



April 2019 • www.clpower.com



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## Bring Your Family to Your Cooperative Light & Power Annual Meeting

Come and enjoy an evening with fellow CLP members and learn what is happening at your electric cooperative. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at the Two Harbors High School. Enjoy the entertainment of the Two Harbors Ukulele Band (THUGS) and learn electric safety from the CLP Linemen starting at 4:45 pm. Registration will take place from 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm. Please register before you enjoy a delicious sloppy joe dinner served by the Two Harbors Lion's Club. Dinner will be served from 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm.

The business meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. Come and meet CLP's new CEO, Hal Halpern and learn what his vision is for CLP's future. David Ranallo from Great River Energy (GRE) will be speaking on Beneficial Electrification. A prize

drawing will be held after the adjournment of the meeting. Let's be honest, the kids get bored at meetings! We have a

Let's be honest, the kids get bored at meetings! We have a couple of different options that will help them burn off some of the pent-up energy from our long winter. From 6:15 pm until 7:15 pm the kids can enjoy open swim in the pool. We will have two lifeguards on duty (kids under the age of 10 must be supervised by an adult), or there will be local high school athletes in the gym from 6:15 pm until the adjournment of the meeting to play games with the kids and let them run around and have fun. After the meeting adjourns, we will be drawing for the kids to win youth bikes.

We hope to see you and your family on Wednesday, April 17th for your Annual Meeting of the Membership!

# Great River Energy Shares Financial Success with Membership

When Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) experiences financial success, it returns cash to members. When Great River Energy's financial position is strong, it issues payments to CLP.

CLP is one of 28 electric cooperatives that own and receive wholesale electric service from another cooperative called Great River Energy (GRE).

For the first time in its history, GRE will retire patronage capital through cash payments to its member-owner cooperatives. In March, CLP will receive \$147,408.90 from GRE.

"Our member-owner cooperatives decided long ago to invest in the financial strength of GRE by gradually increasing equity over time, with the goal of returning patronage capital to members in 2020," said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Michelle Strobel. "With our members' support, we achieved that goal in 2018, and we will provide cash back to members two years earlier than planned."

Cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses that, when appropriate, return margins to members by retiring patronage capital.

"The retirement of capital credits is one of the most important things we do as cooperatives," said Hal Halpern, CEO of CLP. "Retiring patronage capital is proof that the cooperatives of Minnesota are financially strong."



# Luck Favors the Prepared... April 18th is National Lineman Appreciation Day Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Dear Member:

As your Cooperative was participating in St Urho's parade in Finland this weekend and St Patrick's day festivities we were reminded of the concept of "Luck". Although everyone would like to count on luck for many things in their lives your Cooperative cannot. Your cooperative must ensure its own luck through careful preparation and training so it's ready for any possible event that could affect your safe reliable electricity. matched neering, back of works to works to be the country of the LIN cially the cially the is Natio as declared as declared in Finland this neering, back of works to works to the country of the concept of works to works to be the concept of works to country of the concept of works to be the c

While Spring has arrived with summer on the way bringing some fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Cooperative Light & Power is ready to respond.

It takes the entire CLP team, every single one of us to bring and maintain reliable safe power to our communities. Each of us at CLP play a special role in providing comfort to our members, families and community. Member account number six hundred twenty four thousand one hundred twenty.

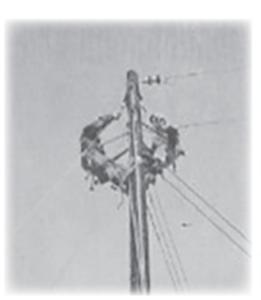
CLP's Lineman are prepared with the technical capabilities, best skills, practices, training and will of purpose that can adapt to any situation that might occur.

This high level of outside plant skill is matched with your Cooperatives engineering, staking, material management, back office personnel and Board which works tirelessly in sync with one another for our members and the community's benefit.

But this month we'd like to focus on the LINEMAN. On April 18 we especially thank our LINEMAN as April 18 is National Lineman Appreciation Day as declared by the US Congress. CLP's Lineman's hard work embodies the service that defines your cooperative.

If you've ever experienced a power outage – especially in the dead of winter or during a sweltering heatwave – and breathed a sigh of relief when the lights came back on, take a second this April 18th to thank a lineworker for making it happen. If the power is on where you are reading this article, you likely have a lineman to thank.

Continued on page 3



Louis Schmidt and Ronald Ostendorf circa 1961



Chase Peterson circa 2018

# **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**

April 2019- Vol. 24, Issue 4
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
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
218-340-8968
Gregory Lien, Director, District 3
218-595-6187

## 2018 Westholm Scholarship Winners

Each year, Co-op Light & Power offers scholarships to the children of its members. Six awards are given away, each in the amount of \$1,000 each. The recipients' parents must be a CLP member to qualify. One male and one female student are chosen from both Two Harbors High School and Silver Bay High Schools. The other two scholarships are given to a male and female student outside of these schools. The 2018 Westholm Memorial Scholarship winners were:



Cody Brandt Two Harbors High School

Son of Steve and Joni Brandt



Jenny Walewski William Kelley High School

Daughter of Joe and Lori Walewski



Brianna Hiukka Two Harbors High School

Daughter of Jerry and Irene Hiukka



Oliver Smith Minnesota Connections Academy

Son of Marc Smith and Amy Gardner



Ashley Evans William Kelley High School

Daughter of William and Rosemary Evans Photo Not Available

Amy Ostazeski Duluth East High School

Daughter of Paul and Kathy Ostazeski

Continued from page 2

When mother nature destroys what our linemen have built up, they are on call to build it back up again as quickly as possible. These men and women work tirelessly to get emergency systems back in working order and urgently return service to remaining areas. Even when there is no crisis, they work under dangerous conditions on a daily basis. Whether they are working in trenches, near water or on high towers, the risks are extreme. Member account number seven hundred twelve thousand two hundred thirty two.

On April 18th join me in thanking CLP's Lineman and their fraternity of brother and sister Line Workers the world over for their hard work, courage and commitment to keeping everyone safe as they help to power our world.

See this Super Cool Historic Lineman short video on our website at www.clpower.com.

"At the heart of every revolution is a passion to defy the odds pushing the boundaries of human achievement. To challenge power so temperamental only the bravest men tried. Though fearless the risk was high. For these early few the title of legend is reserved. Part of a sacred brotherhood for by the flex of their arms and the strength of their will they forged a backbone of the modern world - electricity for the masses. A grid connecting the East to West sparking the evolution of a new breed of man a soldier, platoon tested by the weather of the ages and refined by the struggles of their forefathers. From their legacy these prodigies understand discipline, rewarded by the pride of achievement and the raw stimulation of work. For these loyal few there's no greater honor than to bear the name "LINEMAN".

## Spring Time Salsa

From the Kitchen of: Ginny Young

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Serve with tortilla chips, pita chips, or cocktail rye bread.

Would you like to keep seeing recipes in your newsletter? If so, we need your recipes! If your recipe is printed in an issue of "Powerlines" you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.

Minnesota State Electric Inspector 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon thru Fri) Lake County and parts of St. Louis County:
Richard Rue 218-969-6123

Anytime a homeowner or an electrical contractor installs wiring or performs other electrical work, Minnesota law requires an electrical inspector to perform a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the Electrical home page.

## **Board Meeting Summary**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on February 21, 2019. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:46 a.m. Member account number seven hundred twenty three thousand five hundred eighty four. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 21, 2019, as amended. Motion carried. Member account number six hundred thousand one hundred six. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Reports for December 2018 after clarification. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the outage reports for the month of February. Motion carried.

Manager of Communications Kevin Olson and Marketing Manager Carey Hogenson introduced the board to CLP's new website. It was launched on motion and a second. Motion carried.

February 20, 2019.

A meeting in May will be held regarding the strategic planning process. A brief outline will be prepared as a starting point for the board to review.

A motion was made and seconded to make a donation to the Rock-Solid Robotics Group at Two Harbors High School. Motion carried.

A discussion ensued regarding MREA's Energy Issues Summit. The board agreed all retired CEO's and Directors should be invited.

The Operation Round Up Board Meeting was scheduled for March 5, 2019. Because two of the directors' terms had expired, two new Operation Round Up Directors, Tim Anderson and Lori Walewski, were selected.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 3:57 p.m. with a

#### Dates to Know...

Cookies and coffee in April 15:

CLP's lobby

April 17: **CLP Annual Meeting** 

April 18: National Lineman

Appreciation Day

April 18: **CLP Board Meeting** 

April 19: Good Friday

**CLP Closed** 

April 25: CLP bills due

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

...every spring, CLP moves to summer hours to accomodate our construction season. Office hours from April 29th to October 4th are... Monday-Thursday: 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

## Carey Hogenson Named CLP Marketing Manager

In February Carey was promoted to Marketing Manager after holding several positions at the Cooperative Light & Power over the last 23 years. Carey is excited about her new role and is looking forward to working more closely with members and the community. Carey is married to Rick Hogenson; they have three daughters, Marlee, Makena, & Raegan. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and attending her daughters' many activities.



### Year-to-date Financials

| <u>JANUARY</u>   |                  | 2009               |                     | <u>2018</u>          | <u>2019</u>                |
|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Operating Revenue  | \$ 1             | 1,007,425          | \$                  | 1,386,216            | \$<br>1,471,673            |
| Cost of Purchased Power                                    | \$               | 612,291            | \$                  | 909,196              | \$<br>994,312              |
| Other Operating Expenses Total Cost of Electric Service    | \$               | 269,862<br>882,153 | \$                  | 460,365<br>1,369,561 | \$<br>461,379<br>1,455,691 |
| Operating Margin (Loss)                                    | \$               | 125,272            | \$                  | 16,655               | \$<br>15,982               |
| Interest Income Other Margins                              | \$<br>\$         | 6,350<br>17,950    | \$                  | 14,470<br>(16,610)   | \$<br>14,838<br>(13,853)   |
| Capital Credits Total Margins                              | \$               | 149,572            | \$                  | 14,515               | \$<br>16,967               |
| kWh Purchased<br>kWh Sold                                  | 11,514,752       |                    | , ,                 |                      | 13,184,880                 |
| Line Loss  | 10,762,374 6.53% |                    | 12,451,781<br>4.03% |                      | 12,226,891<br>7.27%        |
| Members Billed<br>Average kWh Used, Residential            |                  | 5,862<br>1,859     |                     | 6,134<br>1,795       | 6,178<br>1,800             |
| Average Bill, Residential<br>Average Cost/kWh, Residential | \$<br>\$         | 166.54<br>0.0896   | \$<br>\$            | 185.16<br>0.1032     | \$<br>206.60<br>0.1148     |
| Interest Expense   | \$               | 36,409             | \$                  | 37,797               | \$<br>41,197               |

#### 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 February:

**Thomas Wright** Credits not claimed: Larry Buesgens, David Lindberg, and Kevin Bergman

#### **OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:**

February Donations: \$1,644.74 Year-to-date Donations: \$3298.16. 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.