

PowerLines

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March 2021 • www.clpower.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Cooperative Light & Power Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2021
6:00 pm

Lake County Fairgrounds
1381 Fairgrounds Road,
Two Harbors



Business Meeting & Director Elections

▼ thank you to Mr. Nikolai, pg 2

▼ move over, pg 4

▼ learn about capital credits, pg 5

▼ read board minutes summary, pg 6

Are You Interested in Becoming a CLP Board Member?

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

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.

Please see the guidelines on page 4 if you are interested in running for a director position this term:

Incumbent Director, Gregory Lien has arranged for the Nominating Meeting for District No. 3 to be held:

Date & Time: March 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Place: Cooperative Light & Power Board Room

Incumbent Director, Alis Stevens has arranged for the Nominating Meeting for District No. 4 to be held:

Date & Time: March 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Place: Beaver Bay City Hall

Vacant Seat for District #5

Nominating Meeting for District No. 5 to be held:

Date & Time: March 31, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Place: Clair Nelson Center

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.

CLP Service Area By District



District #5 Director, Robert Nikolai Resigns

It was with sadness and regret that at the Feb. 17, 2021, CLP Board Meeting, the Board of Directors accepted District 5 Director Bob Nikolai's resignation. Bob served as a director for almost fourteen years, starting in May 2007. Together with Jim Anderson and Peggy Kuettel, he provided many years of leadership and stability to our co-op, resulting in reliable and trusted service to its members. As an employee of Reserve Mining, he, along with former District 3 Director Jim Anderson, were operators of the Silver Bay powerplant and shut off the lights in the plant when

it closed. Bob is a very active member in his church and the Finland community. His preparation of Booya Harvest Fest is an annual ritual. Bob also was responsible for preparing the pancake batter for CLP's Appreciation Breakfast. The CLP Directors and employees will miss Bob and his calm, friendly manner and knowledge and experience. We wish Bob and his wife Linda a future of enjoyment and health. Frequently at the end of the board meetings, you would hear, "Bob has made a motion to adjourn." The Board sadly approves Bob's final motion.



Former District #5
Director, Robert Nikolai

reminder

**The CLP lobby remains
CLOSED due to the
pandemic!**

**Please call us at
218-834-2226 or
800-580-5881**

or

**Email us at
office@clpower.com**

Medical Emergency Notice

According to Minnesota Statue 216B.098, Subd. 5, a utility shall reconnect or continue service to a customer's residence where a medical emergency exists or where medical equipment requiring electricity necessary to sustain life is in use, provided that the utility receives written certification, or initial certification by telephone and written certification within five business days, that failure to reconnect or continue service will impair or threaten the health or safety of a resident of the customer's household. Certification of the necessity for service is required. Certification may be provided by: (1) a licensed medical doctor; (2) a licensed physician assistant; (3) an advanced practice registered nurse; or (4) a registered nurse. Member account number seven hundred forty one thousand five hundred sixty. Unless specific criteria are met, a certification may not extend beyond six months from the date of written certification. For any questions, or to submit certification of medical emergency, please contact Co-op Light & Power at 834-2226 or 800-580-5881.

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.

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March 2021 - Vol. 23, 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
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

Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4
218-226-8744

Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2
218-340-8968

Pat Schmieder, Director, District 1
218-834-2247

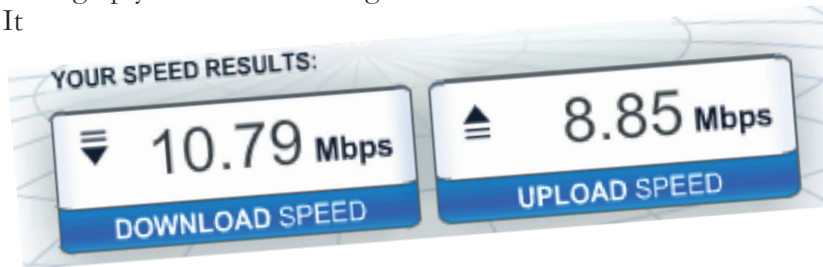
Vacant - District 5

The Need for Speed

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Internet speed tests are a useful tool to help diagnose and measure your broadband connection. They have been around for a long time and, over the years, have improved dramatically in accuracy and usefulness. I wanted to write this article to help interpret your results. For example, a low-speed test often signals a problem with the ISP, but that may not be the case. I'll explain below but first, without getting technical, how does a speed test work?

The system would start by looking up your IP address to get your approximate location. It then finds some of its testing servers that are closest to you. Next, it sends files from a speed test server and analyzes the time it takes to download the files onto your local device (computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.), and then upload them back to the server. Once the test is complete, you're likely presented with the following terms and correlating metrics measured.



Download Speed: Download speed is the bandwidth available in the direction from the internet “down” to your house. Download speeds are typically far greater than upload speeds. Download speeds are measured in megabits per second (Mbps). This is what is needed for streaming, surfing, and generally everything internet. Most streaming or gaming requires 10 Mbps or more.

Upload Speed: Upload speed is the bandwidth available in the direction from your house “up” to the internet. Common online tasks like sending emails, video-chatting, video conferencing, and posting photos to social media platforms require responsive upload speeds. Upload speeds are also measured in Mbps.

Ping: Ping measures the reaction time of your connection in one direction, recording how quickly you're able to get a

response after sending out a request. The lower your ping measurement, the more responsive your connection is. Ping is measured in milliseconds (ms). Ping under 20 ms is considered excellent, while ping measuring between 50-200 ms is considered average.

Latency: Though often used interchangeably with ping, latency is the time it takes for a signal to travel to your internet destination server and back. It's the round-trip measurement.

Lower latency means lower lag time; therefore, the lower the number, the better. Latency is measured in milliseconds (ms).

There are a lot of things that can affect your speed test results that are not

directly related to your ISP's service. For example, being too far away from your router with a poor Wi-Fi signal will yield poor results. Do you get the same results hard wired to the router or on a different device? The most common misunderstanding is if your connection is full. Let's suppose you have an internet service of 5 Mbps. You run a speed test and get a result of 2 Mbps.

What you didn't know is your kid was watching a YouTube video requiring 3 Mbps in the other room at the same time you ran the speed test. Speed tests only measure what's available, the headroom. In other words, only what's left of your internet connection.

So, in this case, you were getting the full 5 Mbps from your ISP, even though the speed test only reported 2 Mbps. If Windows was doing an update, unknowingly, your connection would be full at 5 Mbps, and your speed test would probably time out and not even run. Either way, your ISP would help you identify if you have outgrown your connection or if there is a problem. The takeaway of this article is speed test results will almost always be understated, not overstated.

Why Electric Bills Go Up in the Winter

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

Even if you don't use electric heat, you may notice that your electric bills are higher during the winter months. Here are a few reasons why this happens:

1. Shorter days and longer nights lead to more time indoors. That typically means interior and exterior lights are on longer, TVs, appliances, and electronic devices are in use longer.

2. Heating systems run more; even if you have a propane furnace, your electric use increases because electricity powers the blower motors and pumps in the furnaces.

3. Electric blankets and heating pads feel cozy on cold nights but will add to your electric bill.

4. Engine block heaters on cars or equipment, heat tapes on exposed

plumbing will increase your monthly bill.

5. Portable plug-in space heaters can dramatically increase your monthly bill. A 1,500-watt space heater used for 10 hours per day can add 450-kilowatt hours to your monthly bill, which would be \$47.33.

All of these little things add up each month.

Move Over - It's the Law

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

When the power goes out, so does CLP's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. Member account number six hundred ninety five thousand one hundred seventy four. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane. It's not only the right thing to do; it's the law!

Utility crews aren't the only ones who



could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the

same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

Director Qualifications

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed under the direction of a Board of Directors, which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or the By-Laws, conferred upon or reserved to the members.

In order to become or remain a Director, all of these qualifications must be met:

- (a) Hold a membership in that district.
- (b) A natural person, who had resided on the Cooperative's systems for at least one (1) year; residency is determined by meeting any one of the three (3) qualifications:
 - (1) Driver's license or State I.D. reflecting an address on the Cooperative's system.
 - (2) Homestead interest in real estate in the service territory of the Cooperative.
 - (3) Has made application to the Board, and the Board members have determined there are sufficient contacts and interest in the area served by the Cooperative system to be deemed a resident.
- (c) Must not be a convicted felon.
- (d) Cannot be an employee of the Cooperative, or has not

been an employee of the Cooperative at any time in the previous three (3) years, or a close relative by blood or in-law, including half, step, and adopted kin, a spouse, child, grandchild, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece of a current employee of the Cooperative.

(e) Cannot be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy to the Cooperative, or business interest primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing supplies, appliances, or fixtures to the Cooperative.

(f) Must have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract.

(g) When a membership is held jointly or by tenants in common, one of the joint tenants or one of the tenants in common, but not more than one, may be elected as a director; provided, however, that such person shall not be eligible to become or remain a director in the Cooperative unless both joint tenants or all tenants in common shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth.

A Director may serve an unlimited number of three (3) year terms on the Board of Directors.

What are Capital Credits?

Sue Schmitz, Office Manager

We are coming up on the Capital Credit Retirement again, so I thought now would be a great time to talk about “Co-operatives and Capital Credits.” April will be the month Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) will be processing Capital Credit General Retirement, which triggers many questions from our members. I hope this explanation gives you a better understanding of Capital Credits and the Capital Credit process.

What are Capital Credits?

A cooperative does not earn profits in the sense that other businesses do. Instead, any margins (revenue remaining after all expenses have been paid) are returned to the members in proportion to their usage of the co-op’s services through Capital Credit allocations and retirements. Capital Credits represent each member’s share of the Cooperative’s margins and ownership of the co-op.

What does CLP do with Capital Credits?

Every business needs to maintain a suitable balance between debt and equity to ensure financial health and stability. Capital Credits are the most significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. Member account number

six hundred fifty four thousand eight. Equity is used to help meet the co-op’s expenses, such as paying for new equipment to serve members and repaying debt. Capital Credits help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

How does the Cooperative determine who receives Capital Credits?

Capital Credits are allocated to each CLP member every year based on their economic participation with the Cooperative. For example, how much they paid into the Cooperative for electric service. The Board of Directors determines the basis for the allocation.

How does the Cooperative notify members about Capital Credit allocations and retirements?

CLP notifies members of annual Capital Credit allocations through an allocation notice that is generally mailed to our members in September or October of every year.

How are Capital Credits disbursed?

Each year the Board of Directors determines whether the co-op’s financial position permits the return, or retirement, of Capital Credits. If so, what amount

of Capital Credits will be retired.

What happens to a member’s Capital Credits if they move off of CLP lines?

A member who terminates service no longer receives additional Capital Credit allocations. The balance is paid out each year by a check rather than a credit on their account at the same percentage. Member account number seven hundred thirty two thousand four hundred three. The member’s Capital Credit account is maintained until it is retired in full. It is the former member’s responsibility to notify the co-op of any changes in address so that they can be located when it is time for CLP to retire.

What happens to a member’s Capital Credits if the member dies?

Capital Credits in the member’s account belong to the heirs. In order to assist the member’s heirs in closing the member’s account, CLP offers a special Capital Credit retirement of the outstanding balance of the deceased member’s Capital Credit account at a discount.

Why does the co-op not charge lower rates instead of retaining Capital Credits?

The Board of Directors has a fiscal responsibility to maintain the financial integrity of the cooperative in a way that provides competitive rates and allows the return of Capital Credits to members. Having a sound equity management plan and a commitment to serving the members are both key to achieving this.

How may I contact CLP to speak with someone about this matter?

If you have questions regarding CLP Capital Credits, please contact Kathy or Alexi in our billing department at 834-2226 or 1-800-580-5881, or by email at office@clpower.com.

Ham & Cheese Chicken Bake

From the Kitchen of: Anita Kovic

4 Chicken Breasts	4 slices swiss or cheddar cheese
¼ cup mustard	¼ cup bacon, crumbled and cooked
4 slices black forest ham	2 Tbsp Parsley, fresh, chopped

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Add thinly sliced chicken breasts to the baking dish. Spread 1 tablespoon of mustard over each chicken breast. Top with ham slices. Fold slices of ham around the chicken breasts. Top with sliced cheese. Fold slices of cheese around chicken breast. Bake at 375 F in a preheated oven for 20-30 minutes or until done. Top with crumbled bacon and chopped parsley.

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

Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power Board of Directors was held on December 16, 2020 with all board members present. The directors attended the meeting by means of video conference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern, Office Managers Spring Detlefsen and Susan Schmitz, Communications Manager Kevin Olson, Marketing Manager Carey Hogenson, Member Services Manager Ken Jones, and Operations Manager Larry Sandretsky.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda with additions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the board minutes from November 18, 2020 with revisions noted.

The Board also inquired about the balance of accounts receivables, its relation to CLP's collection policy, Covid 19 related payment delays, and drop in commercial usage. A motion was made and seconded to accept financial reports.

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

The Board reviewed and revised the preliminary budget. The final version of the budget will be reviewed and voted on during the January meeting.

The Board implemented the resolution to confirm that Hal Halpern and Susan Schmitz shall be responsible for submitting and certifying the data requested by Rural Utilities Service Department.

The board reviewed Whistle-blower Policy I-23 and recommended to revise it, naming Susan Schmitz as Compliance Policy Officer and to schedule policy reviews to ensure they are current.

The Board requested that all sub-committees and group representatives provide a monthly summary on the meetings they attend.

A motion was made and seconded to move the meeting to executive session to discuss broadband and finances. After review of data provided and changes in current circumstances, a motion was made and seconded to agree with staff recommendations on broadband grant applications. Motion carried.

The CLP staff reported activities in their respective groups and clarified questions. Adjournment was call at 3:45 pm.

Dates to Know...

- Mar 14:** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 15:** District #4 Nominating Meeting
- Mar 17:** CLP Board Meeting
- Mar 25:** CLP Bills Due
- Mar 29:** District #3 Nominating Meeting
- Mar 31:** District #5 Nominating 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 January:

Barry Netzel & Jeff Anderson

Credits not claimed:

Jamie & Penny Juenemann & Ryan Stilwell

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

January Donations: \$1,678.59

Year-to-date Donations: \$1,678.59

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.

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.