



CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Bi-Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

March | April 2023 Volume 75 Number 2

What's It Take to be a Lineman? >>>

What does it take to be a lineman? Courage? Knowledge? Tenacity? We connected with one of our linemen that is new to the career as an Apprentice, and one Apprentice who recently worked his way up to Journeyman status. Then, we interviewed a high school senior that was just accepted into the lineworker program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena (M-State).

Here is what we learned.

To become a lineman, you need a high school diploma or GED, a driver's license, and a certificate of completion from a technical Apprenticeship program. There are a variety of lineworker training programs, ranging from 12 weeks to two years, depending on levels of certification. According to Gage Wattenhofer, Manager of Construction and Maintenance, 95% of our current linemen have graduated from one of M-State's Electrical Lineworker programs. M-State offers two programs, a diploma and an AAS degree.

Meet Marshall Michienzi

Marshall is an Apprentice lineman for Crow Wing Power. He attended M-State and earned his Electrical Lineworker AAS degree. He was hired as a 1000-hour temporary lineman last summer. After completion in November, he was hired as an Apprentice where he continues to work toward his next certification as Journeyman.



When we connected with Marshall, he said the biggest piece about being a lineman that he wasn't expecting was how rewarding it is to help restore power. He said having people cheering and thanking him was something he really enjoyed and made him feel great about his career choice. Marshall decided to become a lineman because he liked the idea of going to school for a few short years and getting a job right after school. Marshall attended school with his identical twin brother who is currently working at another co-op.

William A. Segler Jr.

William, aka Billy, was recently promoted to Journeyman lineman. To become a Journeyman, you work as an Apprentice under veteran Linemen and complete all the



necessary training, which generally takes approximately four years. Billy started with Crow Wing Power in 2018 as an Apprentice, upon graduation of M-State's Electrical Lineworker Diploma program. He chose to become a lineman because he enjoys the outdoors and working with heavy equipment. His hope is to become a crew lead. His advice to high school

Introducing Gabe Windorski

Gabe Windorski attends Crosby-Ironton High School and has been accepted into the lineworker program at M-State where he will attend next fall to earn his AAS degree. Gabe's parents are Crow Wing Power members, so he is eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.

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Attention High School Seniors

Crow Wing Power offers scholarships at \$1,500 for high school seniors and first time college bound students. \$1,000 industry scholarships. \$1,000 Online Draw. Visit cwpower.com to learn more.

Scholarship Deadline March 31

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What's It Take to be a Lineman? >>> *Continued from page 1*



When interviewing Gabe, he shared that he has been interested in being an electrician after his ninth-grade year when he took a Residential & Commercial Wiring class as part of the Ranger Career Pathways program.

helps the greater community. Gabe will enter school with a base understanding of electricity and power flow, which he learned as part of an independent study wiring class.

Crow Wing Power helps students, whose parents or guardians are members of Crow Wing Power, by providing \$1,000 scholarships to individuals attending M-State, Minnesota West and Community Technical College, or Dakota County Technical College.

Since 2011, Crow Wing Power has been able to give \$40,000 in scholarships to 40 students attending M-State. These funds are made available through unclaimed capital credits.

He talked with a friend's dad, who happened to be a lineman with Minnesota Power, and learned of the opportunities within the industry. Gabe said after speaking to him, it solidified his desire to become a lineman. He wants to work hard to earn a good living and likes that what he does

Annual Business Meeting Notice - RSVP Required >>>

Similar to last summer, this year's annual meeting will once again be a business meeting. It's scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 17 at Arrowwood Lodge in Baxter.

The business meeting culminates the Board of Directors' election. Results will be announced at the meeting. Agenda items include updates from the Board Chair and CEO.

Filing to run for an open director position closes April 18. Ballots will be mailed in mid-May and need to be returned by June 17. Members will be able to vote electronically again. When you receive your ballot in the mail, you'll have the option to mail it back

in a return envelope or be directed to vote online.

To attend the business meeting members must RSVP on our website at cwpower.com or by calling 218-829-2827. Member confirmation tickets will be issued to those registered. Please RSVP by June 12 so we can adequately prepare for the number attending. If registering online, the confirmation ticket will be sent electronically.

Online registered members must present a printed or electronic RSVP confirmation (on a cell phone or tablet) at the time of check-in. Members that call in their RSVP will have their tickets available when we check members in, like a will-call process.

December Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, December 15, 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
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- December Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the November 17, 2022 regular board meeting
- Date for Annual 2023 Business Meeting
- IBEW Labor Contract Agreement
- Director expense reports for November 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. February and March minutes will be published after approval in March and April. The next two board meetings are March 16 and April 20, 2023.

January Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, January 19, 2023. 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

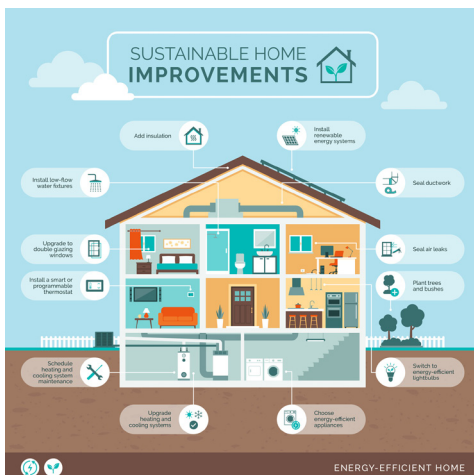
The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- January Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the December 15, 2022 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports December 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. February and March minutes will be published after approval in March and April. The next two board meetings are March 16 and April 20, 2023.

Inflation Reduction Act To Bolster Investments in Energy Efficiency >>>



If you're looking to improve the energy efficiencies of your home, upgrade appliances, or even purchase an electric vehicle, now may be the time due to a \$370 billion Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) that was signed last fall.

In addition to solid tax credits, there are other initiatives that offer thousands of dollars in hefty rebates and some incentives that cover up to 100% of the cost to purchase and install clean energy improvements.

The federal program is also directed partially through state guidelines. According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (MN DOC), it anticipates receiving guidance to develop how the programs can work in Minnesota later this year.

Because the programs are new – we have captured some links to help navigate how you may be able to benefit from the IRA. Go to cwpower.com.



Don't Let Paper hold you back. *Go Paperless!*

With paperless billing, enjoy the convenience of paying your electric bill from anywhere. Don't spend another minute searching for a misplaced bill, buying stamps or waiting by the mailbox. Switch to paperless by May 31 for your chance to win one of six \$100 bill credits.

- ✓ **Simple Reminders:** Never forget a payment with monthly email and/or text alerts showing your bill amount and due date.
- ✓ **24/7 online access:** View or print current and past statements through Account History.
- ✓ **Easy and secure payments:** Pay any way you choose, including online, by phone, or with the SmartHub Mobile App.

We're always working to serve you better. Break free from paper bills today. *Go Paperless!* by logging into your SmartHub account under the profile, select paperless billing.

Two Area Students Head to Washington D.C. >>>

This year two students were selected to join nearly 2,000 high school students from across the United States for the 2023 Washington Youth Tour. Anastasiia Biermaier and Lydia Ziemer, both high school juniors from Brainerd, were selected after each wrote essays about why they would be good candidates for the trip.

Crow Wing Power will sponsor their trip, scheduled for June 13-18.

Lydia and Anastasiia will get the chance to meet their Minnesota legislators, see the U.S. Capitol, and tour national monuments and memorials.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington D.C. since the late 1950's.

>> Lydia Ziemer and Anastasiia Biermaier



Impact Grant Seeks Applications >>>

Crow Wing Power Community Trust (Operation Round-Up[®]) is seeking applications for its annual Impact Grant of up to \$12,000. The purpose of the Impact Grant will be to give a boost to a unique project/program, organization or community to insure its success.

Applicants must show that this one time grant would have a major impact for their project, organization or community. The organization needs to show that they have a history of success, or if a start-up project, the business plan must be strong and show large community support.

Past recipients include, Lakes Area Restorative Justice; Burlington Sober Homes; YMCA, Camp Vanasek; MN Teen Challenge; Junior Achievement; Crow Wing Energized; Employment Enterprises, Little Falls; Pine River/Backus Family Center; Salem West, Deerwood; Central Lakes College Foundation; The Shop Youth Center; Hackensack Community Outreach; and Bridges of Hope.

To qualify for an application, contact Kara Mudford or Char Kinzer 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401. April 1st deadline.

Co-op Calendar Contest

The annual calendar contest is on! Each year members send us beautiful photos of nature in Minnesota. Members will have the opportunity to vote on Crow Wing Power's Facebook page for the photos to be published in the 2023 calendar.

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 may 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, search Co-op Calendar Contest. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2023.

Where:
5523 Birchdale Rd
Brainerd, MN 56401



EV RIDE & DRIVE

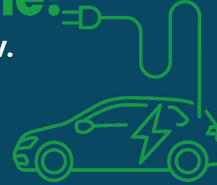


SAVE THE DATE

Considering an Electric Vehicle?

See EVs on display | Visit with EV Owners & Dealers | Test drive an EV.

In addition to an array of electric vehicles to check out, attendees will have a chance to experience E-Bikes and learn about charging programs. Watch for more details on cwpower.com



31 MAY 4-7 PM

Spring Starts March 20

Spring begins on the vernal equinox, which is the point on the earth's orbit when the sun is directly over the equator on its journey higher in the northern hemisphere sky. Each year, it happens between March 19 and March 21.

CURRENT CONNECTION

Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

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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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

Bob Kangas.....218-587-4453
Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
Ric Larson.....218-546-5781
Bryan McCulloch.....218-821-8390
LuAnn Nelson.....612-400-4627
Giles Radtke.....218-839-9182
Gert Roggenkamp.....218-562-4566
Mark Ronnei.....218-821-4050
Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Puzzlers - Enter to Win One of Three \$25 bill credits! >>>

Complete the bi-monthly crossword puzzle and send it back to us by April 15.

- Scan and email to info@cwpower.com
- Mail it with bill
- Online at cwpower.com - click membership - Current Connection newsletter - March Online Puzzle.

December Winners: Elso Ryks, Pine River; Sylvia Hoge, Crosby; Valarie Thomas, Pierz

January Winners: Joyce Casey, Brainerd; Renee Brand, Fort Ripley; James Buchite, Fifty Lakes

March Puzzle

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Acct number _____

March Puzzle Clues:

ACROSS

- Scholarship applications are due at end of _____
- You have until the end of this month to enter Paperless.
- The Crosby-Ironton Senior's name _____
7. What do you have to do to attend the Annual Meeting?
9. The first day of spring begins on the vernal _____
10. You have to call Kara or Char to get _____ for grant application

DOWN

- The majority of our linemen have attended _____ (school)
4. Where's the EV Ride and Drive event?
5. Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for a week in _____
6. Type of meeting in June.
8. _____ \$100 bill credits in paperless contest.

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

December Puzzle



January 2023 Puzzle

