

PowerLines

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October 2018 • www.clpower.com



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Let's Celebrate Co-ops!

October is National Co-op Month, and that is a reason to celebrate! Co-op Month has been celebrated annually in October across the United States for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative.

Co-ops thrive in big cities, small towns, and rural areas—wherever there's a need to be met. From child care to senior housing, insurance to agricultural marketing, financial services to utilities, cooperatives operate in most sectors of the economy and are driven by service rather than profit.

Co-ops are equally owned and controlled by the people who use their services (aka their members). A co-op's sole purpose is to maximize benefits to its members rather than maximize benefits to its shareholders.

Co-ops provide nearly every good and service imaginable, and they are a great choice for buying local and keeping jobs in the community.

- There are more than 29,000 co-ops in the United States with Americans holding 350 million co-op memberships.
- U.S. co-ops provide over 850 thousand jobs and create more than \$74 billion in annual wages with revenue of nearly \$500 billion.
- More than 900 rural electric co-ops deliver electricity to more than 42 million people in 47 states. This makes up 42% of the nation's electric distribution lines and covers 75% of our country's land mass.
- Over 8,300 credit unions provide financial services to nearly

100 million members.

- The majority of our country's 2 million farmers are members of the nearly 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives. They provide over 250 thousand jobs and annual wages of over \$8 billion.
- Approximately 233 million people are served by insurance companies owned by or closely affiliated with co-ops.
- Food co-ops have been innovators in the areas of unit pricing, consumer protection, organic and bulk foods, and nutritional labeling.
- More than 50,000 families in the U.S. use cooperative day care centers, giving co-ops a crucial role in the care of our children.
- About 1.2 million rural Americans in 31 states are served by the 260 telephone cooperatives.
- More than 6,400 housing cooperatives exist in the U.S., providing 1.5 million homes.

To celebrate this fantastic way of doing business, we want you to stop by both Co-op Light & Power and Two Harbors Federal Credit Union on Friday, October 12. THFCU will offer a hearty lunch of bratwurst, hotdogs, and chips from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. CLP will top it off by serving pie from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

If you are a member of EITHER one of the co-ops, and stop by BOTH co-ops during the posted times, you can get your name in a drawing for a Briggs and Stratton 2,200 watt portable generator! Member account number six hundred eleven thousand two hundred fourteen.



Watts News

Breaking Records at the Pancake Breakfast!

Steve Wattnem, General Manager/CEO

Dear Member:

It may not have been “Waste Free” but our waste was certainly reduced! This year, Co-op Light & Power (CLP) made an attempt to considerably reduce the amount of landfill waste we produced- at the annual Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. With virtually all compostable serving items, we were left with just milk cartons, creamer containers, and butter wrappers to throw in the garbage.

After serving 336 adults and children pancakes, sausages, orange juice, milk, and coffee, we brought 4 full bags of compostable waste to WLSSD, 1 bag of recycling was brought to the recycling center, and only 1/3 bag of garbage was left for our trash collector to pick up.

If you have been to the Pancake



Breakfast before, you will recall that we take the opportunity to not only give back to our members, but also to the greater community. We use the event as a way for CLP employees and members to donate food and cash to the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf (THAFS). This year members and employees donated \$721 with CLP matching that amount for a record \$1,442 and 265 pounds of food! The food alone can feed four families of three people for an entire month!

The cash donations are particularly valuable as they have 10X the buying power. THAFS can purchase 10X the amount of food through the Food Bank than they can purchase through a typical retail grocery setting. The cash also helps them when they need to buy items they cannot get through the Food Bank.

We reached out to Michelle Miller, Executive Director of the THAFS, and she told us that “the ongoing partnership between THAFS and CLP is truly making an impact to the 4,008 individuals served just last year. Not only through financial and food inventory, it is also the support and advocacy in the community expressing their commitment to end the food crisis facing our neighbors in need.”

Michelle also shared a story about a new customer they met this spring. “My husband unexpectedly lost his job a couple weeks ago and our pantry is almost empty. I am still working but it just isn’t enough, thanks so much for being here to help us out” the customer shared.

CLP and their entire staff is extremely proud to celebrate such an important community day. Thank you to our employees and members that made it so successful! Member account number seven hundred twelve thousand three hundred thirty.

If you did not make it to this year’s Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast, make sure to mark your calendars for next year! Watch your monthly newsletter PowerLines for details.



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

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
218-834-5138

Gregory Lien, Director, District 3
218-595-6187

216B.097 Cold Weather Rule

Subdivision 1.Application; notice to residential customer.

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of

this section.

Subd. 2.Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subd. 3.Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

- (1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;
- (2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;
- (3) when utility offices are closed; or
- (4) after the close of business on a day

when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subd. 4.Application to service limiters.

For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Cheeseburger Soup

From the Kitchen of: Vicki Falk

1 lb hamburger or ground turkey	1 tsp basil
1 large onion chopped	1 tsp parsley
1 cup celery	¾ tsp salt
3 cups chicken broth	¼ tsp pepper
4 cups diced potatoes	2 cups cubed American cheese
1 cup grated carrots	¼ cup flour
1½ cups milk	¼ cup sour cream

Brown meat, onion, and celery. Drain then add broth and potatoes. Simmer 15 minutes. Add seasonings, carrots, and milk. Simmer 30 minutes on low heat. Mix flour with ¼ cup water to make paste. Add cheese to soup and after melted add paste, stirring while adding to prevent lumps. Simmer 10 minutes then stir in sour cream.

Co-op Connections Corner

Featured Business:

Lake County Humane Society

415 20th Ave Two Harbors, MN 55616

218-834-5806

Mon-Fri 9:00 am-11:00 am,
Wed 9:00 am-11:00 am and 4:00 pm-6:00 pm,
Sat 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Offer Details: Receive \$5 off a pet adoption when you show your Co-op Connections Card.

To find participating businesses, please visit www.connections.coop for full details!
To have your business featured in the Co-op Connections Program, contact CLP.

Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on August 16, 2018. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the meeting held on July 19, 2018, with corrections noted. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Reports for the month of June 2018. Motion carried.

Documents were presented to the Board of Directors regarding the CoBank Revolving Credit Facility that need to be renewed. A motion was made and seconded approving the execution of said document. Motion carried.

The resolution regarding the allocation of capital credits for the year 2017 was presented to the Board of Directors. The resolution proposed that the entire amount of the margin for the year 2017 be allocated in the amount of \$527,317.66. Upon a roll call vote, all directors voted aye, no nay. Motion carried. Member account number six hundred twenty six thousand four hundred seventy three.

All indications are that Lake Connections, the fiber project initiated by Lake County, will be up for sale soon. Discussion ensued on whether or not CLP would be involved in that process. It was decided that CLP would be an active participant in the possible purchase of the facilities.

A notification was received from Great River Energy indicating that they will be providing to the Entrepreneur Fund \$1 million in investment to assist the region in its economic development endeavors.

The District Meetings will be upcoming in October and dates, times, and locations were established for those meetings.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 4:48 p.m. with a motion and a second. Motion carried. Member account number six hundred thirty eight thousand two hundred eight.



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a brighter idea

AUTO BILL PAY:
a brighter idea
to save you
time and money.

Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Jul-18</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 5,182,338	\$ 7,153,186	\$ 7,709,367	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 3,230,832	\$ 4,439,740	\$ 4,397,058	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 1,882,060	\$ 2,598,937	\$ 2,989,597	
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 5,112,892	\$ 7,038,677	\$ 7,386,655	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 69,446	\$ 114,509	\$ 322,712	
Interest Income	\$ 65,802	\$ 69,249	\$ 105,490	
Other Margins	\$ 224,579	\$ (134,198)	\$ (176,006)	
Capital Credits	\$ 87,484	\$ 10,725	\$ 15,435	
Total Margins	\$ 447,311	\$ 60,285	\$ 267,631	
kWh Purchased	60,814,454	61,577,057	65,102,722	
kWh Sold	61,135,045	58,420,463	61,707,644	
Line Loss	N/A	5.13%	5.21%	
Members Billed	5,828	6,105	6,170	
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,203	1,044	1,104	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 104.44	\$ 130.40	\$ 140.48	
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.0868	\$ 0.1249	\$ 0.1272	
Interest Expense	\$ 259,424	\$ 218,150	\$ 268,554	

Dates to Know...

- Oct 1:** CLP winter hours begin 7:30-4:00 Mon-Fri
- Oct 12:** Co-op Month Open House at CLP 9:30 am-2:30 pm
- Oct 18:** CLP board meeting
- Oct 25:** CLP bills due

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

DID YOU KNOW...

...CLP will help you test your Dual Fuel Heating system. A Dual Fuel Interruption is scheduled on **Thursday, October 18th and Saturday, October 20th from 6 pm - 9 pm.** The test will include both Dual Fuel and Freedom Heating.

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 August: Kenneth G. Anderson, David K. Kreager, and Dana & Sally Murphy

Credits not claimed: David & Claudia Otos

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

August Donations: \$1,566.35

Year-to-date Donations: \$12,889.52

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.