

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



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

Congratulations to Our Re-elected and Newly Elected Board Members



Re-elected to District 1 (3-yr term),
Dennis Engebretson



Re-elected to District 2 (3-yr term),
Harlan Highberg



Newly elected to District 2 (2-yr term),
Cheryl Grover

Clearwater-Polk Holds 76th Annual Meeting

The 76th Annual Membership meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, was a great success. Approximately 200 co-op and community members attended. Thank you to those who made time in their busy schedule to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric's 76th Annual Meeting.

Special recognition to those who had a key role in the evening's activities. The meeting wouldn't have been a success without you. They include:

American Legion Post #256 who presented the flags.

Stacy Peterson of Bagley who graced us with her beautiful voice by singing the National Anthem.

Pastor Adam Krog started the meeting by giving the invocation and prayer.

Attorney Samuel Schmitz who led

us through the voting process. He explained the nomination process, the voting procedure and announced the Director positions that were up for election. Attorney Schmitz indicated that Harlan Highberg for the 3-year term District 2 position was running uncontested.

A motion and a second was received from the floor to elect Harlan Highberg for the 3-year District 2 directorship.

Petitions for nominations were also successfully submitted by Dennis Engebretson (incumbent) and Devin Aakre for a 3-year term representing
Annual Meeting continued on page 3 ...



Members visiting during the 76th Annual Membership meeting.

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

MAY - JUNE 2023

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



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Spaulding, *President* Bagley
 Greg Renner, *Vice President*..... Shevlin
 Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary* Gonvick
 Cheryl Grover Bagley
 Bill Lanners Shevlin
 Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
 Deanna Lefebvre, *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.

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: 2 canoes. Log cabin, sleeps 10. 218-533-6029.

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



Holiday Closings

05/29/2023

for Memorial Day

07/04/2023

for Independence Day



May is National
 Electrical Safety Month

This month, we encourage
 all members to take extra
 time to plug into safety.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



CHEF'S CORNER

Ice Cream Sandwich Dessert

Joel Rendahl, Gully, MN

Ingredients:

- 1 (12 oz.) tub of Cool Whip
- 12 ice cream sandwiches
- 1 jar caramel ice cream topping
- Toffee Bits

Directions:

Place the ice cream sandwiches in bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Drizzle ½ jar of caramel on top of that and sprinkle ¼ of the toffee bits over the caramel. Spread Cool Whip next, drizzle the remaining caramel over that, and sprinkle with remaining toffee bits on top. Freeze.

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

KATI J. PALMER
 DALE CREPEAU
 JOHN W. LARSON
 RANDY C. SEVERSON

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



Thank you, Bob, for 37 years of service

After 37 years of service for the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric, Bob Johnson chose not to seek re-election to the cooperative's board of directors. "It is a commitment for individuals to serve on the board and for Bob to serve for 37 years is inspirational. He will be missed," said General Manager Deanna Lefebvre.

Thank you, Bob!



Members eating during the 76th Annual Membership meeting.

Annual Meeting continued from front...

District 1, and by Cheryl Grover and Janell Standberg for the 2-year term representing District 2. Dennis Engebretson received 64 votes and Devin Aakre received 47 votes. Dennis Engebretson was re-elected to the directorship for the 3-year term in District 1. Cheryl Grover received 68 votes and Janell Standberg received 43 votes. Cheryl Grover was elected to the directorship for the 2-year term in District 2.

Directly following the annual meeting, a reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted. Business included election of officers for 2023. They include: Greg Spaulding as President, Greg Renner as Vice President, Kim Solberg as Secretary and Harlan Highberg as Treasurer.

Angie Schneider the office & finance manager presented the membership with the 2022 financial report.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op General

Manager, Deanna Lefebvre, reported on 2022.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op Board President, Greg Spaulding, gave a brief board review for 2022.

Guest Speaker Matt Marshall, Minnkota Power's Economic Development Administrator, along with Chet Bodin with the State of MN and Lucas Wakefield with Headwaters Regional Development, presented on Economic Development and how Clearwater-Polk Electric and co-op members can help.

The Clearbrook-Gonvick school lunch staff prepared and served a delicious meatball dinner.

And finally, special recognition and thank you goes to all the Board Members and Employees of Clearwater-Polk. They play a key role in not only the success of the annual meeting, but also the success of the Co-op all year long.

Congratulations to the draw prize winners at our 76th Annual Membership Meeting

Winners include the following:

\$25 The Vault gift card-Eldin Okstad; **\$50 Fireside gift card**-Gary Thorson; **Dakota Supply Group: camping chair**-Oredell Langseth; **Thermometer/golf balls**-Leone Swanson; **ratchet straps/golf balls**-John Sandland. **\$100 energy certificate**-Alfred Christenson Jr. **Wesco Distributing: Popcorn popper**-Marilyn Melby; **griddle**-Michels. Stuart Irby: **Large Artic cooler**-Merry Strenge. **Border States Supply: \$25 Scheels gift card/insulated cup**-Rosemary Forsberg; **\$25 Scheels**

gift card/insulated cup; \$25 Scheels gift card/knife-John Grover; **pullover shirt**-Terry Waggoner; **\$25 Scheels gift card**-Clare Young; (Matt Davies) **\$25- Bonnie Engen. \$25 energy certificate**-Natalie Olson; **\$25 Subway gift card**-Debbie Pletschett; **\$25 North Country Hardware gift card**-Linda Tronnes; **\$25 Orton's gift card**-Margaret Larson; **\$25 Kubiak's gift card**-Thomas Millette. **Resco: \$50 Visa gift card**-Bud Skogen. **\$25 Cenex gift card**-Signe Wagner; **\$25 Galen's Supermarket-**

Ken Brein; \$25 Galli Furniture gift card-Jared Laney; **\$25 energy certificate**-Linda Cudmore; **\$25 energy certificate**-Mike Cudmore; **\$100 energy certificate**-Vernon Hamnes; **Yetti mug**-Darryl Tveitbakk; **Yetti mug**-Rick Forsberg. **Viking Electric: Infinity tumbler**-Jeanne Renner; **winter hat/carbon smoke detector**-Beth Erickson; **mini cooler w/ golf gear**-Julie Dukek; **mini cooler w/ golf gear**-Debbie Bjerke.

YOUR 2023 MEMBER ADVOCACY GROUP

The Member Advocacy Group was formed in 2013 as a way for Clearwater-Polk to better reach its membership, help members understand the coop business and understand what the membership wants and expects from the coop.

Comprised of volunteer representatives from each district, the group meets quarterly in the Clearwater-Polk board room. Selected topics are discussed and presented to the group during each meeting with the expectation the group members can relay that information to



From top Left to Right: Gordon Engebretson/District 1, James Kumpula/District 2, Betty Surdez/District 3, Brad Borene/District 1, Gerald Katzenmeyer/District 3. Bottom Left to Right: Ron Sovick/District 2, James Sundquist/District 1, Lynn Riggs/District 3, Sue Ekre/District 2.

other members. The group is kept up to date on current legislative actions that could affect the cooperative and the membership.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Funding and Donations

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust Fund committee is scheduled to meet in June for the grant-funding meeting. Request for funds will be accepted until Thursday, May 11, 2023. Application blanks can be found on our website www.clearwater-polk.com, or from one of the committee members, Cindy Benson, Lois Rydeen or Laurie Pemberton. You may also contact our office to have a form mailed to you.

Donations from the Trust will generally (Brennan Olson) be made to organizations which benefit the service area community of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative. Non-profit Organizations which have been granted IRS Code 501© (3) status and serve a large number of people will be given priority.

Donations from the Trust will generally not be made for:

- A. Lobbying, political and religious organizations
- B. Fraternal, and labor organizations
- C. Fund-raising dinners, raffles and other events
- D. Individuals
- E. National fund drives
- F. Advertising
- G. Economic development projects.

The following factors will be considered in the evaluation of all funding requests.

- A. Potential benefit to area residents and the entire community;
- B. Level of community support for the program or project or organization requesting the funds;
- C. Fiscal and administrative capability of the organization to deliver a quality service or program; and
- D. Results that are predictable can be evaluated.

All donations to organizations will be published in the Current Activities Newsletter.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

You have heard for years your electric service that Clearwater-Polk Electric provides you, summed up by three key priorities: Safety, Reliability, and Affordability.

SAFETY

When coming into contact with electricity, there are no second chances. Through safety trainings, simulations and having a proactive safety committee, Clearwater-Polk's efforts on safety are ever evolving. The goal is zero accidents so when work ends, all employees return home to their families. We will continue to grow, adapt and develop our safety efforts.

RELIABILITY

These past couple of years Clearwater-Polk's service territory has been very fortunate to not have endured any major storms. However, weather was the leading factor for the outages this past year. Although our number of outages were higher than 2021, Clearwater-Polk ended the year with a reliability rate of 99.93%. Right-of-Way maintenance continues to be one of the largest expenses.

In addition to right-of-way maintenance, Clearwater-Polk contracts with EXO, Inc. to conduct pole inspections each fall. The service territory is broken down into approximately 10 different sections with one of the sections being inspected each year putting the system on a 10-year rotation. Clearwater-Polk's failure rate has been historically low, at approximately 1.5%. In 2022 the section inspected was the first in the 10-year rotation to be repeated. I need to thank my predecessors

for putting this plan together because this year there were 1,948 poles inspected and only 6 rejected and marked for replacement. This dropped the failure rate from 1.5% to three-tenths of a percent.

Another significant part of reliability is planning for system improvements. Every four years your cooperative puts together a 4-year construction work plan. This includes replacing overhead and underground conductors, replacing transformers, pole replacements, building new services, etc. Through the development of this plan, these projects are carefully analyzed to make sure that we are making the best use of the dollars spent. This past year your board of directors approved the 4-year work plan for just under \$6 million, averaging over \$1.4 million per year. Maintaining and improving system reliability will continue to be a key priority of your electric cooperative.

AFFORDABILITY

Clearwater-Polk is not alone when it comes to feeling the pressure of what is happening in our world today. Price inflations, supply chain issues and government regulations have us all concerned about affordability. Your electric cooperative has absorbed significant increases in costs of doing business. In 2020 Clearwater-Polk went through a cost of service study which indicated that the cooperative's minimum fixed charge (facility charge) could be \$50, which is \$13 more than the current rate of \$37. The facility charge pays for a majority of Clearwater-Polk's local costs that include everything required to provide electric power to you other than the purchased power costs and demand costs. These include 1,500 miles of power lines, 25,000 poles, a fleet of 10 vehicles, plus all the associated hardware required to operate the Cooperative's distribution system. The challenge of affordability is real for everyone. Clearwater-Polk is not anticipating a rate adjustment for 2023, but we are keeping a close watch on the costs of doing business, analyzing what is happening today, while planning for tomorrow.

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

This annual meeting, we highlighted the seven cooperative principles. As I have said before, they define who we are and are the key reason that America's electric

cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of the members first. In the spirit of the seven cooperative principles, and specific to number 7, Concern for Community, this annual meeting's guest speaker's key topic focuses on economic development and how Clearwater-Polk can play a role to help promote growth in the communities we serve. Clearwater-Polk's concern for community is highlighted in many different activities that we participate in throughout the year. This year's message is to remind co-op members that Clearwater-Polk Electric is more than just a power provider, we are part of the communities we serve, and we are a resource to help our communities grow and prosper.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In spite of the challenges that we have faced this past year, Clearwater-Polk remains financially sound. Currently, Clearwater-Polk Electric has 1,522 miles of line that serves approximately 4,600 electric services. It is governed by 7 cooperative members serving as directors and employs 14 full-time employees. A total utility plant of over \$30 million, total equities over \$12 million, and year-end operating margins of over \$220,000. The directors and employees will continue to work hard to provide the cooperative's members the safe, reliable and affordable electricity that you deserve. Clearwater-Polk will continue to move forward building on the strong foundation that began over 76 years ago.

Thank you to all the board members, especially retiring board member Bob Johnson, and all the employees, including this year's newly retired employee, Ben Eastley for all the hard work and dedication you show to the cooperative, to the support you give me and for the exceptional service you provide to all the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric.

I would also like to thank the members who submitted their petitions for nomination to the board of directors. Congratulations to Dennis Engebretson (District 1) and Harlan Highberg (District 2) for their re-election to the board of directors, and congratulations and welcome to Cheryl Grover as the new director in District 2.

And, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna Lefebvre

SAYING THANKS! Celebrating our Electrical Workers

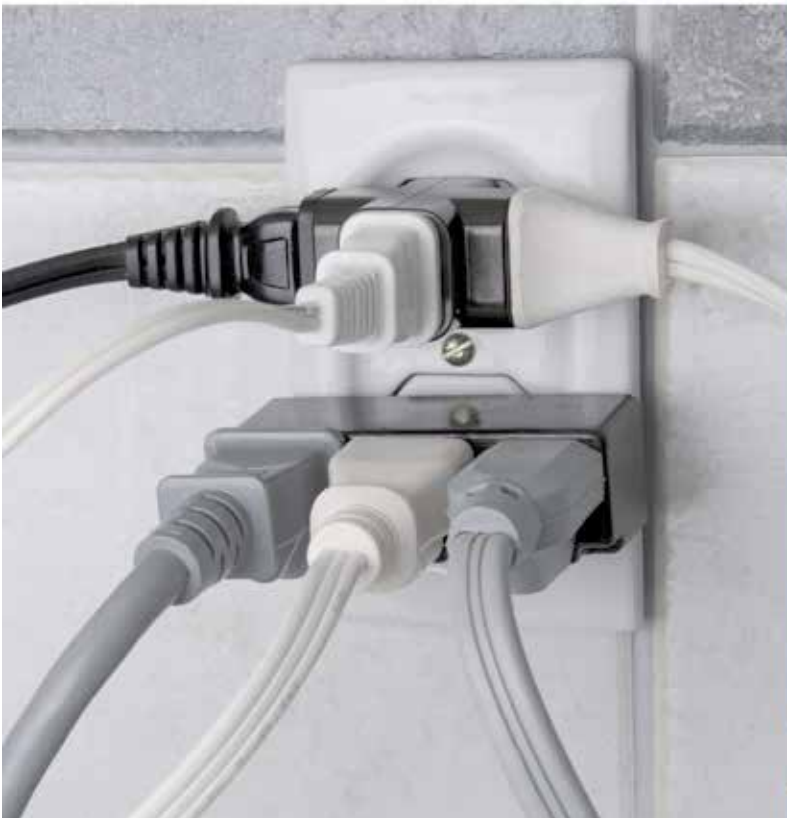


Picture left to right: Mike Girtz, Ian Willborg, Adam Sweno, Josh Hendrickson, Travis Huot, Tim Mullan, Travis Treftz, Todd Waggoner. Missing Matt Rendahl.

April 11th was National Electric Lineman's Appreciation Day and Clearwater-Polk was 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 of 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!



**Overloaded
electrical circuits
are a major cause of
residential fires.
Lower your risk of
electrical fires by
not overloading
your home's
electrical system.**

Safety starts with you.

**MAY IS ELECTRICAL
SAFETY MONTH**