

# PowerLines

*Your Trusted Energy News Source*

Monthly Publication of Cooperative Light & Power



## 2021 CLP Drive-In Annual Meeting



June 2021 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

## 2021 CLP Drive-In Annual Meeting Recap

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

The 2021 Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Annual Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Two Harbors. The meeting was held drive-in style for the second year in a row due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members were able to sit back and relax in the comfort and safety of the cars while listening to the meeting being broadcasted on their car radio. There were 194 members registered members in attendance.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, followed by the members using their car horns to make a motion and a second to approve the 2020 CLP Annual Meeting Minutes. Elections were held for three CLP Districts, District #3 and #4 for three-year terms, and District #5 for a one-year term to fill the vacant position after the retirement of Robert Nikolai. Kyle Weideman was elected for the District #3 seat, Steve Josephson for the District #4 seat, and Roger Peterson for the District #5 seat.

Members heard from CLP Board President Patricia Schmieder. She thanked the membership for coming to the meeting. She also thanked the CLP linemen and office staff for keeping the lights on during the pandemic. Pat reported that CLP paid out over \$400,000 in capital credits this year, half of those capital credits coming from GRE. She discussed CLP's efforts in helping our communities and our members with projects such as the CLP Caring Closet, and a new idea being worked on to allow members to transfer bill credits to an account that can help other members in need pay their energy bills.

CLP CEO/General Manager Hal Halpern gave the 2021 Manager's Report. Hal reported on the progress of CLP since its inception eighty-five years ago, growing from the first 56 miles of energized lines in Waldo and Knife River to now over 1,000 miles of energized line to over 6,200 members. Even a pandemic couldn't stop CLP. Hal was happy to report that CLP has had zero safety inci-

dents in the past two and a half years and was recently awarded the Leroy Vanderpool Safety Award for the second year in a row. CLP is on strong financial footing, increasing the members' patronage margins 45% over last year, as detailed in our Annual Report. Members honked their horns in excitement as Mr. Halpern announced that CLP hadn't had a rate increase the previous nine years, and there wouldn't be a rate increase again this year. He also spoke regarding CLP member's support of our communities with the Operation Round-Up program. He thanked the Operation Round-Up Board of Directors for their efforts. Mr. Halpern talked about CLP's Strategic Plan and the environmental stewardship efforts with renewable energy. Hal thanked retiring board members, employees, and legal counsel that have retired this year. Hal ended by saying the future is now. CLP is strong and getting stronger.

After the adjournment of the meeting, a prize drawing was held for all registered members.



## 2021 Manager's Report

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/ GM

Welcome Cooperative Light & Power member-owners as we celebrate our 85th Anniversary. Eighty-five

years ago, 60 farmers from Lake County bellied up to the farm table and slapped down \$1 each to form CLP hoping that they could get a loan to build an electric cooperative. They got the loan and constructed 56 miles of line, and a year later, those lines to Waldo and Knife River were energized, and 93 homes were lit up for the first time. Members at the time described that day as nothing short of miraculous. From that initial 56 miles of line, we grew to over 1,000 miles of line servicing over 6,200 today.

When CLP was founded in 1936, the Country was still in a depression. Dust storms and drought were prevalent throughout our area. Only 1 in 10 farms in rural communities had power throughout our country. With the odds stacked against them, it would have been easy for CLP founders to give up, but that's not what America is all about. Americans never give up. When things are at their worst, Americans are always at their best, setting the example for the rest of the world to follow.

Our CLP founders didn't give up then, and although 2020 was an extremely difficult year for all of us with many lost to

the pandemic, we aren't about to give up now, or ever.

One of the essential mainstays our members and community could count on throughout the pandemic was reliable, uninterrupted electricity from CLP, who adapted quickly even before the Governor's mandate to ensure the power kept flowing.

Now, as we celebrate CLP's 85th Anniversary and move forward towards CLP's Centennial Anniversary in 2036, CLP's future is brighter than ever.

CLP continues to upgrade its infrastructure and maintain a well-managed Right-of-Way along our powerlines that ensure optimum reliability and safety for our employees, members, and community. CLP's reliability is independently measured every year and is compared to like-kind networks throughout our state. The latest report lists CLP as among the top two electric cooperatives in Minnesota, having the shortest interruption time to restore outages. We are also among the safest, not only in Minnesota but in the country, having zero safety incidents in the last 2 1/2 years. Hard to do better than zero safety incidents. In fact, we just found out yesterday that we have been awarded the Leroy Vanderpool Safety award for the second year in a row. This high-reliability rating and safety track record are...excuse my pun...no accident. It's a true testament to the

hard, smart, and safe work your Co-op does every day to help power our lives.

CLP is on strong financial footing, increasing our members' patronage margins 45% over last year as detailed in our Annual Report. CLP has not increased rates in 9 years, and we aren't this year either. But that's only the beginning of good things to come as your Co-op is sowing the seeds to benefit future generations.

CLP is in the quality-of-life improvement business. For 85 years, your Co-op has built a rare kind of credibility that is grounded in the cooperative principle of concern for community through services to consumer-members far beyond power lines. That includes job training, continuing education, community development, internet access, health fairs, scholarships, veterans' programs, youth tours, food banks, and Operation Round-Up. Our members own CLP, and we have returned over \$7 Million in capital credits to our members so far. I want to thank our ORU member contributors who have donated over \$419,000 just from rounding up and donating the change from their bills. I especially want to thank the ORU board members listed in your annual report who have volunteered their time selflessly, giving out over \$29,000 to worthy causes in 2021. Let's hear it for the Operation Round-up Board members.

*Continued on page 3*

### 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  
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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

- Scott Veitenheimer, President/Chair, District 2  
218-340-8968
- Pat Schmieder, Vice-President, District 1  
218-834-2247
- Kyle Weideman, Treasurer, District 3  
218-834-3476
- Roger Peterson, Secretary, District 5  
218-226-8197
- Steve Josephson, Director, District 4  
218-226-4163

## 2021 Manager's Report (continued)

Continued from page 2

Environmental stewardship is of paramount importance for CLP and is one of the pillars of our strategic plan. Currently, in 2021, 30% of our energy comes from renewable sources. But now we project shattering our previous carbon reduction goals, which were 50% by 2030 to 95% by 2024, with our power provider GRE replacing coal-based energy with renewable energy sources.

The results of the first year of our 3-year strategic plan saw CLP achieving 86% of the goals that can be measured at this time. Anything above 75% for the first year of a new strategic plan process is commendable. 86% is extraordinary. Another 6% is available to add to that 86% score once we receive the final independent measurements coming out in June. The second-year objectives will be adjusted and finalized once the new Board has been seated, so the goals take into account the new board members and their district constituents' objectives for our future. We will then update the Strategic Plan and share it with the membership online and in the Powerlines newsletter.

I'd like to thank some long-time CLP contributors who are retiring this year. First is our long-time Board member from District 5, Bob Nikolai. Bob has

been on the CLP Board for 14 years and has been a steadfast granite bedrock contributor on the Board for our members. Every decision I've seen Bob make during my tenure has always been based upon what's best for the entire



### CLP CEO Hal Halpern addresses the membership at the 2021 CLP Annual Meeting

membership, which must always be a Board member's duty regardless of any personal opinion or beliefs to the contrary. Bob has been a trusted advisor and good friend of mine during my tenure. I'm thankful for his deep knowledge and vast experience with our electric

business and knowing what's best for our membership. We'll miss him and wish the best for him and Linda in their retirement. We also would like to thank Alis Stevens and Greg Lien for their assiduous service as CLP Board members.

We would also like to acknowledge two long-time, exceptionally knowledgeable, and skilled employees who have also retired this past year and were very instrumental in the great success CLP has achieved over the last few decades. They are Jean Larson, former Operations Clerk, and Spring Detlefsen, former Office Manager. Another long-time contributor is Jeff Dobberpuhl. Jeff was CLP counsel for more than 30 years and is retiring after this meeting. Please join me in thanking them all for their tireless service to CLP, and we wish them well in their retirement.

The future is now, and CLP is leading the charge to a better tomorrow for all of us. The state of your Cooperative is strong and getting stronger and now re-energized with our new energy experienced and knowledgeable Board members. My name is Hal Halpern, and I want to thank you for listening to your Manager's report and coming to your annual meeting. Stay safe!

Visit our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com) to listen to the 2021 Manager's Report

### Ritzy Meatloaf

*From the Kitchen of: Vicki Johnson*

2 lbs hamburger	¼ cup finely chopped onion
2 eggs	1 tsp. seasoned salt
25 Ritz crackers broken	4oz mushrooms drained
½ cup ketchup	16oz sour cream
2 tsp. worcestershire sauce	

Mix all the ingredients but the mushroom and sour cream. Put half of the mixture into an oven dish. Press meat up sides of dish. Add mushrooms and sour cream. Cover with other half of meat. Pinch top and bottom together. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Enjoy!

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

### Did you know...

CLP offers rebates on EnergyStar appliances?

Check out the rebates on our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

# Release of Information on Your CLP Account

Sue Schmitz, Office Manager

Not only do we respect your privacy, but CLP also has a legal obligation to protect and uphold your privacy. If your name is not listed on a CLP account, you will not have access to any information on that account. It does not matter if you are a parent, child, landlord, or even a spouse. Your name **MUST** be listed on an account to discuss any account information, either as a member or a reference on the account. This is a CLP policy and has been put in place to protect the privacy and identity of our members. There are two different ways to be listed on an account.

## 1st How to add my name as a “Member” on a CLP Account:

- You must fill out and sign the Membership Application with CLP. Both you and your spouse, significant other, or any other person or persons you want on as a member of your account.
- When you are a member, you are financially responsible for this or all accounts you are a member on.
- When you are a member, you will build and receive dividends called capital credits that are earned from your account or accounts. Generally, these dividends are refunded yearly.

## 2nd What is a “Reference” on your CLP Account, and should I have one:

- To be a Reference on an account. The member or members on the account will need to fill out an “Electric Account Release form” with the person or persons being added. This form will also need to be signed by all members currently on the account.
- There can be as many references on an account that is needed.
- You are not financially responsible for the account, but you can call inquire or discuss anything to do with all accounts you are a Reference on.
- You do not get paid out dividends as a Reference.

If you would like to check to see or be added to an account, please call the CLP office, and we can help you figure out what needs to be done so you can be added.

CLP strongly recommends that all landlords be added to their renter’s account as a Reference. Maybe you make this part of your lease agreement? If you don’t add your name to your renter’s account, you will not be notified by CLP of the status of the renter, and you cannot call and discuss their account.

Please call our CLP Office at 218-834-2226 or 1-800-580-5881, and we will gladly help you figure out how to be added to an account.

# Don’t Forget to Call Before You Dig

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

Summer weather means summer projects. If you are going to be doing any digging, please be sure to have your underground wires located. As a reminder, when calling to have your underground utilities marked, our contractors are only marking the utilities up to your meter. CLP is not responsible for lines buried after your meter. If you have lines buried from your meter to anywhere else on your property, you will need to call a local electrician to have them marked.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what’s below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They 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.



# Important Notice to All CLP Fixed Wireless Customers

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

I write you this letter to inform you that CLP will be discontinuing all fixed wireless internet operations effective September 1, 2021. This means that your last bill from CLP will be in August, and service will be shut off on September 1, 2021. Please plan accordingly for a smooth transition to a new provider. As storm season approaches, keep in mind minimal investments will be made on the fixed wireless network. We will, however, continue to offer lakenet.com email service for our existing customers.

We do not need any equipment returned. The equipment you purchased from us is compatible with any provider and could be used as a wireless repeater. If you need assistance, I recommend Ward from Jaws Computer in Two Harbors for any on-site service calls. He can install your new modems, configure wi-fi networks, and set up your TVs, phones, tablets, printers, or computers. His number is 218-834-JAWS (5297). Member number seven hundred and twenty three thousand five hundred forty. I have used Ward for various computer needs for over 20 years, and he does a great job.

Here are some providers you may choose for your new internet service. The good news is that all areas that we serve fixed wireless now have options available with more bandwidth. For a point of reference, your fixed wireless service from CLP is between 3-7 Mbps.

Zito (Fiber): This is fiber to the home service was the former Lake Connections. It is available in Two Harbors, Thomas Lake, Duluth Township areas. Speeds start at 100 Mbps. [www.zitomedia.net](http://www.zitomedia.net) or 1-888-995-9486 or 218-834-8500.

Frontier (DSL): Available in Two Harbors, Thomas Lake, and Pequaywan Lake area. Speeds are 20-50 Mbps. [www.frontier.com](http://www.frontier.com) or 1-877-427-2084.

T-Mobile (5G Home Internet): This is a brand-new service available at Thomas Lake and Duluth Township, parts of Normanna township. Speeds are 100-200 Mbps, and there is no data limit. [www.t-mobile.com/isp](http://www.t-mobile.com/isp) or visit the T-Mobile Burning Tree Plaza, Hermantown location.

Century Link (DSL): This is available in Duluth Township and Normanna Township. Speeds are 15-100 Mbps. [www.centurylink.com](http://www.centurylink.com)

Starlink (Low Earth Orbit Satellite): This is a new option available to all areas. Speeds are 100-200 Mbps. No data limits. [www.starlink.com](http://www.starlink.com)

Viasat (Former Exceed, Wildblue Satellite): This traditional satellite option is available to all areas. Speeds are 12-30 Mbps. Unlimited Data. [www.viasat.com](http://www.viasat.com) or 1-855-259-9251.

ATT, Verizon (Mobile Hotspots, Tethering): This option is available to most areas using your existing cellular service. Data limits may apply. Speeds are 20-70 Mbps.

Looking back, when CLP first entered the wireless broadband arena, Netflix was mailing CDs to your house. YouTube didn't exist, and streaming or video conferencing was unheard of. There was no Facebook or Social Media. If you had an internet connection of 256 Kbps (.25 Mbps), you were doing good!

I am proud that the equipment did its job, rain or shine, bridging the technology gap and providing a service for 20 years in areas that others, at the time, dared not touch. Member number six hundred thirty six thousand one hundred two. I thank you for your loyalty, and it has been a pleasure serving you. As always, all of us here at CLP will continue to fulfill our mission of delivering safe, reliable, affordable energy and services to our members while enhancing the vitality of our community.

## Commercial Member Rebates

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Co-op Light and Power (CLP) is very fortunate to have quite a few commercial members on our system. If you are a commercial member, we have a variety of rebates you may qualify for.

### Energy Efficient Lighting

Electric forklift purchase (or possibly a try before you buy program)

Air Compressors

Air Leak Study

VFDs

Air Source Heat Pumps

\*Coming this summer:

Commercial Food Service Energy Savings Kits

These are just a few of the rebates available for our commercial members. Member number six hundred sixteen thousand five hundred ninety seven. If you are looking at purchasing a new piece of energy saving equipment, or have made a purchase during this calendar year, and you want to see if it would qualify for an energy savings rebate from CLP, give me a call at 218-834-2226. We like to see our members get rewarded with some cashback when they purchase energy-saving equipment.

## Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Association of Lake County Board of Directors was held at the office of Association at Fifteen Fifty-Four, Highway two, on March 17, 2021 with the participation of Greg Lien, Alis Stevens, Pat Schmieder and Scott Veitenheimer.

Four Directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Also present for parts of the meeting was General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda with no additions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes from February 17th, 2021 with revisions.

A motion to accept financial reports was made and seconded.

GRE's upcoming Annual Meeting in April and the nomination of a CLP Board Director to the GRE Board was discussed. Member number seven hundred thirty three thousand seven hundred two. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Scott Veitenheimer to the GRE Board representing CLP through April 2022.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Scott Veitenheimer as primary voting delegate and Alis Stevens as alternate voting delegate during the April 2021 GRE Annual meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to move the meeting to Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the 2020 audit results with the Auditor.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2020 Audit report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the consent agenda. Motion approved.

A motion to approve the Resolution on unclaimed capital credits was made and seconded.

A motion to accept the Co-Generation report as required by State was made and seconded.

Greg Lien announced his resignation as Board President effective the end of the current meeting. Vice President, Pat Schmieder, assumes the duties of the President (per the by-laws) until the election of Officers at the next reorganization meeting to be held in approximately 2 months immediately following the May 19, 2021 annual meeting.

Adjournment was called at 5:23 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>March</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,927,141	\$ 3,596,970	\$ 3,968,841
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 1,806,169	\$ 2,136,447	\$ 2,480,842
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 859,481	\$ 1,215,622	\$ 1,405,945
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 2,665,650	\$ 3,352,069	\$ 3,886,787
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 261,491	\$ 244,901	\$ 82,054
Interest Income	\$ 13,236	\$ 43,840	\$ 15,309
Other Margins	\$ 93,945	\$ (42,718)	\$ (38,187)
Capital Credits	\$ 16,552	\$ 10,387	\$ 11,526
Total Margins	\$ 385,224	\$ 256,410	\$ 70,702
kWh Purchased	31,524,966	31,723,522	33,137,966
kWh Sold	29,741,257	30,738,581	31,616,535
Line Loss	5.66%	3.10%	4.59%
Members Billed	5,895	6,212	6,306
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,545	1,442	1,481
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 149.99	\$ 163.57	\$ 178.65
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.0971	\$ 0.1134	\$ 0.1206
Interest Expense	\$ 96,370	\$ 112,056	\$ 86,141

## Dates to Know...

- June 20:** Summer Solstice
- June 23:** CLP Board Meeting
- June 25:** CLP Bills Due
- July 5:** CLP Closed to observe Independence Day

*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 April: James Sinderman

Credits not claimed: Mitch and Julie Blomquist, Jerry and Noreen Maki, Garrett and Ashley Campbell

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

April Donations: \$1,625.04

Year-to-date Donations: \$6,675.71

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).