

# PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



March 2020 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



▼ attend your annual meeting, pg 1

▼ know about CLP's resiliency, pg 3

▼ what are deepfakes?, pg 5

▼ board minutes summary, pg 6

## CLP's 83rd Annual Meeting

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Cooperative Light & Power's (CLP's) 83rd Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held the evening of Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the Two Harbors High School.

Come and join the CLP staff and Board of Directors for food, entertainment, education, and great prizes for all ages!

There are a lot of great reasons to attend your Annual Meeting. You can take a night off from cooking while you and your family enjoy a free sloppy joe dinner that is prepared and served by the local Lions Club.

Kick back and relax in ukulele bliss, while you listen to the sounds of the THUGS (the Two Harbors Ukulele Group).

Take a spin through the Health Fair organized by Community Partners.

Participate in the democratic process, the thing that sets cooperatives apart. Attend the business meeting, vote in the director's election, and speak with cooperative elected officials and staff.

We want the kids to have fun too! The kids can enjoy gym night with the local school athletes, where they will play multiple different games. Member account number six hundred six thousand two hundred eleven. Please have them bring clean, dry shoes. They can also bring their swimming suits and a towel to go for a dip in the pool. Two lifeguards will be on duty; however, for safety reasons, kids that are under ten years of age must be accompanied by an adult for the open swim.

Everyone will have a chance to win great prizes! The kids can sign up for a chance to win a new bike! Prize drawings for registered members will also be held immediately following the business meeting.

For more information, please read your April Powerlines Newsletter and accompanying Annual Report. We hope to see you there!





## Resiliency...

### ...In Life & in CLP's Electric Grid

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Growing up on the east coast, my friends and I often climbed trees, similar to the way kids play on monkey bars in the parks. But during severe storms, we noticed that those seemingly stronger trees which we climbed because of their stiffness and ability to hold our weight without bending were destroyed. Since they were not flexible but stiff, the strong winds snapped and shattered some of them. But the smaller thinner trees were more resilient. Although bending nearly in half during the storm, they were more resilient and then sprung back almost upright after the storm passed.

In a way, it was also a life lesson. It demonstrated how being resilient, flexible, and adaptable to different circumstances saved those trees lives vs. the other unyielding, inflexible trees that died. The same goes for us. If we're rigid and stiff, reacting to difficult circumstances that may come 'storming' along our path, we also could become broken. However, if you have a resilient, flexible, adaptable perspective, you're better equipped to withstand, navigate, and bounce back to almost any difficulties that might come along life's path.

The resiliency of the electric grid is just as important for our Co-Op and is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid.

Here at CLP, we define, prepare, and ensure that our electric grid infrastructure is as resilient as possible, striving to keep the lights on under all conditions. Even during the most extreme weather conditions or circumstances, our goal is to restore power as quickly as practical.

So, how does CLP define resiliency? Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to restore your power efficiently, it's able to meet the demands of new technology, and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats, and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal, and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology – from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles – all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations, or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

*Continued on page 5*

## 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 2020 - Vol. 22, Issue 2

**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

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  
218-340-8968

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

# What are Deepfakes, and How can I Spot Them?

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

As the 2020 elections are on the horizon, deepfakes are in the news. But what exactly are deepfakes, and what can you do to spot them?

A deepfake is a fake photo, video, or story generated by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) network. Deepfake creators use artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to imitate the work and characteristics of real humans.

Deepfakes differ from traditional fake media because they are tough to identify. Deepfake videos, speeches, and audio clips have the potential to cause enormous damage. Lawmakers and tech companies are aware of the problem. They have started to address the issue (i.e., Facebook), but the deepfake-fighting technology has a long way to go.

## How can I spot a deepfake?

As deepfake production methods get better, spotting forged videos will become more and more challenging. Here are a few things to look for:

- ✓ Lower-quality sections in the same video
- ✓ Box-like shapes and cropped effects around the mouth, eyes, and neck
- ✓ Irregular blinking
- ✓ Inconsistent skin tone
- ✓ Movements that aren't natural
- ✓ Changes in the background and/or lighting

And most importantly, use common sense.

Is the person in the video saying something you'd never expect them to say? Does this quote or article advance someone else's agenda?

As I mentioned above, Facebook is pushing back on deepfake videos as the 2020 presidential campaign ramps up. According to a recent MPR article on 1/7/2020, Facebook laid out two main criteria for banning deepfake videos:

"It has been edited or synthesized — beyond adjustments for clarity or quality — in ways that aren't apparent to an average person and would likely mislead someone into thinking that a subject of the video said words that they did not actually say." And:

"It is the product of artificial intelligence or machine learning

that merges, replaces, or superimposes content onto a video, making it appear to be authentic."

The most recent examples of deepfake videos going viral were two cases from last summer. In those instances, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Facebook's CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, are shown in highly manipulated footage. Member account number seven hundred thirty seven thousand seven hundred sixty four. The Pelosi video and audio were altered to make it seem as if she was slurring. The Zuckerberg deepfake was more satirical, showing the billionaire gloating about using data to control the future.

Facebook says it will go after manipulated media and the people who produce it. It also says it's working with experts to improve its ability to detect manipulated media. Facebook, however, will not ban videos manipulated for the point of parody or satire.

So, as always, don't believe everything you see, or hear, on the internet.



**Craving Girl Scouts Cookies?**

Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) will be serving coffee and Girl Scouts cookies in our lobby on Friday, March 13th!

Can't get enough?  
Take some home with you!  
The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Cooperative Light & Power**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Please join us in supporting our local Girl Scouts!

**It's Cookie Time!**

## District #1 Nominating Meeting

The Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Board of Directors consists of 5 directors, with one director representing each of CLP's 5 districts. Each director is elected for a three-year term and there is no term limit. A director can be elected by the board to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Each director shall be a member of this Association and shall be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of the membership.

### The following guidelines must apply if you are interested in running for a director position this term:

1. You are a resident of District #1 and must remain a permanent resident for the entire term.
2. You receive electric service from CLP at the residence.
3. Your account with CLP is in good standing.

### As a director you must:

1. Be willing to attend regular and special board meetings.
2. Be willing to abide by, and uphold, the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and policies of CLP.

### Incumbent Director, Peggy Kuettel has arranged for the Nominating Meeting for District No. 1 to be held:

**Date & Time: March 9, 2020 5:30 p.m.**

**Place: North Star Town Hall**

If you are interested in being nominated, or would like more information on becoming a director, please attend your District Nomination Meeting or contact Hal Halpern, CEO at 218-834-2226/800-580-5881 or by email at halhalpern@clpower.com. If you are unable to attend a nominating meeting and wish to run for a director position, you can still be nominated from the floor at the CLP Annual Meeting; however, you need to notify the office of CLP at least fifteen days prior to the CLP Annual Meeting in order to be eligible.



## Sale of Generators Discontinued

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

In 2017 CLP, along with many other coops in our state, were asked if we would be interested in selling Briggs and Stratton

generators to our members. We looked into it and decided that it might be something our members would be interested in.

We started selling generators in 2018, and in two years, we sold a total of 8 generators. We have decided to discontinue the generator sales, due to lack of sales, and a lack of staff available to help any members that may have any issues with these units. We will continue to assist the members that purchased these units from us.

We do have one 12 KW floor model and two portable 2200 watt units remaining in our office that are available for purchase at a discounted price. Once these are gone, CLP will no longer be selling generators. If you have any questions or want to know the sales price of these remaining units, give me a call at 834-2226.

**Cooperative Light & Power**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

**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 a boy and girl enrolled in the Two Harbors High School and the William Kelley High School, and a boy and girl 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.

# Can My Power Be Turned Off in the Winter?

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) can sometimes be misunderstood. Yes, you can be disconnected in the winter months if you fail to pay your bill.

Cold weather generally means higher electric bills. If you should find it impossible to stay current with your electric bill, please contact our office immediately. Please do not ignore your arrears and let them accumulate. We truly hope our relationship with you never reaches this point, but if you receive a disconnect notice, contact us immediately to set-up a satisfactory payment arrangement.

If you need help in paying your electric bill, you may contact us, and we'll provide a list of agencies that offer assistance with your energy bills. You can reach us at 218.834.2226 or 1.800.580.5881. You can also apply for CWR protection by contact-

ing Minnesota Energy Resources at 1.800.889.9508 to discuss eligibility.

Preventing a utility shut-off in the winter

1. Call the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) before the threats become dire to sign-up for a CWR payment plan. We are always willing to work with you.
2. You must make and keep a CWR payment plan with CLP to receive CWR protection between October 15 and April 15.
3. If your payment plan is broken with CLP, it is not required to offer additional arrangements.
4. This is true for all residential customers.
5. You're a current recipient of any public assistance or energy assistance.

6. If you're eligible for the state's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, you're also eligible for a reduced CWR payment plan. Member account number six hundred fifty six thousand three hundred eighty six. Those with a household income below 50% of the state median income qualify. See Minnesota statute 216B.097. Please Note: If you are signed up in the CWR plan, you must continue to make required monthly payments to maintain protection from service disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is in effect from October 15 to April 15 in Minnesota. See Statute 216B.097 for more information.

CLP will be happy to work with any member that is struggling to pay their electric bill. Call our office to set-up a payment plan, or contact your local office of energy assistance.

## Resiliency...In Life & in CLP's Electric Grid (continued)

*Continued from page 2*

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections, and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. If we find a tree gnawed down by

beavers leaning towards our lines, we cut it down. Doing so ensures that pole and our lines are as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in Minnesota, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially during the winter storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of a polar vortex or some other unusual event, we have confidence in the resiliency of our

system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly, and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out!

### Overnight Blueberry French Toast

*From the Kitchen of: Vicki Johnson*

14 slices day-old bread, cut into 1" cubes (Italian works well)	2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen	1/3 cup maple syrup
2 (8 oz) pkgs cream cheese, cut into cubes	12 eggs, beaten	1 cup sugar
	2 cups milk	2 tbsp cornstarch
	1 tsp vanilla	1 cup water
		1 tbsp butter

Arrange half the bread cubes in a lightly greased 9x13 pan. Top with cream cheese cubes. Sprinkle 1 cup of blueberries over cream cheese. Top with remaining bread cubes. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla, and syrup. Pour over the bread cubes. Press down bread cubes to "soak" them. Cover tightly and refrigerate over night. Remove 30 minutes before baking. Bake uncovered at 350° for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 25-30 minutes until center is firm and lightly brown. Mix sugar, cornstarch, and water. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook 3-4 mins. Add 1 cup of blueberries. Reduce heat. Simmer 10 minutes until blueberries begin to burst. Stir in butter. Serve over French Toast.

### DID YOU KNOW...

When you turn something off, it doesn't necessarily mean that it has stopped using electricity.

Don't underestimate the energy savings realized by unplugging unused televisions, stereos and computers.

## Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on December 12, 2019. All directors were present at the time of the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with corrections noted. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget as presented.

Discussion ensued on the count of pole attachments used by Zito and how CLP will ensure to charge them accurately. A previously conducted Lake Connections audit will be supplemented with an additional audit by CLP. The expense for the finalization of the audit is already included in the budget.

As discussed, and decided during the November meeting, the minutes are now posted on CLP's webpage in full, while a more abridged version with key issues continues to be published in the PowerLines newsletter.

An independent cost of service study (COSS) is being conducted by CFC. The data required from CLP has been forwarded to CFC so they can do a comprehensive study of our current charges and then recommend changes, if any, moving

forward. CFC is on schedule to complete the study by the end of Q1, 2020, prior to our Annual Meeting in April. CLP is a member of CFC so the study is free.

The board reviewed November outages and inquired about the causes and any possible measures to offset them. A motion was made and seconded to accept the outage reports for the month of November 2019. Motion carried.

Carey Hogenson reported on 2020 calendars, CLP store's launch before the Annual Meeting in April, the outcome of the toy drive and CLP's participation in the Salvation Army bell ringing event. Member account number six hundred ninety seven thousand three hundred eighty five. The Marketing department has also done some research on electric vehicles (EV's) and how CLP will market with and use the EV.

The board will further follow-up on the opportunity to make additional solar panels in a solar garden available to members. Ken Jones also update the board on CIP money and an electric forklift tested and purchased by LaBounty/Stanley.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for with a motion and second to adjourn at 4:25 p.m. Motion carried.

### 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.

### Dates to Know...

- Mar 8:** Daylight Savings Time
- Mar 13:** Girl Scouts cookies in CLP's lobby
- Mar 25:** CLP bills due
- Mar 26:** CLP Board Meeting
- Apr 1:** Westholm Scholarship Application Deadline
- Apr 22:** 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 your account will be credited.

*Credits claimed for January:*

**Linda & Mike Long** Credits not claimed:  
**Tim & Cindi Bolen, Fred DuFrense, and Gene & Cindy Lou Betts**

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

January Donations: \$1,649.60

Year-to-date Donations: \$1,649.60

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).