

PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source

Monthly Publication of Cooperative Light & Power



November 2021 • www.clpower.com



VETERANS DAY
11th November
HONORING ALL WHO
SERVED

CLP Employee Receives MREA's LIFEguard Award

In August of this year, Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) launched a new awards program to encourage employees to make safety a commitment on and off the job. The LIFEguard on Duty Award is a “great way to honor those who’ve acted to save lives or prevent serious injuries and found ways to turn those experiences into teachable moments with lasting impact on others,” said Lidia Dilley Jacobson, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association’s director of safety and loss control.

On Thursday, October 14th, Shannon Klinker of Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) was the recipient of the prestigious award. Shannon was awarded the LIFEguard on Duty Award due to her heroic actions taken in April after receiving a call from one of CLP’s members. The member was calling to ask if any of the CLP linemen, that were current or retired firefighters, were available to come and check her carbon monoxide detector that was going off. She had opened

her windows and said her son would be coming soon. Shannon had an uneasy feeling and was concerned for the member’s well-being. She decided to call 911 Emergency. The Fire Department and Ambulance went to her house, found her in distress, and found carbon monoxide in her home. They transported her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with Carbon Monoxide poisoning. A

difficult condition that even some of the youngest, most healthy people have died from. The hospital treated her for carbon monoxide poisoning, and the CLP member recovered thanks to Shannon’s quick actions.

“Being directly responsible for saving someone’s life is nothing to be taken lightly. But it’s the CLP family way of always caring for our community and members that makes us special,” said CLP CEO Hal Halpern.

“The message behind LIFEguard on Duty is that it gives co-op employees and their families constant reminders that people are stepping up to save lives and prevent injuries both on and off the job,” said Jacobson. “When we recognize people for that, we inspire others to do the same, and that helps promote the culture of safety we’ve set as a goal. My hope is that every one of you has a LIFEguard on Duty at your cooperative.”



CLP Assistant Accountant/Payroll Clerk, Shannon Klinker receives MREA LIFEguard Award



Veterans Deserve our Greatest Respect, Admiration, and Thanks Not Only on Veterans Day But Every Day for the Freedom We Have

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/ GM

Americans are fortunate to live in the greatest society mankind

has ever produced. We enjoy the great lives we have, but sometimes might take it for granted and don't always acknowledge or recognize why that's true. It's only true because of the freedom our Veterans have ensured for generations and the Armed Forces that continue to ensure our freedom today.

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 if necessary 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.

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. Member account number six hundred eleven thousand nine hundred eighty one. Some of them make the ultimate sacrifice assuring the freedom Americans enjoy.

There is no greater sacrifice an American can make for our country. They rightfully deserve our utmost respect,

admiration, and thanks for doing so.

We must never forget that our freedom isn't guaranteed. It's protected by the men and women in our Armed Services who secure our free way of life.

These are very tough times for some of our veterans when they return home from service. Coming home from war or simply transitioning from a life in uniform to a life without one can be difficult.

Times are challenging enough these days for all of us dealing with the pandemic. We've had that and many other obstacles that have occurred that are unprecedented in our country's history. Imagine the added difficulty our veterans have gone through, with many experiencing the horrors that result from war. Then coming home to their families and communities changed from those experiences. Most are able to adapt and reconnect to their prior peacetime lives at home. But many find it difficult to reconnect and are troubled. Regrettably, because of their hardened military training some do not reach out for help as readily as many civilians would.

It's upon all of us to reach out to all veterans and talk to them whether they

seem troubled or not. Just thanking them for their service is a start, but we all need to do more and give them our sincerest heartfelt assistance in any way we can. Member account number six hundred fifty nine thousand eighty three. Remember, they are the reason we enjoy all the freedoms we enjoy, and we can never do enough to repay the debt we owe to them for that privilege.

Here are some agencies that you can work with or direct any veteran to if they need assistance.

Lake County Veteran's Service

<https://www.co.lake.mn.us/lake-county-veterans-services/>
218.834.8326

St. Louis County Veteran's Service

<https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/veterans-service>
218.725.5285

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

<https://www.mac-v.org>
612.726.1327

Duluth Vet Center

<https://www.vetcenter.va.gov>
218.722.8654

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

November 2021 - Vol. 23, Issue 11
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

Scott Veitenheimer, President/Chair, 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

Cool News About Hotspots

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Hidden inside just about every smartphone is a capability that few people take advantage of. That is the ability to turn the phone into a Wi-Fi hotspot.

A mobile hotspot, also known as a personal hotspot, works by turning your smartphone into a portable Wi-Fi device. Member account number seven hundred twenty five thousand six hundred ninety three. You're probably familiar with the Wi-Fi router in your house that sends the internet signal throughout your home so you can connect your devices to the internet without a cable. Smartphones are now built to do

the same thing. Think of a personal hotspot as your own Wi-Fi router that you carry around in your pocket. Personal hotspots can be in the form of stand-alone devices, like your Wi-Fi router, or they can be built into smartphones or cellular-enabled tablets. Hotspots have become more popular since the arrival of 4G and 5G networks. That's because the improved network speeds have made hotspots more efficient and closer to the network speeds we are used to at home or work.

Basically, any Wi-Fi-enabled device can hook up to a personal hotspot and use its cellular data connection. That means laptops, e-readers, tablets, security cams, smart thermostats, gaming consoles, even Wi-Fi-enabled TVs. Be careful, though, because some cellular carriers place limits on the number of devices that can connect to a personal hotspot at any given time. Also, since it uses your cellular plan, be aware you may hit your data limits sooner. Personal hotspots are now usually included in your cellular plan. Just turn it on and go! Keep in mind that while your phone is off or away from home, your devices will not have internet unless they are within range of your phone. Please remember to set a Wi-Fi password to secure it.



Quadruple Almond Cookies

From the Kitchen of: Mina Kaiser

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1½ cup almond flour | 4 oz apple sauce |
| ½ cup sugar | 8 oz almond butter |
| ½ cup light brown sugar | ½ T. almond extract |
| 2 tsp. baking powder | 1 oz sliced almonds, lightly toasted |
| ¼ tsp. salt | |
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together the almond flour, sugars, baking powder and salt. Add the applesauce, almond butter and extract and mix well until creamy. Fold in the toasted sliced almonds. Form 1 ½ inch balls and space about 2 inches apart on baking sheets-they will flatten on their own as they bake. Bake 10-12 minutes; let cool on baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack. Makes 2 dozen.

Heating Season Reminders

Ken Jones, Member Services Manager

It is sad to say, but the heating season is here! Hopefully, you are already prepared. Here are a few reminders:

1. Have your heating system checked and cleaned by a professional. If you had problems last season, they won't fix themselves; get them properly fixed.
2. Change out any heating filters. This will allow your system to work more efficiently.
3. Have your fuel supply filled. It will only cost more later in the winter.
4. Change your batteries in your programmable thermostats.
5. Make sure you have a properly working carbon monoxide detector.
6. Make sure you have properly placed and working smoke detectors with new batteries.
7. Place weather-stripping on any doors or windows that you may have noticed have been leaking.
8. Fill any areas that you can see daylight thru with expandable foam (around any pipes or wires that lead outside). This will also help keep the mice out.

Hopefully, you have already done most of these things, but some always seem to get overlooked.

Stay warm!

Electric Heat Sales Tax Exemption

Sue Schmitz, Office Manager

Did you know if you are a member whose primary heat is electricity, and you use 50% or more to heat your home that you could receive a sales tax exemption for six months of the year? Electricity sold for residential use to members who are metered and billed as residential users and use electricity as their primary heat source are exempt from sales tax November-April.

This does not apply to anyone other than members whose primary source of heat is electricity. By primary source, it means 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.

If you no longer use electric heat as your primary heat source and have signed the form, please contact CLP to discontinue the tax-exempt status. Member account number seven hundred thirty six thousand five. Members receiving tax credit when electric heat is not the primary source of heat are in violation of the MN State Sales Tax Law.

Members who have Dual Fuel or Off-Peak meters are already receiving the exemption since their heat is separately metered. Please contact CLP if you have any questions or have made any changes to your heating source.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Clarification of Information Appearing in the Duluth Township Meeting Minutes and Newsletter

Through communication with concerned membership of Cooperative Light & Power (CLP), who reside in the Duluth Township area, CLP learned there was inaccurate information provided about the contractual work regarding right-of-way line clearing in their June 2021 Duluth Township Board Meeting Minutes and in their August 2021 newsletter.

It was stated, "Co-op Light and Power does not have a contract with its Right of Way contractors and no inspectors to follow up on work being done."

This information is incorrect. CLP wants to correct the record and clarify that CLP has contracts with its Right-of-Way contractors. All locations are inspected where CLP directed contractor work is done.

The Board of Directors of CLP made a request to the Duluth Township Board that corrections be made to the respective meeting minutes and newsletter. CLP has been in communication with Duluth Township officials and has been told the Township will attach CLP's letter of correction to their meeting minutes, and language to the same effect will appear in their January newsletter.

CLP prides itself on being responsible, transparent, and accurate with all communications to its member-owners. We want to thank the Duluth Township Board for correcting the record and providing accurate information to their residences and our members who are one in the same.

CEO Hal Halpern



Caring Loving People Toy Drive Kick Off

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Can you imagine the disappointment felt by a child to wake up on Christmas morning to find no presents under the tree? For the past 18 years, CLP has done our best to ensure that no child in Lake County ever has to experience that feeling. We do this by organizing the Caring Loving People (CLP) Toy Drive.

How does the CLP Toy Drive work? Lake County residents in need of a little extra help during the holiday season apply to the Lake County Chapter of the Salvation Army. The applications include “wish list items” for their children (ages birth to 18). The Salvation Army shares those “wish lists” with the CLP Toy Drive Committee (keeping the applicants’ names 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 containers to allow those wishing to donate a chance to fill a child’s wish. Donors simply select a tag and return their unwrapped purchased item to a donation collection bin with the “wish item” tag attached. CLP also accepts cash donations, which allows us to shop for wish list items that aren’t donated. Before the toy distribution date, donated items are collected from the donation collection 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 1st! We will collect toys/donated items until Monday, December 13th. If you would like to donate to the CLP Toy Drive, a list of local CLP Toy Drive Drop-off locations are listed to the right. We thank these businesses for helping make the CLP Toy Drive successful 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 feel free to contact me at (218) 834-2226, (800) 580-5881, or by email at careyh@clpower.com.

Help Us Help You

As a cooperative member, you have a say in how your co-op is run. Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) is working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to conduct a telephone and online survey of random CLP residential members. The survey will take about 10 minutes and will be completely confidential. The purpose is to explore our members’ views on our service and thoughts on how we can better serve you, our membership. These calls and emails are not telemarketers and are not selling anything. If they contact you at an inconvenient time, they will be glad to call back when you have the time.

We look forward to sharing the results of this survey with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our member service representatives at (218) 834-2226 or (800) 580-5881. Thank you for your participation and input.

CLP Toy Drive Drop-Off Sites

Two Harbors:

Blackwoods
Bodies in Balance
Castle Danger Brewery
Cedar Coffee Company
Cooperative Light & Power
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Park State Bank
Lake View Clinic
Lake View Hospital
Lake View Physical Therapy
Louise’s Place
NSFCU
O’Reilly Auto Parts
Port City Nutrition
Seagren’s Hardware
State Farm
THFCU
Two Harbors Public Library

Silver Bay:

Julie’s True Value
J & H Garage
Park State Bank
NSFCU

Brimson:

Hugo’s

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.

Some reasons why deer stands and other buildings aren’t allowed in right-of-ways include:

- The building or structure 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 or structure 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.

Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the Cooperative Light & Power Association of Lake County of Board of Directors was held at the Office of the Association at 1554 Highway 2 on August 25, 2021, with the participation of Scott Veitenheimer, Roger Peterson, Pat Schmieder and Steve Josephson, our attorney Chad Felstul and CEO Hal Halpern. Kyle Weideman joined later in the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

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

At 10:30 a.m. Susie Schmitz, Office Manager, joined the meeting to discuss financials. She discussed an email that she just received regarding selling the property that Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) owns on Homestead Road.

A motion was made and seconded to list the 30-acre property adjacent to the Clover Valley Substation. Motion passed.

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

At 12:50 p.m. Larry Sandretsky, Operation Manager, joins the meeting to discuss operations and any new information on the Greenwood fire. Larry stated that 12 homes/cabins are gone along with 57 outbuildings.

Larry and his crew are hoping they are allowed to go there soon to assess the damage caused by the fire.

Hal announced that Larry is retiring at the end of the year. Hal stated that they have listed the position in house first and interviews for the Operation Manager position are starting early next week. CLP will also be looking for two more linemen.

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

Scott Veitenheimer reported on the Great River Energy (GRE) Coal Creek Sale stating that it did pass.

Scott Veitenheimer reported on the Energy Issue Summit (EIS) that three Board members attended for the director training session. Scott and Pat were there for the EIS portion.

Steve Josephson spoke about the CLP Safety meeting he attended that morning. He stated that the meeting went very well. Pat Schmieder will be attending the next Safety Meeting in October.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Board policy IV-36 regarding Board meeting attendance. Motion passed.

The Board discussed the date for the next Board meeting. The date is set for September 29th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 4:00 p.m.

Year-to-date Financials

<u>August</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 6,760,186	\$ 8,856,767	\$ 9,145,491
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 4,027,540	\$ 4,922,688	\$ 5,502,825
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,403,369	\$ 3,479,071	\$ 3,512,034
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 6,430,909	\$ 8,401,759	\$ 9,014,859
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 329,277	\$ 455,008	\$ 130,632
Interest Income	\$ 46,337	\$ 118,277	\$ 47,881
Other Margins	\$ 223,983	\$ (104,239)	\$ (108,876)
Capital Credits	\$ 77,823	\$ 15,430	\$ 26,581
Total Margins	\$ 677,420	\$ 484,476	\$ 96,218
kWh Purchased	64,496,042	67,677,088	70,082,892
kWh Sold	60,911,230	64,984,202	66,979,617
Line Loss	5.56%	3.98%	4.43%
Members Billed	5,937	6,277	6,350
Average kWh Used, Residential	1,059	1,041	1,038
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 120.06	\$ 139.47	\$ 140.96
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1134	\$ 0.1340	\$ 0.1358
Interest Expense	\$ 320,294	\$ 300,010	\$ 231,781

Dates to Know...

- Nov 2:** Election Day
- Nov 7:** Daylight Savings Time
- Nov 11:** Veteran's Day
CLP CLOSED
- Nov 24:** CLP Board Meeting
- Nov 25:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 26:** CLP CLOSED
- Nov 29:** CLP Bills Due

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 September:

Keri Hager & Jeff Pykkonen & Melanie Pidgeon

Credits not claimed:

James & Debra Hacking, Steve & Joan Meyerson

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

September Donations: \$1,616.37

Year-to-date Donations: \$14,826.98

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.