


CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Clearwater-Polk Holds 77th Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual Membership meeting held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 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 77th 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.

Attorney Adam Bothun 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 Bothun indicated that Greg Renner for the 3-year term District 2 position was running uncontested. A motion and a second was received from the floor to elect Greg Renner (incumbent) for the 3-year District 2 directorship.

Attorney Bothun followed the same for the uncontested director positions for the 3-year term representing District 3 submitted by Doug Lindgren, and the 1-year term representing District 3 submitted by Betty
Annual Meeting continued on page 3 ...

Bill Lanners retires from Clearwater-Polk Electric's Board of Directors



Thank you, Bill!

On behalf of cooperative members, employees and directors, we would like to recognize Bill Lanners and thank him for his time, service and dedication to Clearwater-Polk Electric first as a Member Advocacy Committee member, and then as District 3 Director from April 2018 to April 2024. Bill also represented Clearwater-Polk as a director on Square Butte Electric Cooperative's board. Thank you Bill for everything!



Presentation of Flags at the Clearwater-Polk 77th Annual Meeting.

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

MAY - JUNE 2024

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



Holiday Closings

**Closed Monday, May 29
for Memorial Day**

**Closed Thursday, July 4
for Independence Day**



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*..... Shevlin
 Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* Bagley
 Harlan Highberg..... Bagley
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary/Treasurer* .. Gonvick
 Doug Lindgren..... Bagley
 Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
 Betty Surdez Bagley
 Deanna Lefebvre..., *General Manager*

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

DAROL MELBY
BRADEN W. OLSON
OSCAR SKOGEN
GRANT TRYGSTAD



CHEF'S CORNER

Rhubarb Bars

Nancy Halverson, Shevlin

Ingredients:

- 3 cups cut up rhubarb
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- ¼ cup water
- 1-1/2 cups oatmeal
- 1-1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup shortening

Preparation: Dissolve cornstarch in ¼ cup water. Mix in sugar, rhubarb, and vanilla and cook until thick. Mix remaining ingredients together until crumbly. Pat ¾ of mixture into 9 x 13 pan. Pour in rhubarb mixture and sprinkle remaining crumbs over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

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: Cabin, sleeps 4-6, \$5,500.
218-533-6029

Wanted: Standing Pine. 218-533-6029

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

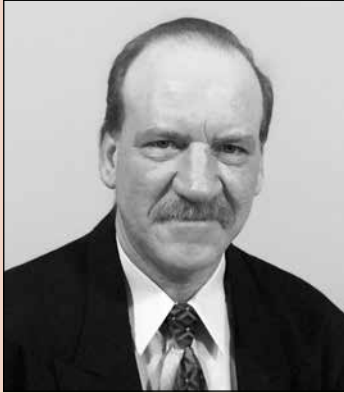
MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)

120 North Central
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204

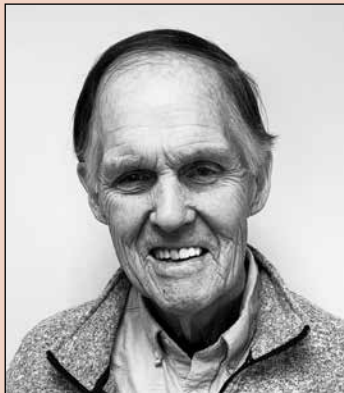
Bi-County Cap

6603 Bemidji Ave N.
Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

Congratulations to Our Board Members Elected at This Year's 77th Annual Meeting



District 2 (3-yr term)
Greg Renner



District 3 (3-yr term)
Doug Lindgren



District 3 (1-yr term)
Betty Surdez



Members eating during the 77th Annual Membership meeting.

Annual Meeting continued from front...

Surdez (incumbent). Motions and seconds were received for both director positions.

Congratulations to Directors Renner, Lindgren and Surdez.

Directly following the annual meeting, a reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted. Business included election of officers for 2024. They include Greg Renner as President, Cheryl Grover as Vice President, and Kim Solberg as Secretary/Treasurer.

Angie Schneider the office & finance manager presented the membership with the 2023 financial report.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op General Manager, Deanna Lefebvre, reported on 2023.

Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op Board President, Greg Renner, gave a brief President's Message.

Entertainment, Emory Schmidt as

Elvis

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.



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 Friday, May 17, 2024. Application blanks can be found on our website www.clearwater-polk.com, or from one of the committee members, Marilyn McCollum or Laurie Pemberton. You may also contact our office to have a form mailed to you.

Donations from the Trust will generally be made (Darrell A. Engebretson) 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.

Congratulations to the draw prize winners at our 77th Annual Membership Meeting
Please see our website www.clearwater-polk.com or facebook for a list of the winners.



What's What equipment contest at the Clearwater-Polk Annual meeting.

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.

1-1

2-3

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.

WARNING

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.

MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Dear Member-Owners,

Clearwater-Polk Electric celebrated its 77th annual meeting on April 10th. We had a great turnout again this year. Thank you to all who gave their time to attend. I would also like to thank Bill Lanners for his time serving on the co-op's Board of Directors. Bill was a tremendous asset to the board and his absence around the boardroom table will not go unnoticed. Thank you Bill!!!

Congratulations to elected directors Greg Renner and Betty Surdez who will continue their service to Clearwater-Polk, and congratulations and welcome to new board member Doug Lindgren. I look forward to working with you.

For those of you who were not able to attend, below is my Manager's Report published in this year's Annual Report that I would like to share with you. You can also find a copy of this report on the co-op's website at www.clearwater-polk.com.

As your dedicated general manager at Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, I am proud to update you on our steadfast commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. Our cooperative is more than a utility provider; we are a community-focused organization. We believe in and live the cooperative model. This means that you, our member-owners, are at the heart of every decision we make.

A Commitment to Unparalleled

Safety: Our safety-first approach is fundamental. This past summer we completed the rigorous Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, a 3-year journey culminating in an on-site safety inspection, achieving high ratings overall. This success is a direct reflection of the dedication of our cooperative employees, and while we celebrate, we also acknowledge and address areas for further improvement.

A Testament to Our Reliability: Recognized for our reliability, Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative was ranked #1 in Minnesota and #32 nationally according to the Key Ratio Trend Analysis report released in June by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. This achievement reflects our:

- **10-Year Pole Testing Rotation Cycle:** Ensuring infrastructure integrity and reliability.

- **Right-of-Way Maintenance:** Preventing outages and enhancing service reliability through clear rights-of-way.

- **4-Year Construction Work Plan:** Optimizing resource allocation and planning by focusing on areas with the most significant impact.

- **Reduced Line Losses:** Decreasing our average line loss by 1 percent over the last three years, a notable efficiency and reliability improvement.

A Necessary Adjustment for Sustained Excellence: In our continuous endeavor to maintain our high standards, we have carefully evaluated our operational costs and future investment needs. Given the increased costs of doing business over the last few years, we found it necessary to adjust the minimum facility charge to \$43, effective January 1, 2024. This decision, though difficult, ensures our ability to provide the highest quality service without compromising on our core values of safety, reliability, and affordability.

The Power of Our Team: Our 14 dedicated full-time employees and 7 elected board members are the backbone of our cooperative, committed

to delivering exceptional service to our member-owners and a big part of this commitment includes advocating for the best interests of our cooperative and its members.

By actively participating in state-wide and national conferences and trainings, we stay abreast of rapid industry changes. Legislative awareness is vital, and both employees and board members contribute personally to national and state-wide political action committees. These contributions are instrumental in representing our cooperative's interests effectively. In 2023, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association recognized Clearwater-Polk employees and board members, awarding us first place for the highest percentage of cooperative contributors for the second consecutive year. This accolade highlights our collective commitment to championing the causes important to our members.

Our strength lies in our people, each skilled and committed, we work tirelessly to ensure your electricity needs (Pat Faltersack) are met promptly and efficiently. Our employees are not just workers; they are your neighbors, friends, and community members, deeply invested in the well-being and development of our area.

These efforts showcase our unyielding commitment to service excellence and maintaining the highest standards in safety, reliability, and affordability. Our recognized reliability, our proactive initiatives, the adjustment in our facility charge, and our advocacy efforts all converge to demonstrate our dedication to you, our member-owners.

You are an integral part of Clearwater-Polk Electric. We are here because of you, and for you. Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together we will keep powering our community with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Thank you,

Deanna Lefebvre

Saying Thanks! Celebrating our Electrical Workers



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

April 8th was National Electric Lineman’s Appreciation Day and at Clearwater-Polk we put our own spin on the day and 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!

Co-op Members donate to Clearwater County Food Shelf



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Clearwater County Food Shelf during the Co-op’s annual meeting. Contributions received a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card. Through this food drive the Clearwater County Food Shelf received donations of 65 pounds of food and \$400 cash.

May 2024

National Electrical Safety Month



Use a fire extinguisher to put out an electrical fire.
Do NOT use water.