

PowerLines

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2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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CLP Bids Farewell to Three Longtime Employees

In December, CLP said goodbye to three longtime employees. Sue Schmitz, Larry Sandretsky, and Mike Johnson, all retired. They had over 100 years of service to CLP between the three of them, and they will be deeply missed by all of us. We wish them the very best in their retirements. Thank you, Sue, Larry, and Mike, for your dedicated service to CLP, and congratulations on your retirement.

Sue Schmitz
Office Manager
43 Years



Sue started as a part-time employee at CLP in June 1978. Throughout her 43 years, she held the positions of Clerk-Typist, Receptionist, Billing Clerk, Payroll/Assistant Accountant, and most recently, Office Manager.

Larry (Bunky) Sandretsky
Operations Manager
30 Years



Larry started at CLP in June 1991 as an Apprentice Lineman. Throughout his career at CLP, he worked his way to Journeyman Lineman, Staking Engineer, and the last few years as Operations Manager.

Mike Johnson
Lineman/General Foreman
28 Years



Mike started at CLP in May 1993 as a Journeyman Lineman. Throughout his career at CLP, he worked his way to Lead Lineman, and most recently, General Foreman.



When You Pay Your Bill, You Make a Rock Solid Investment in CLP

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

As a CLP member-owner, you invest in the co-op every time you pay

your bill. This collective investment in CLP benefits you and the community immediately and over time. So, what exactly is this monthly investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The base fee is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. Combatting cyber security threats and maintaining poles, wires, substations, and co-op equipment takes strategic planning and significant resources. The base fee ensures that all equipment operates properly and staff is trained and ready, so the lights turn on when you need them.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the base fee each month to cover basic operational costs. Member number

six hundred sixteen thousand three hundred twenty eight. All member-owners are charged the same amount for the cost of operation since all members benefit from the same service. In essence, this gives each member-owner an equal share in CLP's operation.

Your monthly investment ensures you have access to safe, reliable, dependable, and affordable power when you need it. We appreciate and value the investment that you make in CLP each month. We strive to use that investment wisely for the benefit of all members of our community.

As investments go, some you make might see returns, and some others you make might not see any. But our member-owners have been investing and receiving returns through electrification and through capital credits in CLP for the last 85 years.

YOUR INVESTMENTS IN CLP HAVE PROVEN TO BE ROCK SOLID WITH RETURNS YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE EVERY TIME YOU TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON!!!



Robert (Bob) Nikolai

September 15, 1937 - November 21, 2021



We lost a member of the CLP family in November. Bob was elected to the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Board of Directors in 2007. He faithfully served the board and members of CLP until his recent retirement this past February. His dedication to the co-op, its members, and employees is an inspiration to us all. Bob will be sincerely missed. May he rest in peace.

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.



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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.

Important Contacts

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Scott Veitenheimer, President, 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

Online Job Scams on the Rise

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

How would you like to make \$100,000 per year working only 30 hours a week? Sounds good, too good, right? From Facebook to LinkedIn, Indeed, or Monster.com, ads are popping up that promise well-paying jobs — if applicants provide their Social Security numbers and other details upfront.

The most common example is the offer I listed above to work as an airport shuttle bus driver. But airports aren't really dangling six-figure salaries for shuttle drivers amid some sudden resurgence in air travel. Instead, the ads are cybercriminals' latest attempt to steal people's identities and use them to commit fraud.

LexisNexis Risk Solutions, a contractor, working with government and state agencies to combat identity theft, had detected around 2,900 fake ads in March. The total had grown to 18,400 by July and then to 36,350 as of October. This was also confirmed by an MPR's "All Things Considered" program I was listening to on

November 1st.

It should not be a surprise of the tactical shift by the cybercriminals. They are going to take advantage of the low-hanging fruit. For example, 2.9% of workers quit their jobs in August, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Meanwhile, huge numbers of laid-off workers are still looking for work, creating the perfect storm of opportunities for fake job ads.

Use the following FTC guidelines to avoid job scams:

- Do an online search.
- Talk to someone you trust.
- Don't pay for the promise of a job.
- Never bank on a "cleared" check.

I would also add: Never give any personal information (SSN, Driver's License #, etc.) as a pre-employment verification request. If you see or lose money to a job scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Find out more about how to avoid scams at ftc.gov/scams.

Visit the Energy Wise MN Store

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Did you know that you can conveniently access the Energy Wise MN store thru our website at www.clpower.com? Once on our site, scroll down and click on Energy Wise MN Store.

The focus of this site is to provide our members with education information

and offer great deals on energy-saving items. You can tour this site

for educational purposes, learn how different energy items work, find money saving opportunities, watch for giveaway

promotions they offer a few times a year, and look for the best deals on things such as smart thermostats, EV chargers, wifi cameras, lighting products, and much more. Member number seven hundred fifty one thousand four hundred ninety nine.

The items for sale on this site do change from time to time so keep an

eye on the site. Take a few minutes and check it out; it can help save you money on energy and special offers.



ENERGY WISE MN

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

*Source: Dept. of
Energy*



CLP Toy Drive All Wrapped Up

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

The 18th Annual Caring Loving People Toy Drive was a great success. Many thanks to you, our members, and our community for supporting the toy drive this year. Whether it was with a toy donation, filling a wish list item, or a cash donation, the generosity of our community is simply humbling.

In conjunction with the Lake County Chapter of the Salvation Army, Co-op Light & Power's (CLP's) Annual Toy Drive collected enough items to supply 51 families (147 kids) with toys, clothing, personal items, and electronics that they had wished for. All of the items collected here in Lake County stayed in Lake County, supporting our local families.

We would also like to thank our partners in this project, the Salvation Army, and all of the businesses that allow us to put



CLP Board Room full of toys being sorted

collection bins and wish list tags in their businesses. A special thanks to the Two Harbors Federal Credit Union and Hugo's Bar. The Two Harbors Federal Credit Union helped us with our last-minute shopping and donated \$1,350 in items helping us fill all of the wish list items that were not fulfilled. Hugo's Bar in Brimson collected toys and cash donations during their annual holiday party. They collected a whole truckload of toys and raised over \$1,000 in donations for the toy drive.

This project would not be possible without all of the Caring Loving People in our local community. Together we brought a lot of smiling faces to children this holiday season. Thank you!



Car full of toys collected from drop-off site bins

What to do When Your Power Goes Out

Brian Bentler, Operations Manager

I want to remind everyone what to do if your power goes out. If you do not call or text to report the outage, we have no way of knowing you are out of power. Too many people wait and think someone else will call it in. Calling to report an outage helps speed up the restoral by giving us a better idea of the area out of power. If you have any information on the outage, like a tree or wire down, make sure you inform the person taking your outage information. Member number six hundred ten thousand three hundred fifty nine.

In the event your power goes out, check your breakers to make sure they are not tripped. Check with neighbors to see if their power is out. The best way to know if it is a co-op outage is to look at your meter. You will find a digital display on the meter that scrolls through several screens. One of the screens (see picture) is the voltage. Your voltage should read somewhere around 240. If the meter is blank, there is no power going to your meter. Call CLP to report your outage.



Meter with full power

Lifelong Learning
Shannon Haveri, HR/Finance Manager

I believe it is important never to stop learning. It keeps our brains young, keeps our minds open, and makes the world a much more interesting place.

I have been learning all kinds of new things lately. But before we touch on what I have learned, I will help you learn something about me.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, I grew up in Two Harbors. My first job out of college was working part-time at the Two Harbors Public Library. The library didn't look the same in 1997. None of the materials were computerized, research was done by using heavy oversize books, and there was no air-conditioning (it was like a sauna in the summer). Over my 18 years as the library's Children's Librarian, we barcoded the entire collection, provided patrons access to the internet, and modernized the building and services. On a personal front, my husband John and I had three daughters and spent our time on work, kids, camping, and house renovations.

Next, I dusted off my accounting degree and joined Kolquist, Seitz, & Goldman as their Administrative Assistant. Within a year, I became a Staff Accountant and then spent my

time doing payroll, accounting, and taxes. I taught classes, assisted clients, and did monthly financials. At home, we were busy with the girls and their sports and activities, did more house projects, and helped the kids get ready for college.

Now I am at CLP, trying to learn as much as I can as fast as I can. Outside of work, we have one child who graduated with an engineering degree and was recently married. The middle one is going to UMD for Economics, and the third is wrapping up her high school career and planning for college. So our lives at home are slowing down a little bit; we can sneak away for walks in the woods with the dog, and hopefully, we are done working on the house for a while.

One thing I've learned...

A few short months ago, the only time I thought about my power was on the rare occasions it didn't work. I knew it made my electronics operate and heated my home. I could see the bill come out of our account, but other than that, electricity never crossed my mind. Once I started at the CLP, I had to rethink what I knew about power in general and CLP in particular. The first thing I

learned was that there are different types of electric utilities and their differences.

What is a Co-Op?

There are three kinds of utilities – Investor-Owned Utility (IOU), Cooperatively-Owned Utility (Co-Ops), and Publicly-Owned Utility (POU). Cooperatively owned utilities, or Co-ops, are not-for-profit, member-owned utilities that are common in rural areas. Member number seven hundred five thousand five hundred sixty four. When electricity infrastructure was being built in the 1930s, there weren't enough customers per mile in rural communities to make the existing electric companies a profit, so they bypassed sparsely populated areas. It was up to the people in those rural areas to electrify their own communities, so they formed member-owned electric cooperatives to do so. Their goal was and still is to optimize benefits for their local customers, who are the members-owners. The Co-op member-owners elect a board that is responsible for setting corporate policies. Our Co-Op started in 1936 when sixty Lake County farmers decided to band together to get electricity. Eighty-plus years and over a thousand miles of line later, we are still here and still providing power!

Shrimp Fried Rice
From the Kitchen of: Diane Mozol

- 3 slices of bacon
1/4 cup diced onion
6 oz thawed salad shrimp
3 cups cooked basmati rice
2 Tbsp. soy sauce
1/4 cup water
1/2 Tbsp. butter
2 eggs slightly beaten

Fry bacon until crisp. Drain and crumble. Fry onion and shrimp in bacon drippings for 2 minutes. Add rice and stir fry for 5 minutes on medium heat, add soy sauce, water, and bacon. Stir. Push to edges. Place butter in well. Add eggs, scramble, then mix with rice.

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

Looking for a new way to report your power outage?
Sign up on CLP's website (www.clpower.com) for texting services. After you are registered, you will be able to report your power outage by text message.

Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was held on October 26, 2021, with the participation of all board members. They attended the meeting by video conference due to a recent positive case of Covid at CLP.

All directors were present when the meeting was called to order at 9:42 a.m. Also present was CEO Hal Halpern, Communication Manager Kevin Olson for technical assistance, and Sherry Fabini to take the minutes.

There were additions to the agenda: Questions regarding the ROW Advisory Committee Recommendations and the town hall meeting, the GRE Member Management meetings, a resolution for the unclaimed capital credits, and to appoint the CEO/director to vote as a delegate for NRECA.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the September minutes as modified. Motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the financials. Motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda. Motion passed.

CEO Halpern went over the

Managers Report. He reported to the Board that two new employees were hired. Our Grab and Go pie day was a success. We had about 225 members stop by. The EV show in Duluth had a great turnout. The MREA LIFEguard Award was presented to Shannon Klinker. The annual Caring Loving People Toy Drive has started. Kevin is winding down the wireless operations. ROW spraying was completed. They will start again in March 2022.

Scott Veitenheimer told the Board that the GRE minutes are in the Dropbox for their review.

A motion was made to accept Esterbrooks as our Certified Public Accountants for our 2021 Audit. Motion passed.

A motion was made to appoint CEO Halpern as the NRECA Director voting delegate for CLP. Motion passed.

The Board was all in favor to have a special session to combine all recommendations/responses for the ROW issues next month.

The Board discussed the date for the next Board meeting. The date is set for November 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 12:38 p.m.

Year-to-date Financials

<u>Oct-21</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 8,282,916	\$ 10,842,771	\$ 11,042,758
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 4,796,599	\$ 5,996,143	\$ 6,432,153
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,052,533	\$ 4,466,248	\$ 4,365,311
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 7,849,132	\$ 10,462,391	\$ 10,797,464
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 433,784	\$ 380,380	\$ 245,294
Interest Income	\$ 59,491	\$ 143,360	\$ 64,942
Other Margins	\$ 225,555	\$ (126,372)	\$ (151,197)
Capital Credits	\$ 93,212	\$ 19,647	\$ 26,581
Total Margins	\$ 812,042	\$ 417,015	\$ 185,620
kWh Purchased	77,883,431	83,679,139	83,630,332
kWh Sold	73,424,506	80,066,860	79,664,143
Line Loss	5.73%	4.32%	4.74%
Members Billed	5,943	6,294	6,362
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,000	1,008	969
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 116.05	\$ 136.91	\$ 134.98
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1161	\$ 0.1358	\$ 0.1393
Interest Expense	\$ 368,310	\$ 361,825	\$ 287,011

Dates to Know...

Jan 14: Cookie served in the CLP lobby

Jan 25: CLP Bills Due

Feb 21: CLP CLOSED
President's 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 November:

No credits were claimed

Credits not claimed: Ronald Tveiten, David Fellon, Sandra Bergman, Kay or Paul Struve

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

November Donations: \$1,601.95

Year-to-date Donations: \$18,026.23

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.