

March 2024 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



Photo Credit: Wayne Ellingsen

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## Attend Your CLP Annual Meeting

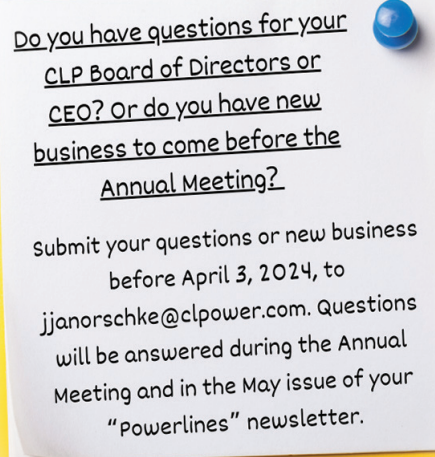
The 87th Annual Meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power Association of Lake County (CLP) will be held at the Two Harbors High School on the evening of Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

You and your family are invited to join the CLP staff and Board of Directors for a delicious dinner, great entertainment, and fantastic prizes. But, most importantly, enjoy the benefit of being a cooperative member - participating in the democratic process.

The local Two Harbors Lion's Club will serve the complimentary dinner. It features a sloppy joe meal with all the fixings, coffee, milk, and water, followed by cookies for dessert. During dinner, you can enjoy a performance by the Two Harbors Ukulele Group (THUGS). There will also be bingo in the auditorium before the business meeting starts, where you can win great prizes.

If you have children, they can play at open gym night with local school athletes. Member account number six hundred thousand eight hundred seventy three. They can also learn about

electric safety and sign up for a chance to win a new bike!



Do you have questions for your CLP Board of Directors or CEO? Or do you have new business to come before the Annual Meeting?

Submit your questions or new business before April 3, 2024, to [jjanorschke@clpower.com](mailto:jjanorschke@clpower.com). Questions will be answered during the Annual Meeting and in the May issue of your "Powerlines" newsletter.

The business meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn about what is happening in your cooperative, participate in the democratic process, vote in the director election, and be part of CLP's future vision.

A change coming to this year's Annual Meeting is our question-and-answer

and new business process. Our new process will consist of submitting your questions and/or new business to the CEO (email [jjanorschke@clpower.com](mailto:jjanorschke@clpower.com)) at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting. This allows us to consolidate, research, and answer the questions at the Annual Meeting. Depending on the volume of questions or length of required discussion, all questions may not be answered at the Annual Meeting. All questions and answers from the Annual Meeting and questions not addressed will be published in the May issue of "Powerlines." In addition, at the end of the business and reorganization meeting, the CEO, Legal Counsel, and Board President will be available for any further questions.

After the business meeting, we will give away four youth-size bikes and a variety of prizes for adults.

For more information on the CLP Annual Meeting, please refer to next month's issue of "Powerlines" and the 2023 Cooperative Light & Power Annual Report, which will be in your mailbox approximately two weeks before the 2024 CLP Annual Meeting.



# Why the Grid Access Fee for Distributed Generation?

Joel Janorschke, CEO

There is a growing interest in renewable energy, specifically Distributed Generation (DG), among

our members. DG involves members installing solar panels or windmills to generate energy for their homes or businesses. Any excess energy produced is sold back to Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) at the retail rate. In 2023, CLP commissioned 21 DG systems onto our system. Presently, 89 members have interconnected solar panels, while six have windmills installed at their homes or businesses. As the interest

in DG continues to increase, we've received a lot of questions about the Grid Access Charge (GAC) on DG. Therefore, I would like to clarify some things about CLP's GAC.

The GAC is a fixed charge agreed upon by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association that applies to members who own cogeneration and are interconnected to the grid, typically through renewable energy sources like solar panels. Member account number seven hundred forty one thousand five hundred eighty two. The GAC's purpose is to recover a portion of the fixed costs that electric utilities incur to

build and maintain the electrical grid infrastructure, regardless of whether the member uses energy from the grid. These costs include investments in power lines, substations, transformers, meters, and other equipment needed to provide reliable electric service.

Since January 1, 2016, Minnesota Statute 216B.164 allows electric cooperatives and municipal utilities to charge a fee to recover the fixed costs to serve a distributed generation qualifying facility. The Grid Access Charge (GAC) fee is calculated using a cost-of-service approach. It's based on the cost of serving the member, the kWh rate, and the current system delivery or fixed charge. The fee is applied per kW on installed distributed generation that exceeds 3.5 kW, with a capped dollar amount associated.

CLP's GAC is based on a 2023 cost-of-service study conducted by the cooperative through a third party. A cost-of-service study is a comprehensive analysis that helps utilities determine the specific costs associated with providing service to different member groups and classes.

During a cost-of-service study, the cooperative evaluates its cost to serve each member class, including the fixed costs of maintaining the grid infrastructure.

*Continued on page 3*

## Notice to Co-generators:

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules related to co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) is required to interconnect with, and purchase electricity from, co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility.

CLP has available, and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, please contact CLP Energy Services Manager, Ken Jones at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

## Call Before You Dig

**800.252.1166**  
it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires. You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies).

CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.



## PowerLines

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Association of Lake County  
1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
www.clpower.com

CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881  
Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Winter Business Hours:  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Board/CEO Contacts

**Joel Janorschke, CEO**  
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## Why the Grid Access Fee for Distributed Generation?

(continued from page 2)

The study examines factors such as peak demand, energy consumption patterns, capacity requirements, and other relevant considerations to allocate costs fairly and accurately among members.

The study found that distributed generators demand as much (or more) from the grid than the rest of the membership. But, because they offset some or all of their energy usage, and a portion of fixed costs are collected through the energy rate, they no longer pay their fair share to maintain the grid.

Based on the results of the cost-of-service study, the cooperative may establish the Grid Access Charge to

recover a portion of the fixed grid costs incurred in providing reliable electric service to its members. Member account number six hundred thirty eight thousand seventy seven. The charge ensures that all members contribute their portion of the infrastructure costs needed to maintain the electrical grid. CLP's calculated monthly charge per kW for systems over 3.5 kW is \$3.88/kW. CLP's current maximum monthly grid access fee is \$21.81 based on our last Cost of Service Study.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Grid Access Fee.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Light & Power will be giving out a total of \$6,000 in scholarships to students within our service territory. Award amount is \$1,000, and will be awarded to two students enrolled in the Two Harbors High School and the William Kelley High School, and two students enrolled in a high school out of the area.

Scholarship guidelines and applications can be found on our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com) or from your guidance counselors at Two Harbors High School or William Kelley High School.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS,  
COULD YOU USE \$1,000  
FOR COLLEGE?**



### Reuben Dip

*From the Kitchen of: Larry & Vicki Johnson*

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8 oz Corn beef, chopped | 1/2 cup Thousand Island |
| 1 cup Sauerkraut        | 2 cups Swiss cheese     |
| 8 oz Cream cheese       |                         |

Mix all the ingredients together and put in crockpot on low for 4 hours. Serve with crackers or bread.

Submit your favorite recipe! If your recipe is printed in an issue of "Powerlines" you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.



# Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was held on December 27, 2023, with the participation of all directors, CEO Janorschke, three staff members, and two member owners.

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Motions were made and seconded to approve the agenda, the modified November 29, 2023, minutes, consent agenda, and the October financials. Motions passed. Member account number seven hundred nineteen thousand seventy seven.

A member addressed the Board regarding redistricting, why 50MW matters, and Coal Creek consequences.

Business Manager Olson updated the Board on the IVM and grant updates.

Member Services/HR Manager Hogenson, Energy Services Manager Jones, and Operation Manager Bentler were not in attendance. The Board had no concerns for their reports.

CEO Janorschke addressed the Board. He provided reports on updates from MREA, NRECA, and other matters of interest.

President Veitenheimer reported on the GRE Board meeting he attended on December 6 and 7.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Work Plan Loan AG45 Documents. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution to Implement Revenue Deferral Plan. Motion passed.

The Board discussed continuing to sponsor the Two Harbors High School Rock Solid Robotics at the Gold Level.

Motions were made and seconded to approve, with changes, Board Policies I-9, I-10, I-16, I-21, I-25, I-27, and add I-29 All Employee Drug Alcohol and Cannabis Use. All motions passed.

The Board was given information on the GRE Resolution R23-12-2 for review. GRE is requesting that the Board acts on this request by February 29, 2024.

At 1:03 p.m. a motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential business regarding GRE. Motion passed. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded to exit the session at 1:35 p.m. Motion passed.

Next Board meeting date is January 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Adjournment was called at 1:40 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>Dec-23</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 11,283,544	\$ 14,079,158	\$ 14,144,918
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 6,951,551	\$ 8,043,736	\$ 7,393,932
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,924,836	\$ 5,687,418	\$ 6,439,618
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 10,876,387	\$ 13,731,154	\$ 13,833,550
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 407,157	\$ 348,004	\$ 311,368
Interest Income	\$ 76,885	\$ 49,045	\$ 128,836
Other Margins	\$ 20,285	\$ 34,258	\$ (63,428)
Capital Credits	\$ 401,073	\$ 201,659	\$ 483,813
Total Margins	\$ 905,400	\$ 632,966	\$ 860,589
kWh Purchased	105,709,994	112,625,558	102,363,498
kWh Sold	99,829,106	107,096,312	97,590,477
Line Loss	5.56%	4.91%	4.66%
Members Billed	5,967	6,436	6,470
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,111	1,116	1,024
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 127.42	\$ 150.55	\$ 156.36
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1147	\$ 0.1349	\$ 0.1527
Interest Expense	\$ 463,806	\$ 352,055	\$ 378,842

Please note: December 2023 numbers are pre-audit and subject to change.

## Dates to Know...

**Mar 10:** Daylight Savings Begins

**Mar 15:** Cookies in CLP Lobby

**Mar 17:** St. Patrick's Day

**Mar 25:** CLP Bills Due

**Mar 27:** CLP Board Meeting

**Mar 29:** Good Friday  
CLP Offices CLOSED

**Apr 17:** CLP Annual Meeting

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>

*Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

### TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

**BEFORE** calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

### SPOT YOUR NUMBER:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and a credit will be applied to your bill.

**Credits claimed for January:**

**Randy & Peggy Baumgartner**

**Credits not claimed: Lloyd Sande, Scott Hull, & Dustin Bartlet**

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

January Donations: \$1,575.00

Year-to-date Donations: \$1,575.00

Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com).