

CURRENT CONNECTION

Commitment to Community Applications Sought >>>

Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to the local community?

Crow Wing Power is seeking applications for our annual Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes businesses, non-profit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make the lakes area a better place to live and work is eligible for the \$500 cash award. Organizations do not have to be a cooperative member, but should serve people within the cooperative's service area in Cass, Crow Wing and Morrison Counties.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business or an organization may apply by completing an application form, available online at www.cwpower.com News and Events. Applications are due October 31. Past winners can be viewed on our website as well. Questions may be directed to Char Kinzer at 218-829-2827.

2019 Winner – The Warehouse

Last year's winner was The Warehouse in Pine River, whose commitment to the community is prevalent. The organization provides a unique facility for meetings, celebrations, parties and so much more, but its After-School program for students in 5th – 12th grades is what particularly won the vote of the annual Commitment to Community award review team at Crow Wing Power.

Students can go to the Warehouse Monday – Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. during the Pine River-Backus school year. Students can have a snack, use the electronic gaming room to play Wii, Xbox, Play Station, make crafts, play board games, use the gym, play

foosball, air hockey, ping pong, and more all at no charge. There's a required free student membership form signed by a parent or guardian which provides emergency information.

In addition to the After-School program, they offer the building as a community center, and host large events for the community throughout the year. Their mission is for the benefit and betterment of the Pine River-Backus community and beyond.

A volunteer from Backus, Barb Inman, described the school kids program in this way, "It's a place where kids can feel protected, have fun, and connect with other youth and adults that have a positive impact on them."

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October is Cooperative Month – Facts & Figures >>>

- The first recorded cooperative in the U.S., an insurance company, was created by Benjamin Franklin in 1752. The Philadelphia Contributorship is a mutual insurance company still in operation today;
- There are more than 29,000 cooperatives in the United States with Americans holding 350 million co-op memberships;
- The majority of our country's 2 million farmers are members of the nearly 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives;
- Over 8,300 credit unions, like Crow Wing Power Credit Union, provide financial services to nearly 100 million members;
- More than 900 rural electric cooperatives deliver electricity to more than 42 million people in 48 states;
- Approximately 233 million people are served by insurance companies owned by or closely affiliated with cooperatives;
- Food cooperatives have been innovators in the areas of unit pricing, consumer protection, organic and bulk foods, and nutritional labeling;
- More than 50,000 families in the U.S. use cooperative day care centers, giving cooperatives a crucial role in the care of our children;
- About 1.2 million rural Americans in 31 states are served by 260 telephone cooperatives; and
- More than 6,400 housing cooperatives exist in the U.S., providing 1.5 million homes.



A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Power On: October is National Co-op Month >>>

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Crow Wing Power.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On”. Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving the unique communities we serve.

Who would have fathomed in March, the COVID-19 virus would test the stamina of our community, our nation and the world. The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and Crow Wing Power has been fortunate to have been able to step up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. In addition, we were able to be an integral partner with other area grant funding organizations to help with food distribution, increased mental health service needs and more through our Operation RoundUp® program, a fund made possible through your kind donations. It is rewarding to see the many community engagement efforts.

For that reason, I encourage anyone with knowledge of exceptional Commitment to Community efforts to nominate that organization or

individual for our annual Commitment to Community Award (see page one).

I tell you about these efforts not to boast about Crow Wing Power, but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do.

In 1938, our cooperative was built by members of the community to serve area residents and businesses, and that’s what we’ll continue to do – Power On.

I’ll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power’s Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 20, 2020. A quorum of directors was present. Chair Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee Report
- Human Resources Report
- Community Solar Update

The following actions were taken:

- The Board approved
 - August Consent Agenda.
 - Minutes of the July 16, 2020 regular board meeting.
 - Repurpose of 2020 R.O.W. funds.
 - Incoming Community Trust board members.
 - Cooperative Month Cruisin’ for Cookies event.
 - Director expense reports for July 2020.

Highlights are also published on our website at cwwpower.com/board-and-meetings. Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. September minutes will be published after approval in October. The next board meeting is October 15, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperative membership.

We’re proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn



Can My Power Be Turned Off In The Winter? **YES!** >>>

Some members find it hard to pay their utility bills in the winter. The State of Minnesota set up the Cold Weather Rule (statute 216B.097) to protect residential members who are unable to pay their utility bills from disconnection of service between October 15th and April 15th if the disconnection affects their primary heat source.

Avoiding Disconnection

The Cold Weather Rule does not forbid winter shut off. If you receive a shut off notice this winter, you must act promptly and call Crow Wing Power (CWP) at 1-800-648-9401 for questions. You'll need to fill out an Inability to Pay form found on our website at cwpower.com/winter-disconnects and call us to set up a payment plan.

To be eligible for protection from residential utility service shutoff, a member must meet and follow Cold Weather Rule criteria and requirements. Details of that criteria can be found on our website at cwpower.com/winter-disconnects or by calling CWP.

Cold Weather Rule protection payment plans are for the past due balance only.

Halloween Fun Facts & Trivia >>>

1. The holiday goes back more than 2,000 years.

Halloween all started as a pre-Christian Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"), which means "summer's end", held around the first of November. It celebrated the final day of the harvest and the crossing of spirits over into the other world. People in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Northern France would ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and wearing costumes, according to History.com.

2. Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times.

Back then, it was known as "guising" in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and asked for food or money in exchange for songs, poems, or other "tricks." Today, the tradition has morphed into children to getting dressed up and asking for candy.

3. Some Halloween rituals used to involve finding a husband.

During the 18th century, ladies would follow Halloween traditions that would "help" them find a romantic match. According to History.com, women would throw apple peels over their shoulder hoping to see their future husband's initials, competitively bob for apples at parties because the winner would be the first to get married, or stand in a dark room with a candle in front of a mirror to look for their future husband's face.

4. Immigrants helped popularize the holiday in the U.S.

When the Irish fled their country in the 1840s due to the potato famine, they brought their Halloween traditions with them.

5. Sugar rationing during World War II halted trick-or-treating.

After the rationing ended, the tradition grew into what we're familiar with today. Candy companies started launching advertising campaigns to capitalize on the ritual.

6. This year will be the first Halloween in 19 years to have a full moon.

Full moons on Halloween are pretty rare. The last time there was a full moon on October 31, it was 2001 — and before that it was 1955. The next one won't occur until 2039. In fact, the 21st century will only see six full moons on October 31: 2001, 2020, 2039, 2058, 2077 and 2096.

7. The Irish also brought us jack-o'-lanterns.

As the story goes, an Irish man named Stingy Jack tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell — so he spent his days roaming the Earth, carrying a lantern, and went by "Jack of the Lantern."

8. They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes, and beets.

Jack-o'-lanterns originated in Ireland. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used pumpkins instead.

9. Candy corn was originally called "chicken feed."

The Goelitz Confectionery Company sold boxes with a rooster on the front in order to appeal to America's agricultural roots, according to National Geographic. The sugary recipe has gone largely unchanged since the 1880s.

10. Skittles are the top Halloween candy.

The bite-sized candies outranked M&M's, Snickers, and Reese's Cups, according to 11 years of sales data from CandyStore.com. And even though candy corn also made the top 10, the tricolored treats also ranked among the worst Halloween candies, according to a CandyStore.com survey.

(Disclaimer: Google searches will find a lot of trivia results which may or may not be authentic)



Let's Start Cookin' >>>

We will have one last recipe in the December issue. Send us your favorite anything recipe to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401 or submit it on-line at cwpower.com/News and Events by November 15. The winning sender will receive \$25 off an electric bill.

Southwest Pumpkin Soup

Richard Mowan, Motley, MN

Saute 10 minutes: 2 tbs butter + 1 tbs oil

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|--|---|
| 1 large onion diced | 1 ¼ tsp salt |
| 1 jalepeno pepper (remove seeds and membranes) diced | 1 tbs chili powder |
| Add for last 5 minutes: 2 garlic cloves | 1 tsp ground chipotle pepper |
| Add: 5 cups chicken broth | ½ tsp cumin |
| 1 packet idahoan instant potatoes | 1 – 15 oz can pumpkin (not pie filling) |

Simmer 20 minutes, stir in 2 cups warmed milk

¼ cup fresh cilantro (chopped)

Simmer 10 more minutes, add 3 tbs fresh lime juice

Serve and garnish with fresh cilantro and sour cream (optional)



Witches are important members of our electric co-op.



October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn

CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  The power of human connections

Published monthly by Crow Wing Power, 17330 State Hwy. 371 Brainerd, MN 56401. 218-829-2827 800-648-9401 www.cwpower.com

Editor: Char Kinzer

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members wanting to attend the Board meetings need to call or contact us three business days prior to the scheduled board meetings. If members want to present something, they need to fill out a request form found at www.cwpower.com/board-and-meetings within that three business days time frame.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Bob Kangas218-587-4453
- Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
- Ric Larson218-546-5781
- Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
- Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by November 15, 2020. We've sized it to fit in your billing payment, so you can save a stamp. If you'd rather, you can send it separately to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. Attn: Puzzle or scan and email to info@cwpower.com. The winning entry will be drawn on November 15.

Our winners for the last puzzle: Dan Dammen, New Hope, MN

Q O T Q S D F R C P C Z Z F M
 Z D N O M H T O M I O W E F F
 T F U E W P M E F N O A Z O J
 E R S I P M O I R E P P B T I
 I Y I S U E R W M D E K P U Y
 I P A N Y Y L X E S R G Y H M
 U B I T P S X A P R A Q Y S L
 B T F V A C O H J E T W F A S
 Y Y R G F A R M E R I U O Z D
 W P N B X I S L U Q V X Q A R
 G A V E F S G P E H E K W S A
 K K N V N S K A S Y R N R B P
 G Z Q J Q D B E B M A N L O O
 T M J O H S A C X T Q T R R L
 X N Y A D S R U H T L J N V L

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Acct number _____

August Puzzle Answers:

Z V Y K M Y P R G Y S K L C E
 G V F O N F L B R I H T O E
 L M N R W G U L P T Y C R S N
 Z T B T H S O V A X N C T T U
 H H I C E A R V D U Z H N S J
 D U F B K E M A E W N V O X Y
 L T K Z M B A N H M X N C R Q
 H E W E B P F I C R O W A Y P
 X M A A H K O P U T F U O I M
 B B R L J D H W N C M W R H Q
 K K J Q Z D E M E Q M T S Q A
 Z M W D F O H Y Q R Y P V V D
 C A N N E D Y F P G Q N W K S
 X A D D T E N V V X G P Q S M
 T C E N N O C S I D D L G I K

- The theme for Co-op month is _____ on.
- The Warehouse is in _____ River.
- To be eligible for protection from utility service _____, members must meet Cold Weather Rule criteria.
- More than 50,000 families use cooperative _____ care.
- Our _____ was built in 1938.
- Annual award Commitment to _____.
- _____ cream optional in soup.
- Board meetings are held the third _____.
- Use this one hot fruit in soup. _____ pepper.
- There are nearly 3,000 _____-owned cooperatives.
- Bob _____ is on the board.
- Organizations recognized for Community award eligible for \$500 _____.

Control. June, Costs, Kraemer, Power, Month, Third, Disconnect, Annually, Canned, Trip, Ten, Form