINGS'. A central 'CUSTOMER OVERVIEW' section shows a 'Last Payment Amount' of \$133.00, a 'Past Due Balance' of \$0.00, and a 'Current Bill Amount' of \$133.00 with a 'Pay' button. Below this, an 'USAGE OVERVIEW' section shows a bar chart of usage in kWh for Jan 2023 (505) and Jan 2024 (534), with a note that the current bill is 11.76% higher than last year's.

Clearwater-Polk Electric to participate in Project GreenTouch, Saturday, May 4th --Volunteers Needed!

Project GreenTouch is a collaboration of Minnesota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives who join together with their electric cooperative employees and members to volunteer in various parks throughout the state. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative volunteers locally at Itasca State Park, where we work together on projects like pruning and trimming trees, raking leaves and pine needles, picking up litter, removing bud caps, and installing tree cages.

In 2023, GreenTouch™ was expanded and enhanced to include a broader range of community and environment projects.

Program Objectives include:

- **Promote Environmental Stewardship:** Encourage our communities to take an active role in protecting and preserving the environment through hands-on involvement in various types of volunteer projects.

- **Enhance Community Engagement:** Facilitate opportunities for cooperative members, employees, and our communities to come together and work collaboratively towards a common goal.

- **Raise Awareness of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives:** Generate positive publicity and brand recognition for Minnesota's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives by highlighting their commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being.

- **Improve Public Spaces:** Enhance



the quality and appeal of state parks, city parks, and other community areas through beautification, restoration, and maintenance efforts.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy® cooperative serving parts of northwestern Minnesota. Our rural electric cooperative provides services to 4,400 member-owners including Itasca State Park. Please consider joining us on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Itasca

State Park. We will meet at the park's Forest Inn at 8:00 a.m. and serve a free lunch about noon. No park pass (Evan Stolen) is required for that day. Volunteers can RSVP by calling Clearwater-Polk at 218-694-6241 or toll-free 1-888-694-3833.



A statewide-cooperative, environmental and community - outreach program

Saying Thanks! Celebrating our Electrical Workers



Picture left to right: Mike Girtz, Ian Willborg, Adam Sweno, Josh Hendrickson, Travis Huot, Tim Mullan, Travis Trefzt, Todd Waggoner. Missing Matt Rendahl.

April 8th is National Electric Lineman's Appreciation Day and Clearwater-Polk is excited to celebrate them. We like to celebrate all of our electrical workers.

Linework is physically and mentally taxing. Work needs to get done no matter the weather conditions or the time day or night. Restoring power is no easy task, especially while looking out for your safety and your crew members. Linemen work long hours with minimal days off and it takes dedication and hard work. We talk about essential workers often these days and we can't overlook the workers who keep us connected and respond when no one else wants to.

Clearwater-Polk linemen and electrical workers deserve our thanks and recognition for the hard work they do every day. Thank You!