

# PowerLines

*Your Trusted Energy News Source*



November 2019 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



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## Caring Loving People Toy Drive

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Can you imagine being a small child and waking up on Christmas morning to find that there were no presents for you under the tree? For the last 16 years, Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) has done our best to make sure that no child in Lake County has to experience that feeling. CLP organizes the Caring Loving People Toy Drive.

How does the CLP Toy Drive work? Lake County residents, in need of extra help during the holiday season, apply to the Lake County Chapter of the Salvation Army. The applica-

tions include “Wish List” items for their children (ages birth to 18). The Salvation Army shares those “Wish List” items with the CLP Toy Drive Committee (keeping the applicant’s names and information private). CLP works with area businesses to put toy collection bins throughout the county to collect new unwrapped toys. Tags with the “Wish List” items are included with the bins to allow those wishing to donate, a chance to fill a child’s wish. Donors simply select a tag and return their purchased item, with the tag attached, to a donation bin. CLP also accepts cash donations, which enables us to shop for wish list items that aren’t donated. Before the toy distribution date, donated items are collected from the donation bins and are sorted into families. We do our best to make sure that all the children receive an item from their wish list.

We will kick-off this year’s CLP Toy Drive on Monday, November 4th. We will collect toys/donated items until Monday, December 16th. If you would like to donate to the CLP Toy Drive, a listing of local businesses that are CLP Toy Drive Drop Off locations are listed on page 3. We thank these businesses for helping make the CLP Toy Drive a great success each year.

If you would like your business to become a public drop off site for the CLP Toy Drive, or if you have any questions regarding the toy drive, please contact the CLP office.

CLP and the Lake County Salvation Army would like to thank everyone for their participation and their support.





## Be Thankful

### Our Veterans Deserve the Ultimate Thanks Not Only on Veterans Day, But Every Day

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Though few of us feel we have everything we need or want, we have much to be thankful for. Most importantly, I encourage you to be thankful for the solid values that bring out the best in us and everyone around us.

Our Veterans deserve the most thanks. These heroes willingly choose to protect our freedom leaving their homes and families to serve, no matter the cost. Their bodies may become broken, but never their spirit, and some of them make the ultimate sacrifice assuring the freedom America enjoys.

Our men and women who put on their uniforms each day to serve are the ultimate representation of the American spirit. They have a love for their country so great that they are willing to lay their life down to ensure that their family, friends, and country can continue to live the lives we do comfortably. They make the absolute greatest sacrifice as an American, and they deserve our utmost respect and thanks for doing so.

**We must remember that our freedom isn't guaranteed. It's protected by the men and women in our Armed Services. To those who secure our way of life: Thank You!**

In times of crisis, we've also seen ordinary citizens at their very best helping out those in distress. Whether a natural catastrophe or some horrific event creates the worse of circumstances, we've all witnessed how it also brings out the best of humanity. The people affected, although in crisis, always say they are thankful and even overwhelmed by the level of support they received by their neighbors and even perfect strangers.

Even though these solid values that bring out the best in all of us are most visible during major national events, these same values and the level of caring and compassion for family and community is a daily occurrence at CLP, and others in the Cooperative world.

Our new Mission and Vision statements encompass these same values at CLP.

#### **Mission (What CLP Does):**

**"CLP delivers safe, reliable, affordable energy and innovative services to our members while enhancing the vitality of our community."**

#### **Vision**

**(What CLP Wants to Become):  
"We aspire to be the force that empowers opportunities for the benefit of our members and community."**

Enhancing the vitality of our community and empowering opportunities for our members are the objectives we continue to strive for.

By providing our rural community with electricity, an internet connection, and other services, all one needs is a bright spark of initiative and creativity to join the economy with the potential of making something extraordinary happen for the greater good, our community, and the world.

Today people in rural communities only require the same services and an equal playing field with those in large cities to create something special for all to benefit from. CLP will continue to strive to ensure that it happens.

But as is typical, some naysayer city dwellers ponder that realistically, what can farmers in rural communities produce that could change the world that we would be thankful for.

There are many examples throughout history disproving this antiquated viewpoint. Some of the most significant innovations we enjoy today came from people with hardly any services at all. Here's one such innovation we can be thankful for that came from a 14-year-old farm boy while plowing a potato field in Idaho.

*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

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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

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's the Deal with Streaming?

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

The big question I get asked is whether streaming is at a point where it can fully replace your cable or satellite subscription: the live shows, the extensive channel listings, and the sports. Member account number six hundred twenty eight thousand eight hundred two.

The answer is, it depends. If you demand every channel and every live sporting event, then you'll want to stick with traditional TV. But if you don't need every channel in your cable package, there's a good chance you can save money by switching to streaming. You will need the following three things if you want to try streaming:

1. A smart TV or device that connects you to the streaming apps.
2. Monthly subscriptions to the streaming services.
3. An internet connection large enough

to support streaming. I recommend at least 10 Mbps for every TV. (for concurrent viewing and HD)

Also, there are now two types of streaming. The most familiar streaming services (Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu). This is a library or catalog of movies or shows you can watch. The catalog can be limited and differs between providers. For live TV, you will need subscriptions to a cable-replacement service such as Sling TV, DirectTV Now, YouTube TV, and Hulu with Live TV.

Be careful, though, because local and premium channels may not be available, and specific sports packages cost additional money. Overall, streaming will require multiple apps and monthly service subscriptions requiring the user to login appropriately depending on

what they want to watch, if available. Generally, all together, a user usually pays around \$50-\$100 per month, which can be a substantial saving over traditional programming if you are willing to be flexible and tolerate some inconveniences.

THANK YOU to everyone that attended the Kilowatts & Brats District Meetings!

We enjoyed the great discussions and are looking forward to next year's meetings.

The winner of the drawing for the \$100 electric credit will be announced in the December issue of "Powerlines".

Thank you to our members that joined us at the CLP Open House on Friday, October 11th to celebrate National Cooperative Month!

Congratulations to our drawing winner, Anthony! He was the lucky guy to take home a new CLP camp chair and lantern!



## CLP Toy Drive Drop Off Sites



### Two Harbors:

Bodies in Balance  
Carmody 61  
Castle Danger Brewery  
Cedar Coffee Company  
Cooperative Light & Power  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Evolve  
Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
KTHW Radio  
Lake Bank  
Lake View Clinic  
Lake View Memorial Hospital  
Lake View Physical Therapy

### Louise's Place

North Shore Federal Credit Union  
O'Reilly Auto Parts  
State Farm  
Two Harbors Federal Credit Union  
Two Harbors Moose Lodge  
Two Harbors Public Library  
Waterview Shores

### Silver Bay:

Julie's True Value  
J & H Garage  
Lake Bank  
North Shore Federal Credit Union

## Outage Reporting

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

Your Cooperative encourages all members to report outages by calling our office number 834-2226 or 800-580-5881 anytime day or night. However, please be sure to check your breakers and/or take a look at your meter to verify the lack of power before you call. You will always be asked if you have taken these steps so that we do not send out a restoration crew if the problem is within your home.

When you call the Cooperative's main phone number, our phone system will automatically transfer you if you are calling after hours or during a peak event. While you may not be talking with an employee of CLP, your information is still flowing into CLP's Outage Management System and is dispatched in an orderly manner.

Sometimes we hear from a member many hours after their outage has occurred because the member mistakenly thinks we are monitoring inactive power accounts, or the member thinks that their neighbor has already called in the outage. Often outages affect only 1 or 2 individuals, so if you are experiencing an outage, please phone it in.

We don't want to leave you in the dark!

## 2019 Fall Operation Round-Up Grant Recipients



Through the contributions of Cooperative Light & Power's participating members, the Community Trust Board of Directors recently approved \$12,004 in assistance to local community programs during its fall Operation Round Up distribution meeting.

The Fall Operation Round-Up grant recipients were: Faith Lutheran Quilters, Friends of the Finland Community, Friends of the Two Harbors Library, John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Lake County Chamber of Commerce, Lake Superior Community Theatre, MN Adult & Teen Challenge, THHS Agate Boys Basketball, THHS Football, THHS Swim Team, Two Harbors Area Food Shelf, and the Witchtree Training Center.

Special thanks to the members who participate in the program by rounding up to the nearest dollar on their bills. Your pennies are making a difference in our communities!

## CLP Heat & Water Heating Programs

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

"Weather" we like it or not, heating season is upon us. Are you on one of our heating/hot water programs, or have you been thinking of switching to electric heat? I want to offer a little insight into our heating programs.

### Off-Peak Heat and Water Heat

This is a heat storage program;  
the member gets 8 hours of heating per day.  
New hours starting this fall – 10 pm to 6 am

Rate is 4.9 cents per kWh

There are also rebates available on some of this heating equipment, check our website.

### Interruptible Dual Fuel

On this program, you are required to have a back-up heating system (such as propane) large enough to heat your whole house. Wood does not qualify as a back-up heating source.

Dual Fuel can be controlled (shut-off) for up to a twelve (12) hour period for a total of 400 hours during a heating season. The heating season runs from October 15th through April 15th.

Dual Fuel rates are:

Summer (June, July, and August)

6.26 cents per kWh

Winter (the other nine months)

5.309 cents per kWh

### Freedom Heat

This program is no longer offered to new members  
Existing members have been grandfathered in.

Freedom Heat is controlled on the same days as Dual Fuel, but it is only shut off for a maximum of four (4) hours between 4 pm to 10 pm.

Due to the low control time, the rate is a little higher than Dual Fuel.

Freedom Heat rates are:

Summer (June, July, and August)

8.149 cents per kWh

Winter (the other nine months)

6.0 cents per kWh

If you have any questions about any of our heating programs, please feel free to contact the CLP office at 834-2226 or 800-580-5881 or visit our website [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com).

# Oh, Deer Stands! Be Careful Where You Place Them

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

Attaching deer stands to utility poles is never a good idea. But did you also know that having a deer stand underneath a high-voltage transmission line is also a no-no? That's because it is a hazard to safety and reliability.

"We take care to remove dangerous trees, items and objects in our rights of way," said Craig Poorker, land rights manager for Great River Energy. "Deer stands in our easements are a safety hazard."

Great River Energy, Cooperative

Light & Power's wholesale provider of electricity, works with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to adhere to standards for operating and maintaining power lines. Member account number six hundred sixteen thousand four hundred eighty six. If found in violation of any standards (including deer stands in rights of way), Great River Energy can face fines in the millions of dollars.

Some reasons why deer stands and other buildings aren't allowed in rights

of way include:

- **The building may interfere with access to the line for maintenance and emergency repairs.**
- **A fire in a building within the easement area could damage the transmission line.**
- **A building may be closer to a line than electrical codes allow.**

If you have a deer stand underneath a transmission line or attached to a utility pole, please remove it, and hunt from the safety of the woods.

*Continued from page 2*

His name was Philo Farnsworth. He wasn't the first person to dream up television. However, he was the first person to find a way to make it work without a mechanical aspect. Member account member number seven hundred fourteen thousand ninety six. Farnsworth dreamed up his idea for electronic rather than mechanical-television while driving a horse-drawn harrow. This was at the family's farm in Idaho. He was plowing a potato field in straight, parallel lines. As he was plowing, he saw television in the furrows. He envisioned a system that would break an image into horizontal lines. Then it would reassemble those lines into a picture at the other end. Only electrons could capture, transmit, and reproduce a clear moving

figure. This eureka experience we can all be thankful for happened to a young man at the age of 14 while plowing a potato field, and the rest was history. During this November, we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Be most thankful for our Armed Forces that allow all of us to have the freedoms that make our country the greatest humanity has ever witnessed. Also, try to focus on being thankful for the many things in your life that are important to you. I wouldn't dare attempt to propose what they might be for each of us. All of us have or will have some difficult times in our lives. Sometimes it's OK to give yourself a break or vacation from focusing on these troubling aspects of your life. Rejuvenate your mind and focus only on being Thankful for all

you do have and that you're fortunate enough to live in the USA.

## Heating Sales Tax Exemption

Electricity sold for residential use to members who are metered and billed as residential users and use electricity for their primary heat are exempt from the sales tax for November, December, January, February, March, and April. This does not apply to anyone other than members whose primary source of heat is electricity. By primary source, it means that 50% or more of your heating requirements are electric. However, if your electric heat is used in combination with wood or another fuel, you may not qualify.

Members receiving tax credit for electric heat when electric heat is not the primary source of heat are in violation of the MN State Sales Tax Law. You should contact Cooperative Light & Power immediately if there have been any changes to your heat source.

### Creamy Cabbage Soup

*From the Kitchen of: Rachel Gischia*

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 5 Tbsp sweet butter                | 2 tsp salt                                     |
| 2 cups chopped onion               | 8 packed cups shredded green cabbage           |
| 2 medium potatoes                  | (1 medium head)                                |
| ½ cup milk                         | 6 cups vegetable stock, potato water, or water |
| ½ cup sour cream                   | lots of freshly-ground black pepper            |
| 2 tsp whole or ground caraway seed |  |

Cut potatoes into chunks and boil. Cook onions in large kettle in butter. After a few minutes, add caraway and salt. Cover and let cook over medium-low heat for about 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Whip the hot potatoes, blend in milk and sour cream. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer about 30-40 minutes.

## Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Association of Lake County Board of Directors was held at the Office of the Association at Fifteen Fifty-Four, Highway Two, on September 19, 2019. All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:49 a.m. Also present for all parts of the meeting was CEO Hal Halpern.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda with the addition of 5% GRE Power Buying and Dark Skies. Motion carried as amended.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried as amended.

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

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Operation Round Up grants as recommended by the Community Trust Board. Motion carried.

Our Broadband Grant Application was hand delivered by Kevin Olson to the Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Commission on September 10, 2019.

The Strategic Plan is nearing completion and the Board agreed to release our new mission and vision statements to our members and the public.

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

ried.

CEO Hal Halpern presented the senior staff reports because the department managers were not available for the Board Meeting to present their own reports. Department managers will do their best to be available to present their reports at future Board Meetings.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Outage Report as amended to include the KPI's in future reports. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued to investigate buying 5% of our Energy outside of GRE which is the maximum per our PPA contract. A motion was made and seconded to investigate all options.

The Board discussed the Dark Skies Event, which occurred from September 15 to September 21 to educate the public on reducing light pollution. Member account number seven hundred thirty six thousand four hundred forty three. This topic was suggested as a potential presentation at our Annual Meeting. It has already been a topic on our website for some time now.

There being no further business to come before said meeting, adjournment was called for with a motion and a second at 4:14 p.m. Motion carried.

## Year-to-date Financials

| <u>Aug-19</u>                  | <u>2009</u>  | <u>2018</u>  | <u>2019</u>  |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating Revenue              | \$ 6,172,426 | \$ 8,718,145 | \$ 8,733,653 |
| Cost of Purchased Power        | \$ 3,573,324 | \$ 5,029,864 | \$ 5,088,932 |
| Other Operating Expenses       | \$ 2,247,947 | \$ 3,389,720 | \$ 3,275,048 |
| Total Cost of Electric Service | \$ 5,821,271 | \$ 8,419,584 | \$ 8,363,980 |
| Operating Margin (Loss)        | \$ 351,155   | \$ 298,561   | \$ 369,673   |
| Interest Income                | \$ 65,730    | \$ 123,460   | \$ 124,301   |
| Other Margins                  | \$ 211,585   | \$ (191,521) | \$ (97,799)  |
| Capital Credits                | \$ 102,319   | \$ 15,435    | \$ 16,053    |
| Total Margins                  | \$ 730,789   | \$ 245,935   | \$ 412,228   |
| kWh Purchased                  | 62,424,384   | 72,264,245   | 71,239,358   |
| kWh Sold                       | 63,488,032   | 68,337,222   | 67,736,026   |
| Line Loss                      | N/A          | 5.43%        | 4.92%        |
| Members Billed                 | 5,852        | 6,170        | 6,211        |
| Average kWh Used, Residential  | 1,188        | 1,047        | 1,089        |
| Average Bill, Residential      | \$ 112.92    | \$ 137.77    | \$ 141.54    |
| Average Cost/kWh, Residential  | \$ 0.0951    | \$ 0.1316    | \$ 0.1300    |
| Interest Expense               | \$ 299,230   | \$ 308,702   | \$ 327,089   |

## Dates to Know...

- Nov 11:** Veteran's Day  
CLP CLOSED
- Nov 15:** Cookies and coffee in  
CLP's lobby
- Nov 21:** CLP Board Meeting
- Nov 25:** CLP bills due
- Nov 28:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 29:** CLP CLOSED

*NOTE: CLP dates subject to change*

## DID YOU KNOW...

...laundry can amount to 5-9% of your monthly energy use?  
If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water.

*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 September:**  
Wayne Ellinsen

**Credits not claimed:** Lawrence & Janice Smith, James & Rebecca Wright, and Matthew Miner

## OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

September Donations: \$1,584.04

Year-to-date Donations: \$14,488.30

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).