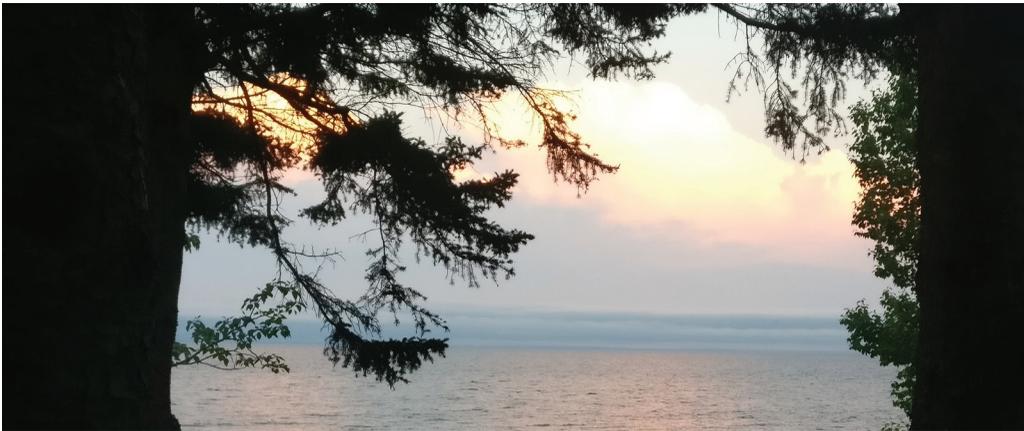


# PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



July 2018 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



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## Co-op Life Calendar Contest



Co-op Light & Power is accepting photos for our 2019 Co-op Life Calendar, from now until October 1, 2018. We are asking Co-op Light & Power's employees and members to send us their best North Shore photos. We would like the photos to depict scenes from the North Shore or Co-op Light & Power's general service area. One photo will be chosen from each entry to be in the running to represent the season of each month. Member account number six hundred fifty nine thousand nine hundred forty seven.

Please submit scenery photos only, no people or animal shots. We will only accept high-quality, original digital images that are a minimum of 3300 X 2550 pixels at a 300 dpi resolution. Member account number six hundred three thousand eighty one.

Please mail your digital images on a disk to: CLP Photo Contest, P.O. Box 69, Two Harbors, MN 55616. The disk can be dropped off at the Co-op Light & Power office at 1554 Highway 2 Two Harbors, MN. You can also email digital images to:

[sjwcron@clpower.com](mailto:sjwcron@clpower.com)

If your electric image was not returned to you from previous years, we will include it in the running for this year's calendar.



It only takes a few pennies to grow  
**HUGE** opportunities.

**Co-op Light & Power's**  
Community Trust is now accepting  
**Operation Round Up**  
Grant Applications until August 24.

Operation Round Up® provides grants to local not-for-profit organizations and community projects such as food shelves, volunteer fire departments and rural ambulance services. Co-op members voluntarily participate by "rounding up" their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar.

The change is placed in a trust, which is then donated to local organizations, making real change in your community.

**YOUR ORGANIZATION  
COULD BE NEXT**

Visit [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com) to download a grant application, or call CLP's offices at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

**You will be amazed at what a  
penny can do!**



## If It's Down, Leave It on the Ground!

Steve Wattnem, General Manager/CEO

Dear Member:

Do you want to know what I love the most about this community? The genuine and selfless willingness to pitch in whenever, and wherever it is needed. If someone is sick, a casserole appears at their door. Suffer a physical ailment and a work crew shows up to help on a project. Trees come down, people jump into action to immediately clean up the mess. These actions epitomize life in rural America. They also align with the 7th Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community.

Just last month, our line crews witnessed this exact selfless behavior; however, it was met with fear and concern, rather than immediate gratitude. A power outage was reported, and our operations department dispatched a crew to determine the cause of the outage. When they arrived, it was clear that a tree had fallen on the power lines, knocking out power to the home. Naturally, the home owner got to work to clean up the mess. Chain saw in hand, he was right in the thick of tree limbs and powerlines.

**I CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH:** Even though the trees knocked out power from the transformer to the home, there was still a very good chance that

the actual power line was still energized. When our crews confirmed that the power line had in fact been de-energized due to the tree fall, our line worker said "thank God that line was dead."

Thank God that line was dead. Downed power lines can look relatively harmless, but please do not be fooled. There is a good chance they are still energized, and they likely carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I am trying to scare you, because it could save your life.

### These tips can help you stay safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. Anything touching the line becomes part of the path to ground, and could contain the same electrical current as the power line.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage one—and it could do that through your body.

• If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

• Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. Even normally non-conductive materials like wood or cloth, if slightly wet, can conduct electricity and electrocute you.

• Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.

• Do not drive over downed lines.  
• If you are in a vehicle that is in contact with a downed line, stay in the vehicle. Honk your horn for help and tell others to stay away from your vehicle.

• If you must leave your vehicle because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid making contact with the energized vehicle and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the vehicle to the earth.

I truly appreciate the caring nature of this community. I share this message because I want to see you all around for years to come.

## 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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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Cooperative Light & Power  
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  
Summer Business Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

## Important Contacts

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Peggy Kuettel, President, District 1  
218-525-2155
- Robert Nikolai, Vice President, District 5  
218-353-7332
- Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4  
218-226-8744
- Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2  
218-834-5138
- Gregory Lien, Director, District 3  
218-595-6187

# Sage Advice from the Minnesota Commerce Department

Have you ever purchased something on line, only to get it home and find out it is nothing like the website described? Do you actually get the gas mileage your vehicle is rated for? Has your dentist ever told you this will not hurt...A BIT?

This is sales. Building up the positive attributes of a product or service to close the deal. So why would a company trying to sell you a solar array be any different?

**We want to be clear: we do not think all solar sales representatives are bad; in fact, most are not.** We have just seen the sales pitch gone bad. Consumers have not been properly educated on inverter sizing, payback, name plate capacity versus system output, and the amount of energy they would still need to purchase from their energy provider. This over-sell gives all solar installers a bad name.

Just ask Doug Manthey, Building Consulting Specialist with Conservation Technologies. "It has been my experience that the national media, and many local installers tend to underestimate the cost of PV [solar] installs in relation to our present utility costs. It is true that PV costs have dropped significantly, but we also do not pay that much for electricity [in Minnesota] compared to other parts of the country. It is important that future solar customers have a good grasp on the real cost of an installed system and its true estimated output to calculate the real payback."

To make sure Co-op Light & Power's members have all the facts, we wanted to reprint the following June 15, 2018 Minnesota Commerce Department article "Going solar? 10 tips for hiring a qualified installer".

As the state's solar boom continues, the Minnesota Commerce Department encourages Minnesotans who have decided to install a solar energy system to do their homework and shop carefully to select a qualified solar installer. A new rooftop solar system is a big-ticket purchase, so it should be treated like one.

To help consumers, the Commerce Department website ([mn.gov/commerce](http://mn.gov/commerce)) offers a fact sheet, "Going solar? Tips for hiring a qualified installer." Here are 10 key tips.

- Shop around. Meet with and ask for bids from at least two or three installers before settling on one.
- Verify the installer's license. In Minnesota, a solar energy system must be installed by a licensed electrical contractor. Verify an installer's license status with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry by using their online License Lookup tool or by calling 651-284-5069.
- Ask about credentials. The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) requires that its installers receive training both to get certified and to maintain their certification.
- Request references. Call and ask the references about their experience with the installer.
- Check with the Better Business Bureau about complaints or actions filed against the installer.
- Get a site assessment. Be sure the installer provides a detailed assessment of your site to determine the feasibility of a solar installation, along with estimated annual production and utility bill savings.
- Review contract details. The installer should provide a detailed bid contract. It should describe all the work to be done and who is performing it (including subcontractors); all equipment and materials to be used; timeframes for completion; payment terms; and the process for any change orders.
- Get manufacturer and installation warranties. Get documentation for all incentives and warranties. Be sure the installer warranty addresses all costs of repair or replacement for a minimum of two years.
- Negotiate a reasonable down payment. Never prepay for the entire system, and watch out for high-pressure sales tactics to get you to put more money down.
- Confirm permits and inspections. Always confirm that the installer applies for the required building permits and utility interconnection agreements. The installer is also required by law to arrange all project inspections.

If you have a question about solar, contact the Minnesota Commerce Department by email at [solar.help@state.mn.us](mailto:solar.help@state.mn.us) or by phone at 800-657-3710.

## Freezer Sweet Corn

*From the Kitchen of: Spring Detlefsen*

- | 18 cups raw sweet corn
- | 1 pound butter
- | 1 pint Half & Half

| Preheat oven to 325°. Cut the raw corn off the cobs. Put the cut up corn in a roast pan. Slice butter into small pieces and arrange on the corn. Then pour the Half & Half over the corn and bake for 1 hour. Stir the corn mixture several times while its cooking. Remove from oven and let cool. Put into containers and freeze. Do not add salt until you use.

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

## Co-op Connections Corner

Featured Business:

**AmericInn**

1088 Highway 61 North  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
218-834-3000

**Offer Details: 10% off standard rate. Based on availability. Must present card at time of check-in. May not be used with any other offer or coupon.**

To find participating businesses, please visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) for full details!  
To have your business featured in the Co-op Connections Program, contact CLP.

# Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on May 17, 2018. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by President Kuettel.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 19, 2018, with corrections noted. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting that was held just after the Annual Meeting to reorganize the Board of Directors. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Reports for the month of March 2018. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Outage Reports as presented. Motion carried.

A resolution was presented to the Board of Directors for its action and consideration regarding the amendments recently made to the By-Laws and approved by the membership at the last Annual Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the By-Laws as amended. Motion carried. Member account number six hundred forty three thousand seven hundred

forty seven.

David Saggau from Great River Energy was on hand to discuss with the Board of Directors the various issues related to the new contract that Great River Energy is encouraging all of its members to approve. The new contract will keep Wright-Hennepin and Minnesota Valley-Jordan in the GRE family for many years to come as opposed to leaving all together. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution, voting in favor of the contract. Motion carried.

Zack Kuhn from United Services Group was on hand to discuss with the Board of Directors the most recent four-year work plan. After the presentation and discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the work plan as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on the latest union negotiations that have been taking place. Member account number six hundred thirty thousand nine hundred ninety nine.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 3:53 p.m. with a motion and a second. Motion carried.

## Year-to-date Financials

	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>		
Operating Revenue	\$	3,246,399	\$	4,398,738	\$	4,793,089
Cost of Purchased Power	\$	2,127,224	\$	2,763,162	\$	2,891,817
Other Operating Expenses	\$	1,143,705	\$	1,465,436	\$	1,751,650
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$	3,270,929	\$	4,228,598	\$	4,643,467
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$	(24,530)	\$	170,140	\$	149,622
Interest Income	\$	39,040	\$	40,896	\$	64,278
Other Margins	\$	113,606	\$	(90,364)	\$	(146,194)
Capital Credits	\$	-	\$	10,725	\$	10,729
Total Margins	\$	128,116	\$	131,397	\$	78,435
kWh Purchased		40,235,148		40,488,566		43,864,388
KWh Sold		41,004,205		38,614,822		41,923,688
Line Loss		N/A		4.63%		4.42%
Members Billed		5,803		6,075		6,141
Average kwh Used, Residential		1,535		1,309		1,436
Average Bill, Residential	\$	122.72	\$	146.51	\$	159.95
Average Cost/kwh, Residential	\$	0.0799	\$	0.1119	\$	0.1114
Interest Expense	\$	145,551	\$	118,617	\$	149,712

## Dates to Know...

**July 6-8:** Two Harbors Heritage Days

**July 13-15:** Silver Bay Bay Days

**July 16:** Cookies and coffee in CLP's lobby

**July 19:** CLP board meeting

**July 25:** CLP bills due

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

## DID YOU KNOW...

...drying clothes uses a lot of energy. Don't over-dry your clothes. Make sure to clean the inside lint filter before each drying cycle. Periodically check your flexible metal dryer vent hose to ensure it is still tightly connected and not kinked.

*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 May: Christopher Potter, Larry & Linda Rasmussen, and Steve & Linda Schueler**

**Credits not claimed: Stacy & Peter Klucas**

## OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

May Donations: \$1,651.47

Year-to-date Donations: \$8,173.57

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).