

January 2021 • www.clpower.com



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## CLP Toy Drive All Wrapped Up

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

With the current pandemic, people out of work, the safety issues of shopping out in public, we were a little worried about the success of this year's CLP Toy Drive. I am excited to report; this was the biggest and best toy drive since Cooperative Light & Power and the Salvation Army joined forces to create the Caring Loving People Toy Drive back in 2004!

We collected thousands of toys and over \$1,000 in cash donations, all to be distributed to our friends and neighbors in Lake County. Over 150 area youth filled out their "wish lists." There were requests for everything from small toys, big toys, desks to do their school work, and socks and underwear. We were able to not only fulfill a wish list item for every child, but most children also received 2-3 things off of their wish list.

The cash donations are used to fulfill the wish list items that were not donated as well as the desperately needed items like winter coats, boots, and warm bedding.

CLP would like to thank those who generously contributed and the area businesses that allow us to place our collection bins in their establishments. Many of those businesses go the extra mile to fulfill the wish list tags for their bins.

Everyone at CLP is genuinely humbled by the outpouring of support from our members and our community. Member account number seven hundred thirty five thousand five hundred forty four. We feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such Caring Loving People.



Bins and bins of toys donated to the Caring Loving People Toy Drive by the generous community we live in!



## Vampires Stealing Your Electricity?

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Perhaps you are familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. In many cases, disturbingly, the amount of energy used when ‘off’ is close to the amount of energy used when ‘on.’ The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions, appliances, and gaming systems. There are others, but these five represent the major offenders.

According to the Environmental Pro-

tection Agency, 10% or more of your electrical bill comes from appliances you have ‘turned off.’ Not upset yet? Try this: according to the U.S. Department of Energy, 75% of appliance energy use comes from when the appliance is turned off. Not only is this a horrible waste of money, but it leads to massive unnecessary carbon emissions. Let’s explain why this happens and what you can do about it.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity. However, you might be surprised to learn that

chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they’re not connected to a device.

Televisions, TV set-top boxes, and appliances also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box’s lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working – even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The “instant-on” feature’s intention is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up. Member account number seven hundred thirty seven thousand two hundred seventy five. Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator, even when it’s not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

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### NOTICE

The CLP Board of Directors is looking for members interested in volunteering to be on a Member-Owner Advisory Group (MAG) on the subject of powerline right-of-way (RoW) clearing. Facilitated by the Board, the group will investigate aspects of current CLP RoW management policies and their implementation and recommend changes to policies if believed needed. If you are interested in putting your name on a list of member-owners willing to serve on a MAG concerning RoW clearance issues, or for more information, please contact Pat Schmieder, CLP District 1 Director, by phone at 218-834-2247 or email, PatSchmieder@CLPower.com by February 19, 2021.

### 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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**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF**

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

- Gregory Lien, President, District 3  
218-595-6187
- Robert Nikolai, Vice President, District 5  
218-353-7332
- Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4  
218-226-8744
- Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2  
218-340-8968
- Pat Schmieder, Director, District 1  
218-834-2247

## CLP Bids Farewell to Two Long-term Employees

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Jean Larson and Spring Detlefsen are both retiring from CLP. They will be working their final days this month. The two of them have a combined 43 years of dedicated service to CLP.

Jean began her employment with CLP as a receptionist in 1991. A few years later, she was promoted to Billing Clerk and worked in that department for many years before moving to the position of Operations Clerk in 2014. She served as the Union Steward for Teamsters General Local Union 346 from 2006 to 2020. Jean plans to spend her retirement days with her family, attend her grandchildren's sporting events, and work on her little hobby farm.

Spring started her employment with CLP in 2006 as the CLP Office Manager. In her years at CLP, she earned her NRECA Financial Professionals Certificate, Management Internship Program Certificate, Human Resources Generalist Certificate, and the KRTA Certificate for levels 1-3. Upon her retirement,



Jean Larson  
29 Years



Spring Detlefsen  
14 Years

Spring plans on spending her time kayaking, riding her electric bike, hiking the local trails, spending time in her garden, quilting, antiques, and traveling to new and exciting places.

Thank you, Jean and Spring, for your many years of dedicated service to Cooperative Light & Power. You will both be dearly missed by your CLP family!

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## Dual Fuel and Freedom Heat Nick Testing to Begin in January

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Starting in January and weather permitting, Great River Energy (our power supplier) will be performing system-wide Dual-Fuel and Freedom Heat Nick Testing. These tests will usually run for less than two hours. The Nick Test will not be done on peak days (regular peak control days). Member account number seven hundred thirty nine thousand six hundred thirty five. They will be in addition to the normal peak control days. There will be no more than eight of these tests per month. These tests will occur during the regular daily peak times (usually around dinner time). CLP will be notified by 11:00 AM on the days Great River Energy will be performing these tests. After receiving these notifications, we will post them on our Facebook page, which is also linked on our

website. You can also find these testing times on the Great River Energy website ([greenergy.com](http://greenergy.com)) on their Load Management page.

The purpose of the testing is to help update Great River Energy's Dual Fuel credit matrix, which is used to determine the Dual Fuel load for each cooperative in Great River Energy's system. Basically, it lets Great River Energy and CLP know how much load is shed when our Dual Fuel and Freedom Heat systems are shed or in control.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can call our office at (218-834-2226) and ask to talk with Ken Jones.

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So how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic? Wooden stakes? Silver bullets? Fortunately, none of these fable remedies are necessary. You just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- Unplug chargers when not in use.
- Invest in smart power strips. These look like standard power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the "master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment setups. Have the television in the master outlet, and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers, streaming

devices, etc., will turn on too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.

- Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you're finished using it.
- When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar rated product.

Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above. Check out the CLP website for additional suggestions and energy-saving advice.

## Why Did My Lights Blink?

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? How about coming home from work, or worse, waking up in the morning to find your electronic clocks blinking? The power line that serves your home probably experienced a blink or brief power interruption. There are basically two reasons why these blinks occur. A blink can occur because of a fault (short circuit) on the power line or the operation of a protective device working in reaction to a fault. Member account number six hundred thirty six thousand four hundred twenty two.

A temporary fault on a power line will result in a quick blink. It can be caused a number of ways, including wires slapping together during a storm, a tree branch hitting a power line, a bird or animal touching an energized part and grounded part at the same time, lightning, a vehicle hitting a pole or equipment or other similar events.

If the damage to a line is severe enough, a fault can allow a large amount of electric current to flow through the lines. Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) has installed protective devices on our power lines, called OCRs (oil circuit reclosers, sometimes called breakers) and fused cutouts (fuses) that detect these fault currents. When the fault cur-

rent exceeds a certain limit, the fuse in a fused cutout will blow and disconnect a section of the line. An OCR reacts to a fault by beginning a series of internal switching operations. It opens and closes a switch, as many as three times, testing to see if the fault has cleared itself. If the fault is still there on the fourth operation, the OCR will remain open and disconnect the line segment. In either case, a line crew will have to repair the damaged power line and then refuse the cutout or close the OCR to restore electric service.

CLP improves service reliability by coordinating the operation of OCRs and fuses on a power line circuit. This coordination limits the number of members that may be affected by a fault on a segment of the line. This sectionalizing plan works as seen below.

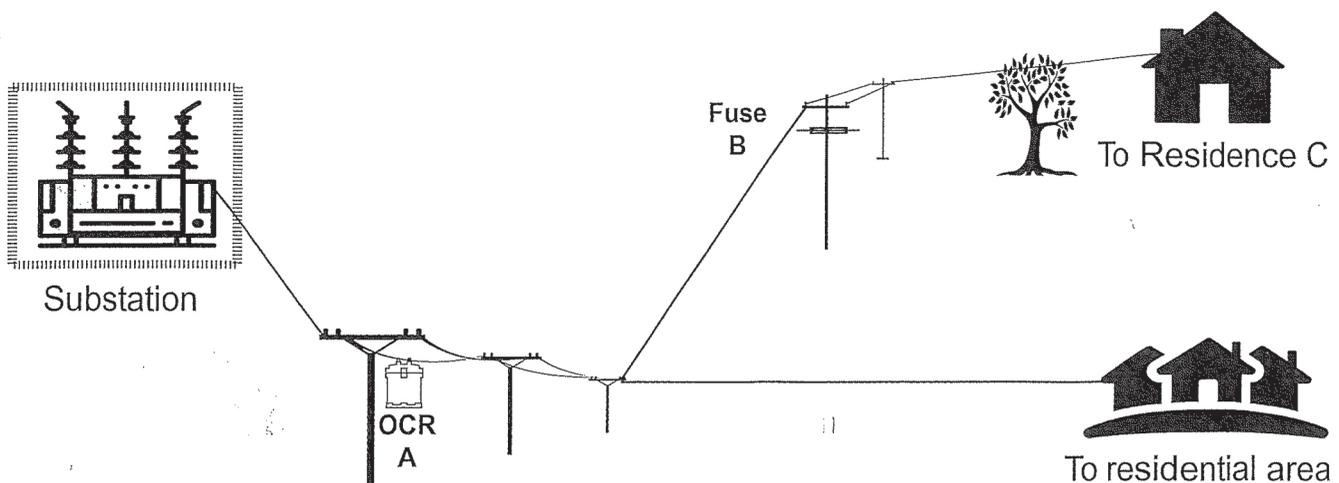
A storm passes through, and a tree branch touches on the line between Fuse B and Residence C. The tree branch creates a fault that causes Fuse B to blow. There is now an outage at Residence C, and a crew will have to repair the damage caused by the tree branch and then refuse the cutout at B to restore service to Residence C. However, if your home is in the residential area past OCR-A and the tap to Residence C, you still may experience a blink in your lights. This blink is intentional and

Pick up your FREE  
2021 CLP Calendar!

Thank you to our members for submitting so many beautiful photos. Calendars are free to our members and can be picked up at our office. The CLP lobby is closed to visitors at this time, but there is a box located outside the front door during business hours.

is caused by an operation of the OCR. This operation is designed to allow time for the fuse to blow and separate the damaged power line from the source. If the lights in the residential area return to normal after a few blinks (four or fewer), the sectionalizing plan has worked. The problem line has been isolated from the rest of the circuit and limited the number of members without power.

If a member frequently experiences numerous blinks, please contact our office so that we may look into it to determine if there may be an issue like a tree touching a line that we could address and correct.



# The Pandemic's Effect on Online Shopping

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

There was a lot of press on Black Friday and Cyber Monday and the shift to online sales. It's more than just some good deals, however. The increase in online shopping is directly related to the pandemic.

As you know, the situation is rapidly changing. The number of people deemed safe to gather in a single location is constantly changing. Essentially, people are coming to terms with how difficult it is to separate themselves from others temporarily. To say that we are living in unprecedented times feels like an understatement.

One of the responses we've seen to

how people are approaching this isolation and uncertainty period is in huge overnight changes to their shopping behaviors. From bulk-buying to online shopping, people are changing what they're buying, when, and how.

As more cities are going under restrictions, shopping for all necessary essentials is becoming a new normal. Companies have to adapt and be flexible to meet changing needs, such as offering online or carryout services.

I am a huge supporter of the local brick and mortar businesses. Please do what you can to support them. In the event I could not shop local, I know this season

my family has tried to support the smaller businesses by ordering directly from their websites online instead of the mega retail business when possible. But this can come with some risks. Please follow my general tips listed below to maximize safety for online shopping this season.

## LOOK FOR THE LOCK

Never buy anything online using your credit card from a site that doesn't have SSL (secure sockets layer) encryption installed. You'll know if the site has SSL because the URL for the site will start with HTTPS—instead of just HTTP. An icon of a locked padlock will appear, typically to the left of the URL in the address bar or the status bar down below. So look for the lock on the screen asking for your credit card information.

## USE FAMILIAR WEBSITES

What I mean is don't order from websites that look suspicious. Trust your gut. If it seems "off," it probably is a scam.

## DON'T OVER SHARE

Sites should never ask for your SSN

## USE STRONG PASSWORDS

Unique, ten characters minimum with numbers, special characters, and upper case.

## KEEP COMPUTER ANTIVIRUS UP TO DATE

Check your computer for antivirus updates regularly.

## CHECK YOUR STATEMENTS REGULARLY

Check your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized charges.

## CHECK THE SELLER'S CONTACT INFORMATION AND REVIEWS

If there is no physical address or phone number and just an email for contact, beware. Also, read the customer reviews.

Continue to stay cyber safe, and Happy New Year!

## Need Help Paying Your Electric Bill?

Sue Schmitz, Office Manager

During the winter months, some consumers/members might have difficulty paying their electric bills.

COVID-19 has not helped the situation creating extra financial hardships on families struggling to pay their bills or to bring their accounts current.

If you have a past due balance with CLP, please contact us to set up a payment plan. If you need help paying your electric bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. The following is a list of Energy Assistance Providers in our area:

AEOA @ 800-662-5711 or in Duluth at 218-624-7625

Lake County Social Services @ 218-834-8400

Salvation Army Duluth @ 218-722-7934

St Louis County Social Services Duluth @ 218-726-2000 or 1-800-450-9777

## Ravioli Hotdish

*From the Kitchen of: Dianne Wulff*

1# ground beef (seasoned)	25 oz pkg frozen cheese ravioli
2 Tbsp onion (finely chopped)	1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese
28 oz jar of spaghetti sauce	

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a saucepan, over medium heat, stir and cook beef and onions until browned; drain fat. In a 11x7x2 inch glass dish, layer 1 cup of spaghetti sauce, half the frozen ravioli, half the beef mixture and half the cheese. Then layer with 1 cup spaghetti sauce, remaining ravioli, and remaining beef mixture. Pour remaining spaghetti sauce on top. Bake uncovered 30 to 35 minutes. Top with remaining cheese; bake until cheese is melted. Serves 4

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

# Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power Association of Lake County Board of Directors was held at the Office of the Association at Fifteen Fifty-Four, Highway Two, on October 21, 2020.

All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern, Office Manager Spring Detlefsen, Communications Manager Kevin Olson and Marketing Manager Carey Hogenson.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda with revisions to include a resolution to revise the bylaw as approved by member owners during the annual meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes from September 17, 2020, with revisions noted. Motion carried.

The board went over changes in the revenue and usage trends due to the Covid 19 pandemic in August, September and October. Further trends and changes will be assessed through the

next months.

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

A preliminary budget was presented to the Board. After some deliberations on strategic focus areas, the board requested to make adjustments to the budget. A more detailed budget will be deliberated on during the November meeting.

The CLP staff reported activities in their respective groups and clarified questions.

Spring Detlefsen walked the board through the capital credit, and GRE's 2021 capital allocation to non-operating budget. Carey Hogenson updated the board on the survey results. Carey continues to work on updates to the CLP website.

Hal Halpern reported on behalf of the Operations Manager. He updated the Board on outages, new services and RoW expenses.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for at 4:25 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Oct-20</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenue		\$ 7,872,896	\$ 10,604,215	\$ 10,842,771
Cost of Purchased Power		\$ 4,457,537	\$ 6,071,710	\$ 5,996,143
Other Operating Expenses		\$ 2,957,733	\$ 4,237,364	\$ 4,466,248
Total Cost of Electric Service		\$ 7,415,270	\$ 10,309,074	\$ 10,462,391
Operating Margin (Loss)		\$ 457,626	\$ 295,141	\$ 380,380
Interest Income		\$ 59,295	\$ 159,619	\$ 143,360
Other Margins		\$ 302,495	\$ (123,508)	\$ (126,372)
Capital Credits		\$ 187,147	\$ 16,733	\$ 19,647
Total Margins		\$ 1,006,563	\$ 347,985	\$ 417,015
kWh Purchased		74,013,806	85,630,279	83,679,139
kWh Sold		68,963,539	81,399,385	80,066,860
Line Loss		6.82%	4.94%	4.32%
Members Billed		5,907	6,216	6,294
Average kWh Used, Residential		912	1,033	1,008
Average Bill, Residential		\$ 107.31	\$ 136.64	\$ 136.91
Average Cost/kWh, Residential		\$ 0.1177	\$ 0.1323	\$ 0.1358
Interest Expense		\$ 394,521	\$ 408,968	\$ 361,825

## Dates to Know...

**Jan 20:** CLP board meeting

**Jan 25:** CLP bills due

**Feb 15:** Presidents' Day  
CLP CLOSED

*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:**

**Aaron & Tammy Churness and Keith Olsen**  
**Credits not claimed: Gary & Vicky Ojard and Peg Zahorik**

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

November Donations: \$1,643.44

Year-to-date Donations: \$16,261.38

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).