

January 2019 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



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## 15th Annual Caring Loving People Toy Drive

Wow! Some times the simplest word is the only one that can describe the most extraordinary action.

For 15 years, Co-op Light & Power's (CLP) employees, members, community members, local businesses, and the local chapter of the Salvation Army have worked together to grow what has become one of the single largest annual donation/fundraising drives in Lake County.

This year proved to be a record year taking in approximately two thousand items, and hundreds of dollars in cash

donations, all to be distributed to your friends and neighbors in Lake County. Over 200 area youth filled out their "wish lists" for Santa. "We see everything from bicycles, to LOL Surprise Dolls, to underwear," said CLP employee Carey Hogenson. "Our goal is to get at least one item on every kid's wish list, this year, most got at least two or three items from their list,"

Hogenson added.

The cash donations come in handy for the desperately needed items like winter coats, boots, socks, and yes, underwear. These items are not as readily donated, and with extra cash, Carey and her elves can go out and purchase the important things.

CLP would like to give a special shout out to Hugo's and the band Split Rox. Hugo's collected items for the CLP Toy Drive, and the band donated their earnings for the evening to

the drive! The Two Harbors High School also worked hard to collect items for the CLP Toy Drive. Please note, all toys pictured with Santa are from these two events!

Everyone at CLP is truly humbled by the outpouring of support from our members and our community. We feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such Caring Loving People.





## Watts News

### Farewell to Steve and Hello to Hal

Steve Wattnem, General Manager/CEO

Dear Member:

My retirement date (I say with a lump in my throat): January 31, 2019. The privilege I feel for having had the opportunity to know and serve you: PRICE-LESS!

As we all know, governance of the Cooperative was/is/will be done by the Membership. You elect a Board of Directors to establish bylaws and policies. Thank you to past and present Directors for your dedication and hard work.

Over these years, here amongst towering trees and the greatest of lakes, we have accomplished much. I am proud of the campus created in the Industrial Park. We have provided Internet availability for many. We now have updated electronic meter reading. The list could go on.

One of our core values at CLP has always been our dedication to community service. Operation Round-Up, Christmas toy drives, and the Green Touch program are but a few examples of our exemplary employee's commitment to the lives of others in our community.

My sincere gratitude goes out to CLP Employees (past and present), to the Board of Directors (past and present),

and to the Membership. All have shown support and kindness over these many years and I will miss you all immensely!

I hope you will take the time to meet and greet our new CEO, Hal Halpern as he takes over the reins. I wish you all the best in these new and exciting times.

With a thankful and appreciative heart, Steve Wattnem.

**Meet the CEO Hal Halpern Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Cooperative Light and Power**

Hal was educated as a Physicist at The City University of NY and grew up in a Cooperative for 15 years. When his Family first moved into the Cooperative there were less than 100 families and before he left it grew into the largest Cooperative in the City with over 5000 families and its own 21MW Power Plant. Hal credits the cooperative spirit and values he learned as a con-



tributing factor throughout his career to ensure the innovations he created made peoples lives better, safer and more enjoyable.

Hal started out his career as an application engineer for Photodyne, where they developed the world's first fiber optic multi-meter. This power meter was adopted as the reference standard by the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST). While there Hals team also developed the world's first high resolution OTDR whereby launching light from a single fiber end you could detect breaks within 2 inches. Hal and his team grew this company into the Global leader of fiber optics which ultimately became a prized acquisition of one of Minnesota's greatest companies, 3M.

Hal then became the Vice President for Laser Precision where his team developed a 'new product process' which generated many new innovative products for Industry which led this Company to become the Market Leader.

Hal's next position was as CEO of Lightguide Communications, a Power, Fiber-Optic and Broadband Infrastructure Company. There, Hals team was

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### 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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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

Winter Business Hours:  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.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  
218-830-8968  
Gregory Lien, Director, District 3  
218-595-6187



# Area Organizations Working Together to Help Make Your Home Safer

## FREE SMOKE ALARMS



### TO REGISTER

To request free alarms call:  
Community Partners 218-834-8024

### Home Fire Campaign

To help reduce the number of home fire-related injuries and fatalities, the American Red Cross, in partnership with the North Shore Rotary Club, Community Partners and Beacons of Hope will be installing free smoke alarms to those who register.

North Shore  
**Rotary**  
Club



COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

### FIRE FACTS

**2 MINUTES**  
to get out of your house

**7 TIMES A DAY**  
someone dies from a house  
fire

**EVERY 40 MINUTES**  
a fire injury is reported

**PROTECT YOUR  
LOVED ONES.  
INSTALL SMOKE  
ALARMS.  
MAKE A FIRE  
ESCAPE PLAN.**

Source: National Fire Protection  
Association (M. Aherns, 2013)

*continued from page 2*

responsible for over 1 million Electric, Fiber-Optic and Broadband new builds and upgrades. In a concerted effort to lower installation costs Hal's team innovated splice checker technology, a process that reduced the cost and time of infrastructure installation by 50%. Member account number six hundred seventy seven thousand nine hundred one.

During Hal's tenure as the CEO of Fiber-Span his team pioneered "radio frequency over fiber" design for distributed antenna systems (DAS). There were many skeptics at the time who thought this technology wasn't possible and even if it was there would be little use for it. Now, this technology is the standard DAS design protocol used by cellular carriers, first responders and public safety agencies throughout the world responsible for saving countless lives. Member account number six hundred twelve thousand seven hundred ninety one.

Hal then joined Westell as their Chief Strategic Advisor and recommended their turnaround strategy focusing on products for FirstNet, public safety and homeland security.

We take great pleasure in welcoming Hal Halpern back to his Cooperative roots as the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Cooperative Light and Power, part of the Great River Energy Cooperative Family. Hal intends to apply his considerable experience and innovation skills with CLP as Electric Cooperatives have begun branching out to offer their customers fast speed broadband, telecom, renewable energy and other innovative services.

### Beef Stroganoff Sandwich *From the Kitchen of: Vicki Falk*

2 # extra lean ground beef	2 cups (16 oz.) sour cream
1/2 cup chopped onion	2 tomatoes, seeded and diced
1 tsp salt	1 large green pepper
1/2 tsp garlic powder	Shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 tsp pepper	1 loaf of French bread, buttered

Brown burger and onion, drain. Add seasonings. Remove from heat and add sour cream. Cut French bread lengthwise in half and butter. Spoon mixture onto bread and sprinkle with tomatoes, green peppers, and cheese. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until cheese melts. Bake longer if desired for crispier bread.

### Co-op Connections Corner

Featured Business:

**Hair Designs**

620 1st Ave

Two Harbors, MN 55616

218-834-2158

**Offer Details: Half off an eyebrow wax with the purchase of any color service when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 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 November 26, 2018.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 18, 2018, as amended. Motion carried.

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

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

The cooperative is in the process of acquiring a loan from USDA Rural Utilities Services, in the amount of \$5.6 million dollars. A motion was made and seconded approving the resolution entitled Secretary Certificate that will allow the signatures of the various officers on several documents that were presented to the Board of Directors for their signatures. Motion carried. Member account number six hundred thirty four thousand two hundred two.

The write-offs were presented for the Board's consideration and action. A motion was made and seconded to write

off \$6,605.61. Future attempts will be made to recoup the dollars that are being written off.

Spring Detlefsen was on hand to discuss with the Board of Directors the Voluntary Contribution Acceleration Program, which allows the cooperative to make investments to reduce future contributions to the retirement plan. A motion was made and seconded to approve the program as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the possible acquisition of Lake Connections. Member account number six hundred sixteen thousand seven hundred ninety seven.

A Medical Opt Out Program was discussed as a new offer for our employees to consider which would pay them to opt out of the health plan offered by Cooperative Light & Power. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Medical Opt Out Program as presented. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 4:34 p.m. with a motion and a second. Motion carried.

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>Oct-18</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 7,166,256	\$ 10,005,680	\$ 10,630,008
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 4,409,284	\$ 5,969,875	\$ 6,067,056
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,632,768	\$ 3,920,901	\$ 4,257,132
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 7,042,052	\$ 9,890,776	\$ 10,324,188
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 124,204	\$ 114,904	\$ 305,820
Interest Income	\$ 93,234	\$ 115,424	\$ 159,767
Other Margins	\$ 283,267	\$ (188,051)	\$ (220,090)
Capital Credits	\$ 126,475	\$ 29,796	\$ 30,465
Total Margins	\$ 627,180	\$ 72,073	\$ 275,962
kWh Purchased	81,230,798	82,661,657	88,105,679
kWh Sold	76,960,846	78,219,250	83,009,910
Line Loss	5.26%	5.37%	5.78%
Members Billed	5,855	6,136	6,175
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,035	939	1,003
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 96.86	\$ 125.44	\$ 133.59
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.0936	\$ 0.1336	\$ 0.1332
Interest Expense	\$ 373,840	\$ 328,987	\$ 390,508

## Dates to Know...

- Jan 15:** Cookies and coffee in CLP's lobby
- Jan 21:** CLP Board Meeting
- Jan 25:** CLP bills due
- Feb 18:** President's Day  
CLP Closed

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

## DID YOU KNOW...

...CLP members contributed \$18,466.94 to our community through Operation Round-Up (ORU) last year? ORU is a voluntary program that automatically "rounds up" your CLP monthly bill to the nearest dollar amount. Those pennies are deposited in a Community Trust that are distributed to worthy community organizations twice each year. The deadline for applications for the next round of grant distribution is February 15th.  
**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 November: Kenneth J. Brassill, and Kathleen Zellars.**

**Credits not claimed: Valerie & John Haydon, and Derek & Larissa Hubbart.**

## OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

November Donations: \$1,560.25

Year-to-date Donations: \$17,541.77

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).