

# PowerLines

*Your Trusted Energy News Source*



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**SAVE the DATE!**

## COOPERATIVE LIGHT & POWER ANNUAL MEETING

**MAY 25, 2022  
LAKE COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
TWO HARBORS  
6:00 P.M.**

▼ be extraordinary, pg 2 & 3

▼ stay ahead, pg 3

▼ why is your winter bill higher, pg 4

▼ read your board minutes, pg 6

## Westholm Scholarship Available for High School Seniors - Apply Now!

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

As part of our community involvement and outreach efforts, Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities to our member's children. We know that by supporting the students in our community, we're making our communities better!

The Westholm Memorial Award is made possible by CLP in memory of the Association's late First President, Mr. Emil Westholm.

CLP offers six scholarships annually, each in the amount of \$1,000 to students continuing their education. The recipient's parent(s) must be a CLP member to qualify. In addition, the student must demonstrate a commitment to the community through active involvement in civic affairs to volunteerism in community organizations or programs that enhance the quality of life for the citizens of our region. The CLP Board of Directors reviews applications,

essays, and letters of recommendation. Two students are chosen from both the Two Harbors High School and the William Kelley High School. The other two scholarships are given to two students outside of the two local schools.

Scholarships are awarded to selected students upon submitting transcripts after their first semester of a technical school, community college, or university.

Westholm Scholarship application and guidelines are available at both the Two Harbors High School and the William Kelley

High School and on our

website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com) under the "My Community" tab. The application deadline for the 2022 Westholm Scholarship is April 1, 2022.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS,  
COULD YOU USE \$1,000  
FOR COLLEGE?**

Cooperative Light & Power will be giving out a total of \$6,000 in scholarships to students within our service territory. Award amount is \$1,000, and will be awarded to two students enrolled in the Two Harbors High School and the William Kelley High School, and two students enrolled in a high school out of the area.

Scholarship guidelines and applications can be found on our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com) or from your guidance counselors at Two Harbors High School or William Kelley High School.



## Extraordinary!

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Sometimes you come across something, some idea, some person, performance, event, or some company or cooperative that does things that are a cut above the usual expectations you've become accustomed to, which has a very positive impact.

It's easy to tell that these 'positive things' are special and out of the ordinary when they are compared to their peers. That's why these positive, out-of-the-ordinary things are called extra ordinary or extraordinary!

When it comes to CLP -Safety, Reliability, Environmental Stewardship, and Rate Stability for the last ten years - be glad you live in CLP's service territory. That's because CLP's safety record, reliability, carbon emission reductions, and over a decade of rate stability exemplify the extraordinary.

On the safety side, we had ZERO OSHA incidents over the last three years, the best safety record for electric cooperatives in the nation.

For reliability, which is defined as the ability and time it takes to restore service after an outage, we are among the top 2

of our peer cooperatives in Minnesota.

On the environmental responsibility frontier- Great River Energy and CLP are on-track to reduce their carbon emissions by 80%, from 2005 levels, next year. Member account number seven hundred thirty five thousand eight hundred thirty three. This surpasses Minnesota's statewide emissions goal more than 27 years before the 2050 target. Minnesota as a whole has only dropped carbon emissions 8% vs. GRE/CLP's 80%. And GRE/CLP is doing it while keeping rates stable while

others not meeting Minnesota carbon reductions are increasing rates.

For rate stability, we stand alone as the only cooperative in Minnesota that has not increased rates in the last ten years. Minnesota's two largest electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Xcel Energy, have proposed significant rate increases of 18 and 21 percent, respectively, over the next few years. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved a smaller interim rate increase for them as they consider their larger rate increases.

*Continued on page 3*



Take 35% off all indoor and outdoor water-saving products at [energywisemnstore.com/WaterSavings!](http://energywisemnstore.com/WaterSavings!)

Water-saving products—such as showerheads and faucet aerators—are engineered to use less water without affecting your water stream or pressure.

It's a true win-win you'll notice in your utility bills.

Discount applied at checkout. Customer pays all sales tax.

ENERGY WISE  MN



Offer valid March 1 through April 30, 2022.

No coupon code necessary. Discount applied at checkout. Customer assumes responsibility for all sales tax. While supplies last.



## 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

March 2022 - Vol. 24, Issue 3  
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
Cooperative Light & Power  
Association of Lake County  
1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
[www.clpower.com](http://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



## Working to Stay Ahead of Supply-Chain Shortages

Brian Bentler, Operations Manager

**You can help us stay ahead of supply-chain shortages by letting us know about your 2022 new services and service upgrades so we have materials on hand.**

As consumers, seeing empty store shelves has unfortunately become more common during the pandemic. How is your co-op fairing for its materials?

Electric co-ops work with suppliers who are used to having extra poles and wires on hand due to devastating storms that can destroy large areas of utility lines. However, the pandemic caused suppliers to order even further ahead. In addition, we are estimating the materials we need for the 2022 construction season. A lot of material was ordered a year in advance instead of the normal 3-6 months.

Exceptionally long lead times and inflated prices are drastically changing how and when we procure hardware and other materials. Member account number six hundred fifty two thousand five hundred sixty eight. We are being forced to plan and order materials necessary for construction projects, like new services and line rebuilds, a year in advance now. As for the prices, in 2020, a 15 KVA underground transformer cost us \$995. In January of 2022, the same transformer was \$2,016. Lead times on transformers are from 15-56 weeks. Underground primary wire in 2017 was \$1.76 per foot. In late 2021 the same wire was just under \$3.00 per foot with 9-12 months lead times.

The long lead times create the challenge of anticipating what members' needs will be. To try and avoid any delays to members, transformers and wire are ordered further in advance. CLP has been reaching out to additional vendors to find out their lead times and availability. If members are considering changes to their service or adding a new service, don't hesitate to get in touch with CLP Operations well in advance to get on the list and help us make sure we have the equipment and materials on hand for what is needed when the construction season begins.



### Building a new home in 2022?

Call CLP and speak to the Operations Department. Let's get your project on the 2022 line crews' "to-do" list to ensure that the right size transformer and materials are on hand for your project.

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## Extraordinary! (continued)

*Continued from page 2*

We believe CLP's members have the best electric service around, whether you value cost, reliability, safety, environmental responsibility—or all four as we do.

CLP is extraordinary because of our employees, board, and power provider Great River Energy. CLP is an owner/member of Great River Energy in the same way you are an owner/member of

CLP. But, most of all, our extraordinary member-owners philanthropy, who have donated over \$453,000 through Operation Round-Up (ORU) and have helped hundreds in our community. Member account number six hundred fifty six thousand five hundred thirty nine. The ORU program is run by extraordinary volunteer ORU Board members who diligently and selflessly give their expertise and time to this important program.

CLP will continue to strive to do even better in all areas for our member-owners. This is the core and essence of our culture and strategic plan through our continuous quality improvement process. CLP's independently measured record is clearly an undeniable representation of an **EXTRAORDINARY** electric cooperative that is operating successfully for its member-owners and community's benefit.

# Human Resources, Human Management

Shannon Haveri, HR/Finance Manager

So far in my newsletters, I have only touched on the accounting side of my job. And this time of year especially, the financial side of things takes up a lot of my time. But there is another side, just as valuable, but a little harder to quantify – the human resources side.

Everyone has a vague idea of what Human Resources entail. People tend to think of the HR person as the one who handles health insurance and retirement, hiring and firing, and keeps track of all the paperwork employment requires. And while those things are correct, human resources can be much more than that. It can also vary widely, depending on the size of the company, the industry, and the culture within the company.

I consider the HR part of my job at CLP to be part Resources, and part Management. The Resources portion is to help our employees have the information they need to make decisions about insurance and benefits, and to help guide them when they have questions. Member account number seven hundred thirty five thousand two hundred

ninety nine. The Management part is to coordinate and organize people, paperwork, and information.

One little aside about human resources and employee management. I always thought it was odd that business owners call their employees “assets,” but under accounting standards they are considered expenses. There are reasons for this classification of course. Employees are not owned by the corporation, they can quit at any time and then take their skills and training with them, and human capital is not easily measured. But in spite of what the financial statements say, the quality of your employees can make or break a company. This is especially true when there is a customer service aspect to your business.

We are very fortunate here at Co-op to have a great group of employees who are dedicated and invested to our members and the electrical service we provide.

Something else I've learned...some dogs have both an outer primary coat and an inner undercoat – basically a double coat. And it all sheds.

## Notice to Co-generators:

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules related to Co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Cooperative Light & Power is required to interconnect with, and purchase electricity from, co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility.

Cooperative Light & Power has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative.

Any disputes over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, please contact CLP Member Services Manager Ken Jones at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881.

## Why Electric Bills go up in the Winter

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Even if you are not an electric heat member, you may notice that your electric bills are higher during the winter months. Here are a few factors that cause increased winter energy use:

- ✓ Shorter days and longer nights mean more time indoors. That typically means more lights, TVs, appliances, and video games in use.
- ✓ Your photo eye-controlled yard lights run longer during the long winter darkness.
- ✓ Most heating systems use electricity for some functions, such as operating the fan or the pump, and they may run continuously when it is very cold.
- ✓ You may be using space heaters in garages, basements, or other unheated areas. Portable plug-in space heaters can dramatically increase your monthly bill.
- ✓ Engine block heaters on your cars or equipment or heat tapes on exposed plumbing will increase the amount of energy you use.
- ✓ Holiday gatherings mean more guests, more hot showers, more cooking, and baking; all add to your electricity use.



## Remote Control Batteries Driving you Bonkers?

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Let's face it. We've all been there. You pick up the remote for the TV, and then – nothing happens. Ok, who was the last to use it? Why are the batteries dead, I thought I just replaced them? Sometimes, when the battery suitcase is empty, the kids get clever and “borrow” the batteries from the TV remote for their gaming remotes. Yes, I said it—the specially designed, organized small suitcase of batteries. I must admit it was an upgrade from the box or drawer. Either way, there must be a better way, and then I read about RF Harvesting.

Researchers have developed a material that allows electronics to be powered through a Wi-Fi signal. Do you mean no more batteries? That's right! This brand-new semiconductor material was used to develop a radio antenna capable of capturing (or harvesting) Wi-Fi signals it receives and converting them into wireless energy. The AC signal travels into the semiconductor, which converts it into a DC voltage that can be used to power electronic circuits, capacitors, or recharge batteries.

Perhaps the company getting the most attention right now is Samsung. They

just announced at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) that they have a TV remote (Eco Remote) that captures the energy in radio frequency signals emitted by home Wi-Fi routers to power a TV remote control. Sounds familiar, right? This technology is part of Samsung's stated mission to make consumer products more environmentally friendly. Keeping batteries out of landfills makes complete sense to me.



Every now and then, a new technology that has the promise of convenience gets me excited. This is one of them. Thanks to this breakthrough, I hope Wi-Fi can become a widespread energy source to eventually power larger consumer electronic devices like smartphones, laptops, or tablets. Currently, the technology is only suited to smaller items like remotes, gaming controllers, webcams, and the like.

When it comes to battery-powered electronics, I believe there is a single thing we need to remember. The less worry about charging or replacing it, the better off everyone will be because we will be happier with the experience. I'll try to remember that the next time I'm digging for a battery.

### Egg Bake

*From the Kitchen of: Sherry Fabini*

24 ounces frozen shredded hashbrowns	1 tsp season salt
Salt and pepper	2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
12 eggs	1 ½ cups shredded pepper jack cheese
2 cups half and half	2 cups chopped ham or any meat

Grease 9x13 pan and layer the hashbrowns. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Layer cheddar cheese, the pepper jack cheese and then the ham. In a large bowl, mix eggs, season salt and half and half and pour on top. Cover with foil and put in fridge overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 90 minutes with the foil on. Take foil off and bake another 10-20 minutes. Let egg bake rest for 10 minutes before serving.

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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can greatly impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was held at the CLP office on 12/29/21, with all directors present and with Director Schmieder attending via video conference. CEO Hal Halpern was also in attendance. Meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m.

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

A motion was made to approve the November minutes. Motion passed.

Office Managers Haveri and Schmitz joined to discuss financials and answer questions. Steve Josephson suggested to donate money left in the contribution fund to Lake County Ambulance and Lake County Rescue Squad. Board agreed donating to each organization. A motion was made to accept financials. Motion passed.

A motion was made to move the meeting to executive session to discuss confidential GRE information. After discussion a motion was made to exit executive session.

Discussion on the Resolution for NextEra Energy Resources Buffalo Ridge Wind Purchase Agreement.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution. All Directors voted in favor.

Discussion on the Settlement and 68 MW Capacity Purchase Agreement with Rainbow Energy Center Resolution.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution. Resolution passed.

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

Hal went over the Manager's Report. Reporting on cybersecurity, easement process, the Caring Loving People toy drive, Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing, new contract for generators, construction projects, and a retirement party for the three retirees.

Discussion on Capital Credit Resolution to Retire. A motion was made to approve the resolution. The resolution was discussed and passed unanimously.

ROW contracts were discussed. A motion was made to accept the contracts as written. Motion passed.

The date for the next Board meeting is set for January 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 1:22 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>Dec-21</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 10,089,996	\$ 13,190,045	\$ 13,464,493
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 5,892,726	\$ 7,429,357	\$ 7,965,658
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 3,605,923	\$ 5,289,950	\$ 5,410,836
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 9,498,649	\$ 12,719,307	\$ 13,376,494
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 591,347	\$ 470,738	\$ 87,999
Interest Income	\$ 63,892	\$ 152,388	\$ 71,282
Other Margins	\$ 215,272	\$ (147,718)	\$ (180,858)
Capital Credits	\$ 334,388	\$ 204,066	\$ 468,991
Total Margins	\$ 1,204,899	\$ 679,474	\$ 447,414
kWh Purchased	96,056,512	104,358,788	105,242,733
kWh Sold	90,554,056	99,556,759	100,008,673
Line Loss	5.73%	4.60%	4.97%
Members Billed	5,932	6,300	6,364
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,056	1,070	1,038
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 119.65	\$ 140.71	\$ 140.03
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1133	\$ 0.1315	\$ 0.1349
Interest Expense	\$ 483,542	\$ 420,119	\$ 350,597

**\*Please note: December numbers are pre-audit and subject to change.**

## Dates to Know...

**Mar 13:** Daylight Savings

**Mar 15:** Cookies in CLP lobby

**Mar 17:** St. Patrick's Day

**Mar 25:** CLP Bills Due

**Apr 15:** Good Friday  
(CLP offices CLOSED)

**May 25:** CLP Annual Meeting

*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 December:**

**Sharon Carlson**

**Credits not claimed:** Sally Stout, Adam Jensen, and David Stewart

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

December Donations: \$1,658.49

Year-to-date Donations: \$21,326.33

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).