

CURRENT CONNECTION

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Recognizing Commitment to Community Do You Know a Worthy Organization? >>>

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-profits 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 \$1,000 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 itself can apply by completing an application form, available online at www.cwpower.com under News and Events. Applications are due Friday, November 5. Winners for the past 15 years can be viewed on our website. Questions may be directed to Char Kinzer at 218-829-2827.

2020 Winner – The Black Bear 4-H Club

The Black Bear 4-H Club was last year's recipient for its dedication to serving the Nisswa area. The club has 17 members ages 5 through 18

and is celebrating its 23rd year of helping area youth learn and grow through project and service-based education.

Some of the service projects they've worked on are the Heritage Garden and Pioneer Village projects, the Fall Festival, City of Lights Festival, Clothes for Kids in Haiti, as well as clean up and flower planting at the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce building.

This year the group painted designs and words on rocks and had fun finding places to put them for people to find in Nisswa.

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It's Cooperative Month...How Many Cooperatives Do You Belong To? >>>

Crow Wing Power is an electric cooperative owned by the members we serve. What other types of cooperatives are in the Brainerd area?

There's the newly expanded downtown Crow Wing Food Co-op, Paul Bunyan Education Cooperative, several area member-owned credit unions including Crow Wing Power Credit Union. Some insurance companies are also cooperatives. Gracewin Living Cooperative is planning on building a 55+ living quarters in Baxter. Ideal Green Market is a food cooperative in Ideal Corners.

In our southern service area we find Pierz Cooperative farm supplies,

Sunrise Ag Cooperative and Centra Sota Co-op (feed and farm supplies) in Little Falls and a new Purple Carrot Market start-up food cooperative in Little Falls.

Sourcewell, with offices in Staples, provides an array of cooperative services. There are most likely other local cooperatives not named here.

Did you know these well-known national brands are cooperatives? Sunkist, Ocean Spray, True Value Hardware, Ace Hardware, Do It Best Hardware, Land O'Lakes, Best Western, KFC and the Associated Press

7 Cooperative Principles





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

It's National Co-op Month We're Proud to Power Your Lives >>>

October is one of the best months on the calendar. It's the first sign of cooler weather, colorful fall foliage, the beginning of hunting season and, for children it's Halloween. In addition, October is important for Crow Wing Power because it's National Co-op Month. This is a time to recognize and celebrate the cooperative business model. It's a time to honor our hard-working employees who are dedicated to the members we serve.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was instrumental with the passage of the Rural Electrification Act (REA) in 1936 that offered loans to cooperatives to build their own electric infrastructure. Crow Wing Power was one of the first to receive loans to enable us to provide power to the first rural members in 1938.

President Roosevelt recognized the uniqueness of the cooperative value when he said, "The cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is governed by a board, every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value."

I couldn't agree with him more. The cooperative form of business provides for equal opportunity for all and is dedicated as a not-for-profit company whose only concern is to provide the best service at the lowest possible cost. When we do well, we return profits over and above our expenses back to the member/owners.

At Crow Wing Power, we believe it's important to do more than supply power. We're committed to make our communities a better place to live, work and play through economic development projects, civic involvement, scholarship programs and our charitable giving program, Operation Round-Up®.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as technology and equipment upgrades, like the major meter replacement project that will serve us well into the future.

We're honored to have been able to utilize USDA programs like the economic development loans and grants to help businesses succeed over the years.

Our economic development program started in 1994 and our revolving loan fund was established in 1999 with a USDA grant to help Baxter with its Industrial Park. The most recent loan approved from USDA is the TRI-VEN loan to the Haglin family-owned business as reported on page three.

We hope you will think of Crow Wing Power as more than your energy provider, but as a local business that supports our local communities. We will continue to learn from you, our members, about your needs and priorities so our service area can thrive.

We're proud to power your lives.

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 19, 2021. A quorum of directors was present.

President Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- August Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the July 15, 2021 regular board meeting
- Minutes of the August 4, 2021 Board of Directors Reorganizational Meeting
- Approved allowing Directors to attend meetings virtually three times per year
- Director expense reports for July 2021

Members can review detailed minutes at cwpower.com/board-and-meetings or 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 21, 2021.

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 1st and April 30th if the disconnection affects their primary heat source.

Avoiding Disconnection

The Cold Weather Rule does not forbid winter shut off. If you receive a disconnect 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.



SAFE,
RELIABLE,
AFFORDABLE
ENERGY.
THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.
We are proud to
power your life.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Economic Development Success

TRI-VEN, LLC Receives USDA Loan Through Crow Wing Power >>>

Recently, TRI-VEN was awarded a \$500,000 zero interest loan for an expansion project after we applied to USDA'S Rural Development Loan Program for the company.

TRI-VEN, LLC is a rotational molding company that will be housed in a new expansion facility in the Baxter Industrial Park, next to Avantech and across the street from LINDAR Corporation, companies all owned by Tom and Ellen Haglin. The move will allow TRI-VEN to relocate under the same facility occupied by Avantech which produces the tooling and molds for TRI-VEN, and more than double the amount of current space from a 25,000 square foot facility to 52,000 square feet. This move will also provide and improve the management and operation efficiencies of TRI-VEN as all facilities and companies will reside in the "Family of companies campus".

It's an exciting and promising company that fits well with the other Haglin businesses. This time, the next generation is playing a pivotal role in the new enterprises as Ellen and Tom Haglin's sons Garrett, 26, and Connor, 23, combined their business education and experience with their enthusiasm for the outdoors.

One of the coolest proprietary products now made by TRI-VEN is the Maluna, a rotomolded high performance cooler and known as the flagship brand under parent company EUFOURIC Brands.

The robust coolers have an unhinged design and the patented feature creates a seal with ice retention performance that outperforms the leading competition by 35%.

Another key selling factor is having a product from a family-owned company that can stand out on the market for being made in the USA.

Crow Wing Power has held a high regard for our commitment to community. By utilizing the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, straight gap financing, and our resulting revolving loan account, we're proud to have been able to lend nearly \$6.5 million to a total of 36 businesses since 1994.



The hingeless Maluna Cooler is manufactured at the current TRI-VEN facility in Baxter. It's said to outperform the leading competition by 35% and under optimal conditions can hold ice for seven days.

>> Connor Haglin, Garrett and his wife, Amber Haglin, Ellen & Tom Haglin



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



SOUND CONNECTION

5926 Barbeau Rd., Baxter, MN | 866-251-0989 | www.soundconnectioninc.com

ABOUT: Sound Connection Inc was founded in the Brainerd Lakes Area in 1995 and expanded to include Waite Park in 2007. Sound Connection Inc is a vehicle enhancement facility with a focus on remote car starters and audio systems for all of your toys on land or in the water. A dedicated motorcycle rally crew was added 4 years ago that travels to motorcycle rallies across the US and installs about 500 stereo systems on Harley Davidson motorcycles per year.



WE WANT YOU TO KNOW: Sound Connection Inc is Central Minnesota's remote car starter specialists. With over 15,000 remote car starters installed since 1995 the staff has the knowledge and expertise to help you pick the right remote starter. Other offerings for winter weather include heated seats, heated washer fluid systems, heated wiper blades and Weathertech floor liners. And, if you are looking to take full advantage of the fall weather there is still time to enjoy a new stereo in your boat, motorcycle or UTV.

COOPERATIVE MEMBER DISCOUNT: 10% off remote start, heated seats installed; 10% off marine and car audio (not valid with other offers)

Crow Wing Power's Co-op Connections is powering businesses and providing you with discounts. With over 115 local businesses, visit cwpower.com to explore all the ways to save. We welcome new businesses to participate.



COMING SOON

TEXT POWER

Where members can send & receive outage info by text message!

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by November 15. 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 winner for the last puzzle: John Spatenka, Blooming Prairie, MN

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| <p>Q T S J P A N T E S X B J W N O S M E N E H K T E O V Y E E X U R A V O R E B M A U H B E E G L E U E T F Y Y F I N L T C U S S Z T N O P L Q T R D F K A A Q G W Z O V Y H D X F I V N D Y J Z P D E T X T U K F D E R X C U S L O D G V N X J T M C O O P E R A T I V E O N E K N C S Z R F P R Y H P X M O C E A N A H K Q O I Y H Y I Q Q R Y C D A C L C R B L T R A X W L M U L V P K Y X H P Z B B E M G M T Y D S G T G P C S L M Y N P G R Q Y W O M G A</p> | <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Acct number _____</p> |
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Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m.

- The latest board minutes available are from _____.
- How many days could a Maluna cooler hold ice? _____
- Before we abbreviated our name to Crow Wing Power, we were Crow Wing _____ Power and Light Company.
- The business spotlight this month is _____ Connection.
- The Black Bear 4-H club painted _____ and placed them around Nisswa.
- The community award winner receives one _____ dollars.
- One of Tom and Ellen Haglin's sons is married to _____ (hint: groundbreaking)
- The current connection is published _____.
- We've been hosing the annual commitment to community awards for _____ years.
- There's a new food cooperative in Little Falls called the Purple _____.
- This cooperative's mainstay fruit is cranberries _____ Spray.
- There are _____ cooperative principles all cooperatives adhere to.
- Downtown Brainerd has a newly expanded Crow Wing _____ Co-op

August Puzzle Answers:

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

Website, Clock, Pops, Hamburger, Long, Million, Phishing, Pump, Antivirus, Hackers, Twelve, August