


CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

June 2022 Volume 74 Number 6

Lakes Area Restorative Justice Awarded \$12,000 Grant >>>

Lakes Area Restorative Justice Program (LARJP), a juvenile offender program, was recently awarded the 2022 Operation Round-Up® Impact Grant of \$12,000 to expand their offender program to wrongdoers ages 19 to 26.

LARJP offers an alternative to normal punitive measures used by the correctional system. The process called Restorative Group Conferencing (RGC), gives the person who was harmed (the victim) a voice, and the person who caused the harm (the offender) an opportunity to be held accountable in a restorative way, rather than in a punitive way.

LARJP gets case referrals from the County Attorney's office and six area Police Departments as well as the schools in Crow Wing County. The program currently serves on average 40-50 cases per year and has been working in our region for 16 years. The request to expand service to serve offenders to age 26 was made by law enforcement agencies throughout Crow Wing County,

The RGC process enables those victimized to express their feelings about the impact of the harmful behavior and to get answers to their questions. It helps offenders understand the true impact of their actions on the victim, their family, and the community as well as hold them accountable for the harm they have caused.

Offenders complete a contract designed by themselves and the victim on how the harm will be repaired. By completing the contract and repairing the harm, the person that caused the harm is then able to learn from that mistake and hopefully continue in life making better choices.

Crow Wing Power's Operation Round-Up® program has been a strong supporter of LARJP since its inception in 2005.

CONTENT	
CEO	2
MN Twins Youth Clinic	3
Pancake Breakfast	3
Crossword	4



>> Pictured L to R Matt Kilian, Operation Round-Up® trustee, Brian Andrews LARJP Executive Director, Mark Prince LARJP board, Doris Krueger Program Coordinator, Steve Berg LARJP board, Deb Tuper LARJP board and Betty Doss, Operation Round-Up® trustee.

Third Community Solar Array Producing Power >>>

It's complete! Our third community solar array was constructed this spring and started producing electricity on April 22. Currently nearly 40 members have subscribed to one or more shares in this particular array and opportunities still exist for other members to become a co-owner.

Members can purchase one to five shares, but no more than their annual kWh average use. One share, one panel, is \$1,300.

Shareholders sign an agreement that gives them a monthly bill credit for 20 years for their share of the amount of electricity produced (an average of \$5 credit each month for a share).

Our first Community Solar Array (Phase I) was built in 2017 next to our Headquarters building along Hwy 371. The last two arrays (Phase II in 2018 and Phase III in 2022) were constructed next to the Swanburg lineworkers outpost east of Pine River.





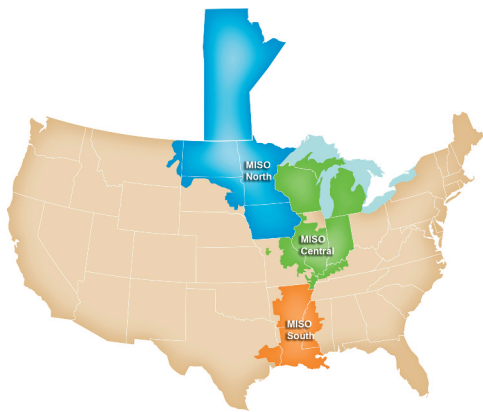
A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Midwest at Risk for Rolling Blackouts >>>

You may have read newspaper articles or heard that we could experience rolling blackouts in the Midwest this summer. It's a valid concern that I thought is worth sharing. (Rolling blackouts are temporary planned power outages controlled by electric grid operators when the demand for power exceeds availability.)

According to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages the electric grid in Minnesota and 14 other states, energy shortages are very possible.

In its recent forecast, MISO projected a peak demand of 124 gigawatts of power during the hottest summer days, but the projected available generation capacity is only 119 gigawatts.



MISO's projections are based partly on forecasts for higher than normal temperatures, elevated storm risk and an active hurricane season in the grid's southern region.

Scott Wright, MISO's executive director for resource planning, was quoted in the Star Tribune claiming it's a new era. He was speaking of increased demand for electricity and planned coal-fired plant closures being replaced with renewable energy resources, which elevates the risk of rolling blackouts because of the unpredictability of renewables. Coal plants in MISO are currently credited for 90% generating capacity.

Although we've not experienced rolling blackouts, like California and other parts of the country, we did have a close call last year in June when MISO declared a maximum generation emergency warning. Power companies, including Crow Wing Power, were asked to utilize all of the load control systems available to alleviate demand. Essentially utility load control and other measures abated the need for rolling blackouts.

For decades we've been aggressive in encouraging members to take advantage of load control programs in exchange for reduced rates. We're proud our Cooperative has 12,000 members on controlled electric programs, where we can help the grid by reducing the demand for power during peak times. Load control is done in a way that doesn't interfere with members' lifestyles.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

Send Us Your Photos

The annual calendar contest is on! Each year members send us beautiful photos of nature in Minnesota. This year, members will have the opportunity to vote for the photos to be published in the 2023 calendar. Details will follow in the fall.

If your photo is chosen, you will receive a \$25 bill credit. Calendars will be available in December.

Guidelines for the contest:

- Only Crow Wing Power members can enter the contest. (CWP employees and their immediate families are not eligible.)

- Send your photos electronically. Photos must be scenic capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons. Photos must not include people.
- One membership (household) may submit up to five photos.
- Only landscape orientation photos will be accepted. Photos need to be sized for printing 12 inches wide by 9 inches high. 300 dpi minimum quality.
- To submit photos, go to www.cwpower.com, go to News/Events, click on Photo Contest and fill out the entire form including the photo. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2022. To see last year's samples, go to our website.

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 21, 2022. 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
- 2021 Audit Report by Dave Holt of Brady Martz & Associates
- Directors and CEO shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- April Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the March 17, 2022 regular board meeting
- Resolution to Accept the 2021 Audit as presented
- Resolution to Allocate Margins for 2021
- Special Retirement of 2021 Capital Credits
- Resolution Approving FFB Loan
- Director expense reports for March 2022

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. May minutes will be published after approval in June. The next board meeting is June 16, 2022.





Local Firefighters Receive Electric Vehicle Safety Training >>>

Crow Wing Power facilitated an event to help train local firefighters how to safely handle emergency situations involving electric vehicles (EVs). Great River Energy, one of our power suppliers, funded the training. Jack Volz, from Safety and Security Coalition, was the trainer. He educated attendees on the types of EVs they could encounter while on duty, how to shut down/disable an EV, EV-specific crash and fire response, and dispelled myths surrounding EV batteries.

Forty two firefighters from Brainerd, Crosslake, Pequot Lakes, Ideal Township, Mille Lacs Band, and Garrison attended the training. The training was hosted by the Brainerd Fire Department at its training facility.

Tim Holmes, Brainerd Fire Chief, said, “The training was important because we are seeing more and more EVs on the road and we need to know how to safely work around them in a crash or fire incident. Technology is ever changing and it is vital that we stay current for the safety of our firefighters and the community.”

Ten Crow Wing Power members also attended and were kind enough to bring their electric vehicles, giving the firefighters a chance to ‘look under the hood’ of six different EVs and ask questions of the members.

Tim added, “Having the locally-owned vehicles there for firefighters to look at was very beneficial.”



Kids! Register for Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic >>>

Play Ball! Minnesota Youth Clinic, hosted by Crow Wing Power, is coming to the Brainerd area Saturday, June 18 to promote baseball and softball to boys and girls ages 6 to 12. This clinic teaches basic fundamentals including hitting, fielding and throwing.

The clinic will be held Saturday, June 18 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Oscar Kristofferson Park in Baxter. There will be a lot of activity that day as the park will be having a simultaneous regional baseball tournament event with food trucks.

- Boys and girls ages 6-12 are eligible to participate.
- Registration is required: Go to www.cwpower.com and click on the Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic News item to register. There is a liability waiver to sign.
- The Twins will provide all the equipment; however youth participants are asked to bring their own baseball or softball gloves.
- In case of inclement weather, the Twins clinic will be held at Forest View Middle School.



This summer marks the 61st year the Minnesota Twins and the Twins Community Fund has offered free youth baseball/softball clinics. The clinic is made possible through a partnership between the Minnesota Twins and Great River Energy one of Crow Wing Power’s wholesale energy suppliers. Visit the Play Ball! Minnesota website for further details.

You’re Invited! July 23 Pancake Breakfast >>>

Members are invited to a Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, July 23 at the Crow Wing County Fairground Curling building. Chris Cakes will be flipping pancakes and entertaining attendees. We’ll serve pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee from 8 until 11.



Save the Dates

18 June

Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic
3:00-5:00 pm at Oscar Kristofferson Park- Free Baseball and Softball clinic for boys and girls ages 6-12.



23 July

Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast
8:00-11:00 am at the Crow Wing County Fairground Curling Building. Free pancakes, sausage and juice for Crow Wing Power Members.



17&18 Sept

Member Appreciation at Safari North Wildlife Park
9:00 am - 6:00 pm at Safari North Wildlife Park. Free pass for Crow Wing Members to visit the Zoo.



4-6 Oct

Basin Electric Bus Tour
3-day 2-night trip to Bismark, ND to tour Basin Electric operations.



Gordon Martin decided to retire from the Board of Directors. We thank him for his 30 years of dedication to the Cooperative.

CURRENT CONNECTION

Published monthly by
Crow Wing Power,
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.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

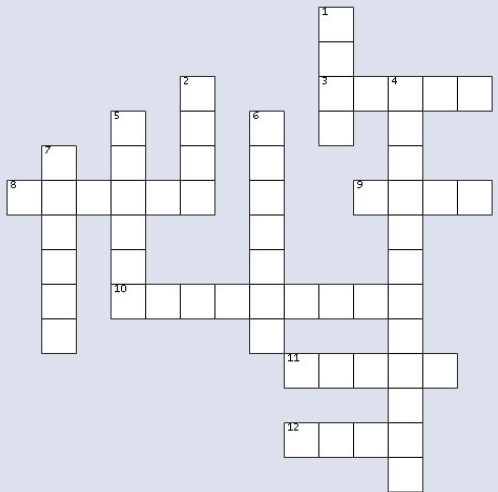
- Bob Kangas218-587-4453
- Paul Koering218-851-9954
- Ric Larson218-546-5781
- Bryan McCulloch218-821-8390
- Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Puzzle is Online!
cwpower.com

It's 2022, we're trying something new – Crosswords instead of Word Find – and now available ONLINE! (cwpower.com) Complete the bi-monthly puzzle below and send it back to us by July 15. Scan and email to info@cwpower.com, mail it with your bill payment, or mail to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Our winner for the last puzzle: Rita Forte, Hilman



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Acct number _____

ACROSS

- 3. Winner of Impact Grant
- 8. Oldest age allowed in Twins clinic
- 9. The April Puzzle was Word
- 10. Month of second member appreciation event
- 11. Twins have provided Youth Clinic for more than this many years.
- 12. Acronym for our regional electric grid operator

DOWN

- 1. Pancake Breakfast month
- 2. Not counting Brainerd, how many fire departments received training
- 4. Required to participate in Youth Clinic
- 5. Brainerd Fire Chief
- 6. Rolling Blackouts are this type of power outage
- 7. Number of years solar agreement is for

Use the clues to fill in the words above.
Words can go across or down.
Letters are shared when the words intersect.

April Puzzle Answers:

```

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

Allegiance, Allocated, Director, Guinness, June, Lineman, Retire, RSVP, Service, Smarthub, Text, Wildlife