

# PowerLines

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May 2022 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



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## 2022 COOPERATIVE LIGHT & POWER ANNUAL MEETING

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Join the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Board of Directors, management, employees, and CLP fellow members for the 85th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The meeting will once again be held as a drive-in at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Two Harbors. We are happy to announce that we will also be offering a meal at the meeting this year! The Two Harbors Lion's Club will be serving up burgers, hotdogs, chips, cookies, and beverages for our members to enjoy in the comfort of their vehicles while listening to the business meeting on the car radio.

Your registration card for the CLP Annual Meeting will be included in your CLP Annual Report, which is being mailed separately this year. Please bring the Annual Report with you to the meeting. CLP employees will scan the barcode on the back cover, automatically placing a \$10 credit on your electric bill as a registration gift. If you forget your Annual Report, no problem, you will still receive the credit; the registration process will just take a bit longer.

At the CLP Annual Meeting, members will hear from CLP leadership and learn important information about the past year and what is in store for CLP in the future. The meeting will include the most up-to-date information regarding your cooperative, a guest speaker, an election for District #2 and District #5 Directors, a time for members to ask any questions that they may have regarding the cooperative, and of course, great door prizes!

**WHAT:** 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022

**WHERE:** Lake County Fairgrounds

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

5:00 pm – 5:50 pm: Meeting Registration

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Meal Served

6:00 pm: Business Meeting Begins

7:30 pm: Adjournment & Prize Drawings

**RECEIVE A REUSABLE INSULATED SHOPPING BAG AND A \$10 ELECTRIC CREDIT AS FREE GIFTS FOR ATTENDING!**

As a member of CLP, you are also an owner of CLP. As an owner, you have a voice in the operation of our organization. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of your Board of Directors, you help set the future direction of our cooperative. To learn more about the director candidates, please see page 4 or visit [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com).

We look forward to seeing you on May 25th!

# Hello!

## Steve Shurts, Interim CEO

Hello! I'm Steve Shurts, your Interim CEO. My first day was April 11. On a personal note, my wife, Leila, and I have been married for 46 years. We have five married children and a bunch of grandkids. As you might expect, my family defines who I am. There's nothing better than spending time with grandkids.

I've been in the energy business my entire career. After receiving a degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin, I went off to Monticello, MN, to work at Xcel's nuclear plant. From that point forward, my career took many turns, but for years in and around power plants, then energy marketing, and finally management of two different electric utilities. I was the general manager of Owatonna Public Utilities for seven years; and then finished my career with ten years as President/CEO of East Central Energy, a rural electric cooperative much like Cooperative Light & Power. I retired from ECE in July 2020.



Steve Shurts, CLP Interim CEO

I have worked for the three major types of electric utilities – investor-owned, municipal, and cooperative. The best model from the standpoint of governance and operations is the rural electric cooperative. We don't have customers. We have member-owners. The folks who sit on our board are members elected by the membership. And I enjoy interacting with

our members, even those who may have a concern with us.

Having worked at an investor-owned utility, a municipal utility, and two cooperatives (now a third), I understand the differences. In addition to the differences in ownership, governance, and how we treat our members, there's a difference in the revenue and costs associated with delivering electricity to your homes and businesses. We serve an average of 6.3 members for each mile of distribution line in our system. Member account number six hundred ninety six thousand nine hundred fifteen. And very few of those members are industrial in nature. One of our neighbors is Minnesota Power, an investor-owned utility. MP is a fine organization, but it has the luxury of serving substantially more customers per mile of line and some of the largest industrial loads in the state. It costs MP and CLP about the same to build and maintain a mile of power line. However, MP receives significantly more revenue for each of those miles. We do our best to operate prudently and efficiently, but there's only so much we can do. But please know we'll always provide excellent member service!

I don't know how long I'll be your Interim CEO. But while I'm here, I'll serve our membership to the best of my abilities. If you have a question for me, I can be reached at (218) 834-2226 or email [SteveShurts@CLPower.com](mailto:SteveShurts@CLPower.com).

An advertisement for the Arrowhead Home and Builders Show. The background is a wooden surface with various tools like pliers, wrenches, and a hammer. The text reads: "Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the Arrowhead Home and Builders Show. We are happy to announce that Tom Gimach &amp; Kristie Getchell each won a \$50 credit on their electric bill just for stopping by and registering at the booth." The names "Tom Gimach &amp; Kristie Getchell" are in red.

## 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](http://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, 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



## Power Line Safety

Brian Bentler, Operations Manager

Accidentally contacting a power line can be dangerous and, in some cases, even deadly. We want you to stay safe around power lines.

### Keep A Safe Distance

Whether you are playing outdoors with your children or working on landscaping projects, keep a safe distance from power lines and other equipment CLP uses to get electricity to your home.



- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers, and electrical boxes.
- Don't climb trees near power lines.
- Never fly kites, remote-controlled airplanes, or balloons near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call CLP to get it.

- Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines when working with ladders or installing objects such as antennas.

### Downed Power Lines

A downed power line may still be an energized power line. Member account number seven hundred ten thousand ninety.

- Never touch or go near a downed power line.
- Don't touch anything that may be touching a downed wire, such as a car.
- Keep children and pets away.
- Call CLP at 800-580-5881 to report downed power lines.



## Vehicle Accidents and Utility Poles

If you encounter a vehicle accident involving a utility pole or power line:



- Call 911 immediately.
- Don't touch any passenger who may be in contact with a power line.
- Don't touch anything that is in contact with the vehicle.
- Don't attempt to move power lines or utility poles.
- If passengers must exit the vehicle, jump clear of it without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with feet together and shuffle away.
- Don't rely on rubber boots, raincoats, rubber gloves, or wire cutters for protection.

## What is Ransomware?

Kevin Olson, Business Manager

In the ever-evolving world of technology, Ransomware is growing dramatically among businesses and individuals alike. The COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to the recent surge in Ransomware. As companies rapidly pivoted to remote work, unintentional gaps were created in their cyber defenses, thereby allowing cybercriminals to exploit these vulnerabilities - wreaking havoc for everyone.

**But what exactly is Ransomware, you ask?** Simply put, Ransomware is a type of malicious software (malware) that accesses a victim's files - locks and encrypts them, then demands the victim to pay a ransom (in cryptocurrency) to get them back. Cybercriminals use these attacks to

try to get users to click on attachments or links that appear legitimate but contain malicious code. The attacks can spread from a single PC all the way up to an entire network, including servers. Often the attackers will secretly hunt through the network until they control as much as possible - before encrypting all they can. They also use the threat of sharing potentially damaging, personal, or embarrassing information to gain their ransom. And it's big money. The average ransom payment in 2021 increased by 63% to \$1.79 million USD, compared to \$1.10 million USD in 2020, according to CrowdStrike, Inc., an industry leader on cybersecurity. On average, there are about

45 targeted "big game" attacks per week. The big money is even driving some governments (state-sponsored attacks) to be involved in the dark world of Ransomware.

Your best protection is to keep your software patched and up to date. Protect your systems with good security software. Member account number seven hundred one thousand two hundred. Most free Anti-Virus programs have an option to purchase additional Ransomware active protections for a small yearly fee. It is a wise investment. Also, use unique, long, strong passwords and 2FA (2 Factor Authentication). And as always, never click on links in suspicious emails or text messages. Stay computer safe!

## 2022 Director Nominees

Meet your Director Nominees for District #2 & District #5. An election for these positions will take place at the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. Any other members wishing to run for a director position in either of these districts must contact CLP Interim CEO Steve Shurts at least fifteen days prior to the annual meeting stating their intent to be nominated from the floor of the annual meeting to be eligible.

### District #2 (Incumbent) Scott Veitenheimer



I am your current CLP Board President Scott Veitenheimer. I grew up in Ottertail County, south of Fergus Falls, MN. Since my parents were members of both Lake Region Electrical Co-op and Park Region Telephone Cooperative, I have been part of a co-op family for most of my life. After graduating from Fergus Falls High School and Fergus Falls Junior College, I received my B.S. in Geological Engineering from the University of Idaho. Returning to Minnesota, I worked for the MN DNR, Minerals Division in Hibbing where I was part of the team that wrote Minnesota's Mineland Reclamation Regulations. I also worked for RREM Consulting Engineers of Duluth and was Assistant Lake County Highway Engineer. About 12 years ago, I was awarded a Certificate in GIS from UMD.

My wife and I have been members of CLP since we moved to Two Harbors with our two daughters in 1992. We ran a strawberry farm on our property for several years.

I was first elected to the CLP Board in 2016 and currently have the most experience since the other Directors have all served less than two years. I was elected Board Chairman in June 2021. I also represent CLP on the Great River Energy Board of Directors, serving in that role since September 2020.

### District #2 Geoff Tolley



I'm Geoff Tolley, and with your commitment to vote I hope to have the honor of serving District 2 as your board member.

I was born in England 46 years back and moved to the Midwest in 2005 to be closer to Jennifer, to whom I have been happily married these last fifteen years. We've lived by this corner of Lake Superior a while before settling in District 2 six years ago.

My higher education background is in physics and professionally I work remotely in IT as a systems administrator. It's a job that demands a great deal of attention to detail, which is a quality I've already been bringing to CLP as a member: I've alerted CLP when some coop-related state paperwork went missing and also drawn the Board's attention to our cooperative supplier Great River Energy having neglected to account for many millions of dollars in several different kinds of hidden costs to coop member-owners in its briefing on the proposed sale of Coal Creek Station.

CLP has many enviable records to maintain: lineman safety, supply reliability and staff institutional knowledge not least among them. It's also changing as we need a new CEO and the shapes of electricity generation, transmission, storage and usage are all undergoing rapid transformation. With your confidence I'll be able to pay detailed attention to all those and more on your behalf.

### District #5 (Incumbent) Roger Peterson



Hello, my name is Roger Peterson, and I have been the director of District 5 for one year now; and I am up for re-election this year.

I am 64 years old, married for 44 years to Tammie, and have two children and two grandchildren, all of who live in the Finland area where I was born and raised. After working in the mining industry for 37 years and eight years working for the MN DNR, I retired 1-1/2 years ago. Now I work full time at my construction business, keeping busy building things.

I was involved in many organizations throughout my time living in Finland, including the Finland Area Recreation Committee, Finland Fire & Rescue, Finland 1st Responders, and the Crystal Bay Township Board.

I have really enjoyed my last year as a director on the board. I have learned much about electric cooperatives and the way they function. I am proud to be a part of this great organization and would appreciate your support for another term.

Thank you!

**\*District #5 Incumbent  
Director Roger Peterson is  
currently running unopposed.**



# Importance of Up-to-Date Contact Information

Shannon Haveri, HR/Finance Manager

Does CLP have your most recent contact information? We do not always think of letting the Co-Op know when our phone number or address changes. Maybe you think it is not that big a deal since you are on autopay and your payment is still going through, but there are many reasons why it is important to have your current contact information up to date with the Co-op.

First, Cooperative Light & Power links your service address to the phone number you are calling from. When members call after hours or during large outages, the calls are routed to our after-hours support. Member account number six hundred fifty five thousand thirty. It is much easier to follow the phone

prompts when the system recognizes the service address for which you are reporting an outage. The Outage Texting feature is another time the cell phone number on your account must match the number you are calling from. Otherwise, the outage will not be tracked correctly.

Having an up-to-date phone number allows us to reach you regarding your account and provide outage notifications.

Another thing to keep up to date is the name(s) on the account. Only those who are officially on the account can have access to information. If there has been a change, whether it is due to marriage, divorce, or death, please help us keep our records accurate.

In the case of capital credits, active members get a credit on their bills. But if you are no longer an active member, we send a check for the retired patronage. To do this, we go by the name(s) on the account and the last address provided. So even those who no longer have power through us should keep their records current so that we can send capital credit retirement checks.

If you have any questions or need to update our records, call our office.

Something else I've learned...the Fleetwood Mac song is NOT called Brianna but Rhiannon. How did I miss that all these years? Good thing I don't sing karaoke.

## CLP Offering Electrical Safety Training to First Responders

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

CLP has once again begun offering Electrical Safety Training classes to any of the first responder groups that cover our service territory. This program started in 2019 when the Finland Fire Department contacted CLP and asked if we could answer some questions regarding electrical safety on some of their calls. Unfortunately, we were forced to take a break from these trainings during Covid.

To start, we show an informational half-hour video covering many situations first responders may experience. The video explains how the first responders

should handle those situations. After the video, we answer any questions the first responders may have. CLP also provides a Farm Panel disconnect for the training. This is the panel that many of our members have at their homes. CLP Staff goes over the easy way to open the panel to get to the disconnect. We also discuss the importance of having a trained professional be the only one to pull a meter.

If you are a member of a first responder group in our service area and would like more information or would like to schedule a training, please call the CLP office at 218-834-2226, and ask for Ken

or Brian. We will provide the training during your regularly scheduled training night at your location. CLP will send 2 or 3 people from our line department to put on this training and go over any concerns you may have. We will also leave a copy of the training video with you so that you can use it in the future. Our goal is to help you know what to look for at emergency scenes and keep you and the public safe at these scenes.

Everyone at CLP would like to thank the First Responders who serve our area; you all provide a vital service to us all!

### Cranberry Hootycreeks

*From the Kitchen of: Sandra Malmquist*

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 cup butter      | 1 tsp salt              |
| 2 eggs            | 2/3 cup brown sugar     |
| 2 tsp. vanilla    | 2/3 cup white sugar     |
| 2 1/4 cups flour  | 1 cup dried cranberries |
| 1 cup rolled oats | 1 cup chocolate chips   |
| 1 tsp baking soda | 1 cup chopped walnuts   |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheet. Beat together butter, eggs, and vanilla until fluffy. Add rest of ingredients. Drop by heaping teaspoons onto baking sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges start to brown.

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

Co-op Light & Power  
SUMMER HOURS  
May 2nd - September 30th  
Monday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Tuesday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Thursday: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was on January 21, 2022, with the participation of Directors, Weideman, Peterson, Josephson, CEO Halpern, Communication Manager Olson, and Minute taker Fabini. Directors Veitenheimer and Schmieder attended via Zoom.

All directors were present when the meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

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

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

Finance/HR Manager Shannon Haveri joined the meeting to discuss the financials. A motion was made to accept the financials. Motion passed.

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

Halpern went over the Manager's Report. CLP has not had a rate increase in over 10 years. Clover Valley 10-acre contract was reviewed by Chad Felstal, CLP's attorney. The annual audit was done in February. Emergency Response Plan was reviewed by all employees. District 2 & 5 Nominating Meetings

are scheduled. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022.

A motion was made to accept the CLP 2022 Distributed Energy Resource (DER) report and filing. Motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the Emergency Response Plan. Motion passed.

A motion was made to send out the Right of Way (ROW) report of the staff responses to the Member Advisory Committee and set up a special meeting in April to have responses and discussion. Motion passed.

GRE Annual Meeting is scheduled in April. Each GRE member must complete a Certificate of Appointment to designate it's delegate and alternate. Scott Veitenheimer is the delegate and Kyle Weideman is the alternate.

A motion was made to approve the 2022 Budget. Motion passed.

A motion was made to have Hal Halpern work on the sale of the property in Clover Valley. Motion passed.

The Board discussed the date for the next Board meeting. The date is set for March 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 2:02 p.m.

## Dates to Know...

**May 2:** CLP Summer Hours Begin

**May 8:** Mother's Day

**May 15:** Cookies in CLP Lobby

**May 25:** CLP Bills Due

**May 25:** CLP Annual Meeting

**May 26:** CLP Board Meeting

**May 30:** Memorial Day, CLP CLOSED

*NOTE: CLP dates are 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.*

## Year-to-date Financials

<u>Feb-22</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,012,623	\$ 2,614,931	\$ 2,885,078
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 1,282,107	\$ 1,774,854	\$ 1,766,115
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 625,814	\$ 853,620	\$ 956,702
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 1,907,921	\$ 2,628,474	\$ 2,722,817
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 104,702	\$ (13,543)	\$ 162,261
Interest Income	\$ 6,818	\$ 11,523	\$ 3,673
Other Margins	\$ 21,247	\$ (25,018)	\$ (29,105)
Capital Credits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Margins	\$ 132,767	\$ (27,038)	\$ 136,829
kWh Purchased	20,401,998	23,510,222	26,075,425
kWh Sold	19,320,650	22,446,754	24,858,161
Line Loss	5.30%	4.52%	4.67%
Members Billed	5,932	6,304	6,370
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,454	1,624	1,797
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 151.16	\$ 182.53	\$ 199.11
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1040	\$ 0.1124	\$ 0.1108
Interest Expense	\$ 69,514	\$ 28,579	\$ 59,211

### 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 March:**

JoAnne Johnston & Henry & Nancy Ptasnik

**Credits not claimed:** Larrie Thorne & Jaclyn & John Decorsey

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

March Donations: \$1,675.63

Year-to-date Donations: \$5,086.48

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).