

# PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



April 2022 • [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



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## The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 18th

You've likely noticed CLP's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18th, here are some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

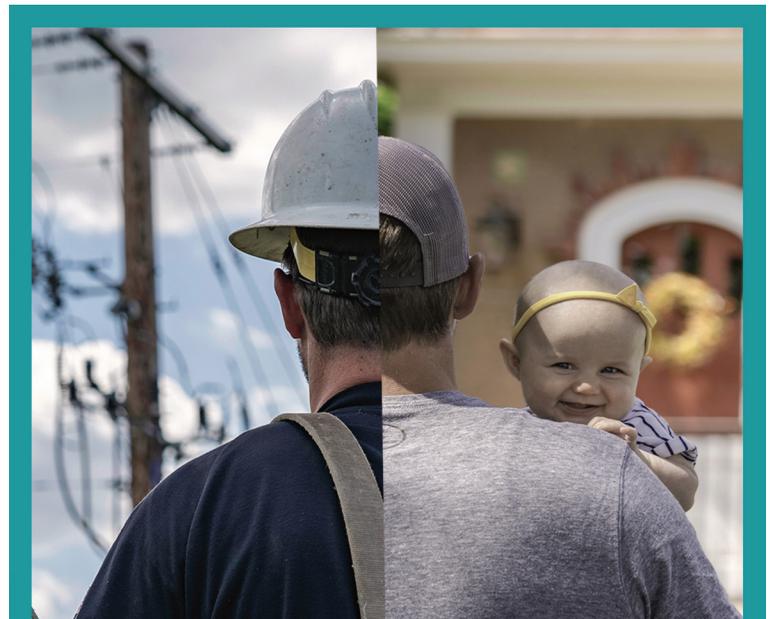
The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours and outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker, it takes more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, CLP's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called.

*Continued on page 3*



## LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.



## Farewell. But not Goodbye.

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

To my Dear CLP Family,

I have submitted my resignation as the Chief Executive Officer and General

Manager of Cooperative Light & Power, effective April 8, 2022. In the three-plus years since my tenure began, it has been a privilege and honor to work with one of the finest electric cooperatives in the nation. Member account number seven hundred eight thousand nine hundred twenty five. Cooperative Light & Powers' 85-year legacy is even stronger

today because of the dedicated and extraordinary employees all performing at the top of their profession.

I have accepted a position with Chugach Electric in Alaska as their CEO.

As I leave Cooperative Light & Power – Our Safety, Reliability, Environmental Stewardship, Rate Stability, and Member Approval are at their highest levels since I began. Cooperative Light & Power is on track for a very favorable future.

I will work towards an orderly and successful transition with the Board, new CEO/GM, the employees, and members to ensure Cooperative Light & Power

continues its greatness without skipping a beat.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with all of the employees, Board, and members and lead this great cooperative.

Like all great families, family members often leave the nest. Still, they never forget the great time and adventures they had and often recall those times favorably even if they relocate far away. I expect to stay in contact with my CLP family, of which you are all a part of. I thank you for all the treasured memories I'm taking with me. It has been a very special time in my life.

**So, Farewell for now, but not goodbye!**

## Non-Profits - Co-op Style

Shannon Haveri, HR/Finance Manager

Did you know there are many kinds of non-profits? Most of us are familiar with the 501©(3) variety. These are the non-profit organizations that serve the public via goods and services; they are the non-profits we think of when filling out our taxes or donating to a charity.

There are other types of non-profits, however. Another major type of non-profit is a not-for-profit organization (NFPO). NFPOs exist for the benefit of their members. Member account number seven hundred fifty thousand four hundred thirty two. Cooperatives like CLP are a 501©(12) non-profit. The purpose of a 501©(12) non-profit is to provide certain services to its members at the lowest possible cost. The cooperative

must receive 85% or more of its income each year from its members, and the income must be collected solely to meet the cooperative's losses and expenses.

Co-op does have a 501©(3) charity – Operation Round-Up. Operation Round Up® provides grants to local not-for-profit organizations and community projects such as food shelves, fire departments, and school organizations. Co-op members voluntarily participate by “rounding up” their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. The change is placed in a trust, which is then donated to local organizations. People can also donate directly to Operation Round-Up. See CLP's website for more information.

**Co-op Light & Power**  
**SUMMER HOURS**  
**May 2Nd - September 30th**

**Monday: 7:00 aM - 4:30 pM**

**Tuesday: 7:00 aM - 4:30 pM**

**Wednesday: 7:00 aM - 4:30 pM**

**Thursday: 7:00 aM - 4:30 pM**

**Friday: 7:00 aM - 11:00 aM**

## 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

April 2022 - Vol. 24, Issue 4

**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

Summer Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

## Important Contacts

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

Pat Schmieder, Vice President, District 1  
218-834-2247

Kyle Weideman, Treasurer, District 3  
218-834-3476

Roger Peterson, Secretary, District 5  
218-226-8197

Steve Josephson, Director, District 4  
218-226-4163

## “Blinks” Can Signal a Properly Working Electrical System

Brian Bentler, Operations Manager

We often hear the question from members “What causes my lights to blink?” The power grid is subject to certain short-term losses of power, and Cooperative Light and Power takes all possible measures to prevent these occurrences and minimize their impact on our members. Blinking lights are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole, or a critter or tree branch coming into contact with an energized power line.

When lights blink, it is an indication that the cooperative’s equipment is operating properly. Member account number six hundred forty five thousand one hundred ten. If a fault or short circuit happens on a power line, a device called an “oil circuit recloser” (OCR) opens to stop it, then quickly closes back. Although the process is quick, it may cause your lights to blink, making it necessary to reset digital clocks and appliances with digital displays. An OCR is essentially a breaker, functioning much like a breaker in the electrical panel in your home, except that it can reset itself automatically.

Have you ever noticed that blinks often come in sets of three before an outage? If the short circuit continues, the OCR will operate or “trip” two more times



**Oil Circuit Recloser (OCR)**

giving the fault a chance to clear itself. If it does, it saves the cooperative from taking an outage and having to roll a truck. If it does not, it stops the flow of electricity, protecting the lines from damage until the problem can be fixed.

Although the weather and nature’s creatures are beyond our control, cooperative members can lessen the effect and inconvenience of “blinks” when they occur.

When purchasing small appliances and digital clocks, consider models with battery backup or smart devices that can reset themselves.

Invest in surge-protector-power-strips with a built-in uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for your computer or other electronic devices whose “memory” would be lost with a power interruption.

### EV Emergency Response Training for Local First Responders

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

CLP will be sponsoring a class on Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Emergency Response Training for all of the First Responders in our service territory on May 18th at the Two Harbors Fire Hall. A meal will be served to the participants starting at 5:30 pm, with class beginning at 6:30 pm and running for a couple of hours.

Jack Volz, president of Safety and Security Consultant Specialists LLC. (SASCS) will teach this 2-hour class that will help educate the first responders on the types of EVs. He will highlight specific crash and fire responses and dispel myths surrounding EV batteries. Following the classroom, participants will also get an up-close look at CLP’s Tesla model 3 and Great River Energy’s Chrysler Pacifica hybrid.

If your First Responder group would like to attend, please give us a call at 218 843-2226. Please leave us your responder’s group name and the number of members attending so we get a fairly accurate headcount. We hope to see you there!

## The Power Behind Your Power (continued)

*Continued from page 1*

They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don’t return until the job is done, often days later. That’s why the lineworker’s family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at CLP, six lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,015 miles of power lines across Lake County and part of St. Louis County. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today’s lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. Member account number seven hundred forty six thousand nine hundred ninety four. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 18th.

# How to Read Your New Bill

\*For a more detailed description please visit our website at [www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)



1554 Highway 2  
PO Box 69  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
(218) 834-2226  
(800) 580-5881  
[www.clpower.com](http://www.clpower.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

**1 Account Number** **123456**  
Member JOHN DOE  
Statement Date 04/07/2022  
Due Date 04/25/2022

Page 1

**2 MEMBER MESSAGE**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CLP ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MAY 25TH!

**3 YOUR BILL IS \$244.00**

Customer Name:	JOHN DOE
Previous Balance	262.00
Payment(s) - Thank you	-262.00
Electric Charges	244.00
Amount Due	244.00
Voting District	2

**4 NOTES**

MARCH PCA .03 X KWH  
TO REPORT AN OUTAGE CALL 1-800-927-5550  
RETURN PAYMENTS WILL RECEIVE A \$30 FEE

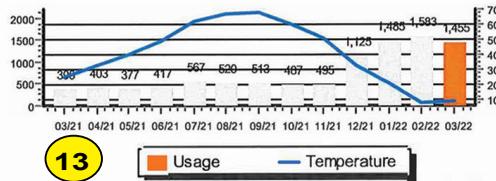
METER SERVICE DESCRIPTION	PREVIOUS READING	CURRENT READING	MULTIPLIER	DAYS USAGE	CHARGE
---------------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------	------------	--------

<b>5 1001 RES</b>					
Meter #999999999	02/28/2022	03/31/2022		28 Days	
Kwh X .10517	44019	45474	1	1455	153.02
<b>9 Base Charge</b>					30.00
<b>10 Pca/Kwh Chg</b>					43.65

**11 ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

**Comparing Your Monthly Use**

	Days	kWh	Avg kWh/Day	Cost/Day
Current Billing	28	1455	51.96	8.69
Previous Billing	31	1583	51.06	8.45
Last Year Billing	28	390	13.93	3.11



<b>12 Round-Up Sales Tax</b>					0.61
					16.72
<b>14 Total For: 123 MAIN ST</b>					244.00

Please return this portion with your payment.



Cooperative Light and Power  
1554 Highway 2  
PO Box 69  
Two Harbors, MN 55616

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 123456  
STATEMENT DATE: 04/07/2022  
AMOUNT DUE BY: 04/25/2022

**AMOUNT DUE: \$244.00**

**15 Paid by CR Card**

672 2 AV 0.426 672 1 1 1 0  
|||

JOHN DOE  
123 MAIN ST  
ANY TOWN, USA

- 11** This is where you will find an account summary for the current month, previous month and previous year's usage.
- 12** Round-Up is an optional program that allows CLP to round-up your electric bill to the nearest dollar. The money collected goes into a fund that grants money to local non-profit organizations twice a year.
- 13** This graph will show you each month's usage, your current month will be in orange. The left vertical side is for the usage, the right vertical side is for the temperature, and the bottom lists the months.
- 14** This is where you will find the total for the location. If you have multiple locations, they will be broken out individually.
- 15** This will show you your account number, statement date, due date, amount due, if you are on budget billing, if you have a credit on your account, and if your account is set up on auto pay via your credit card or bank account.

# Tax Scam Triage

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

It's tax season, and scammers seek every opportunity to trick you out of your refunds, as well as your personal information. I thought it would be timely to inform you about some common tax scams.

## Common Tax Scams:

1.) Tax Preparer/Filer Scams: Some tax scams occur when fraudulent tax returns are filed in the victim's name. This happens when information about the tax filer is found, including the filer's name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number. The criminal or fraudulent tax preparer then uses this information to file a malicious tax return, citing as many deductions as possible, to create as large a tax return as possible. This is identity theft, identity fraud, and tax fraud.

2.) Phone Tax Scams: The second variant of tax scams occurs when the criminal contacts the victim over the phone or voicemail and tries to convince the victim to do something, such as immediately paying a fine or providing their financial information so a refund can be issued. In this situation, the criminal uses information gained from a data breach or social networking website to convince the victim that they have access to the victim's tax information. Frequently the caller will pretend to be an IRS agent.

3.) Electronic Tax Scams: The third type of tax scam involves computers. Criminals use tax-related spam, phishing emails, or fraudulent websites to trick victims into providing login names, passwords, or other personal information. Unfortunately, those emails

and websites could also download malware onto the victim's computer. The breached information can then be used to commit further fraud. I have even seen counterfeit (spoofed) tax preparer sites, for example, a fake TurboTax.

## Be on alert for:

Unsolicited phone calls

Don't be fooled by unsolicited calls. The IRS will never request payment over the phone and will never claim anything is "urgent" or "due immediately."

Hostile/aggressive individuals

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be an IRS representative and they are hostile, insulting, aggressive, or threaten to have you arrested, this is a scam.

Fake Caller IDs

If you're not sure of the legitimacy of the call, ask for the agent's name, hang up and call the IRS back using a phone number from their official website.

Spoofed websites

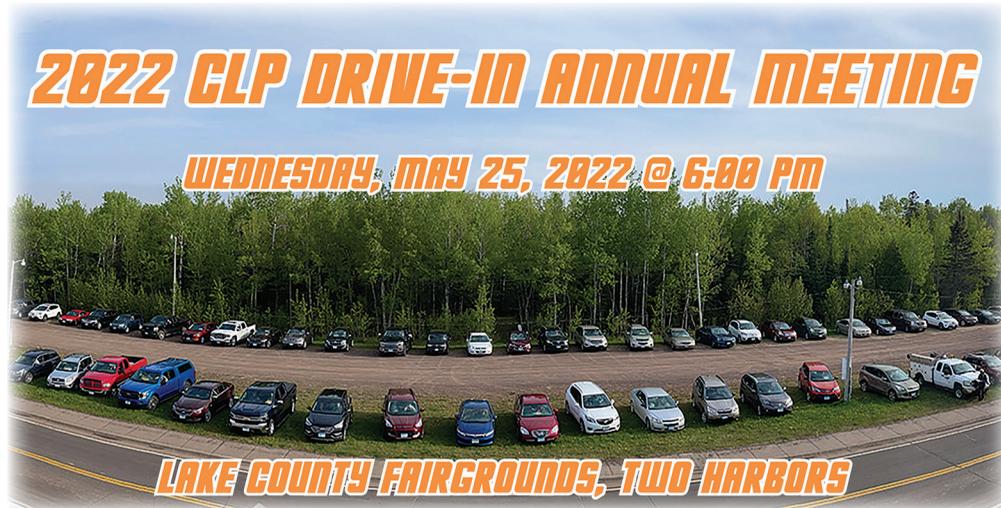
Watch out for "spoofed" websites that look like the official website but are not. Double-check the URL and look for web addresses with https:// or the lock, which means the website takes extra measures to help secure your information.

## Recommendations

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or identity fraud, here are some steps you should take:

- 1.) File a report with your local police department.
- 2.) File a report with the State Attorney General's Office - <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/>
- 3.) File a report with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov)

If you receive spam or a phishing email about your taxes, do not click on the links or open any attachments, instead, forward the email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).



## Ham & Cheese Potatoes

*From the Kitchen of: Vicky and Larry Johnson*

2# cubed ham

2# frozen hashbrowns

2 cups shredded Swiss or mozzarella cheese

1-pint heavy cream

Grease a 9x13 pan. Put potatoes on bottom, then ham. Pour cream over the ham and potatoes. Sprinkle cheese on top. Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees. Cover with foil the last 30 minutes of baking.

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 1554 Highway 2 on January 21, 2022, with the participation of Scott Veitenheimer, Kyle Weideman, Roger Peterson, Steve Josephson, General Manager/CEO Hal Halpern, Communication Manager Kevin Olson, and Sherry Fabini to take the minutes. Pat Schmieder, Attorney Chad Felstul, and 16 member-owners joined by means of video conference.

All directors were present at the time the meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Scott Veitenheimer asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the December 29, 2021, minutes as modified. Motion passed.

Chad Felstul, Attorney for CLP; Eric Olsen, GRE; and 16 member-owners joined the Board by means of video conference for the GRE Resolution portion of the meeting. A

lot of discussion along with questions, comments and concerns were answered before the voting on the GRE Resolution.

GRE Resolutions R2112-2 for sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC line & R2112-3 for purchase of 400 MW wind from Apex to be transmitted on the DC were read by Scott Veitenheimer. A motion was made to vote on the Resolution. Resolutions R2112-2 and R2112-3 passed.

Finance/HR Manager Shannon Haveri joined the meeting to discuss the financials. After much discussion, a motion was made to accept the financials. Motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda. Motion approved.

The CEO went over the Manager's Report. The Annual Meeting will be held outdoors on May 25, 2022, at the Fairgrounds. The new billing statements are scheduled to go out in March.

The Board discussed the date for the next Board meeting. The date is set for February 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 3:53 p.m.

## Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Jan-22</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 1,063,586	\$ 1,344,773	\$ 1,560,521	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 668,277	\$ 853,562	\$ 782,122	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 347,670	\$ 380,547	\$ 476,768	
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 1,015,947	\$ 1,234,109	\$ 1,258,890	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 47,639	\$ 110,664	\$ 301,631	
Interest Income	\$ 3,465	\$ 7,034	\$ 3,327	
Other Margins	\$ 15,700	\$ (10,722)	\$ (40,695)	
Capital Credits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Margins	\$ 66,804	\$ 106,976	\$ 264,263	
kWh Purchased	10,828,739	11,764,555	13,911,506	
kWh Sold	10,226,670	11,223,513	13,269,632	
Line Loss	5.56%	4.60%	4.61%	
Members Billed	5,934	6,301	6,366	
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,574	1,606	1,933	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 161.51	\$ 181.09	\$ 211.86	
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1026	\$ 0.1128	\$ 0.1096	
Interest Expense	\$ 38,568	\$ 30,691	\$ 30,607	

## Dates to Know...

**Apr 15:** CLP CLOSED Good Friday

**Apr 18:** Linemen Appreciation Day

**Apr 22:** Earth Day

**Apr 25:** CLP Bills Due

**Apr 27:** CLP Board Meeting

**May 2:** CLP Summer Hours Begin

**May 25:** 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 a credit will be applied to your bill.

**Credits claimed for February:**

**No Credits Claimed**

**Credits not claimed: Kelsey Nelson, Dan Maddy, Carolyn Mohn, Chris & Joan Ayd**

### OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

February Donations: \$1,752.36

Year-to-date Donations: \$23,078.69

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).