

LET'S GIVE
THANKS
NOVEMBER 23



CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Chili Cook-off Competition Takes Home the Trophy >>>

Crow Wing Power was awarded the trophy for Judges' Choice Best Business Chili at the recent Lakes Area United Way Chili Cook-Off, and shared the honor of People's Choice for Best Overall Chili with the three business team of Smokestack BBQ Supply, Advantage Seamless Gutters and Neumann Construction.

Laura Tucker, member account technician from Crow Wing Power, created the winning dish that redefined chili. Her Creamy Buffalo Chicken Chili was served with delectable blue cheese and cornbread muffins. This innovative concoction not only delighted the judges but also won the hearts of the crowd, earning Crow Wing Power the coveted trophy and year-long bragging rights.

While basking in the glory of this culinary achievement is delightful, Crow Wing Power's participation in the United Way's Chili Cook-Off goes beyond a competition. It is a manifestation of our support for organizations like Lakes Area United Way, a mission-driven organization dedicated to enhancing lives through community compassion.

Jon Aga, Executive Director of Lakes Area United Way, spoke highly of the partnership saying "Crow Wing Power supports our work in the community at every level of the organization. From event sponsorships to Operation Round-Up® grants, to empowering employees to participate in the annual charitable

giving campaign, Lakes Area United Way deeply appreciates Crow Wing Power's commitment."

Lakes Area United Way's profound impact on the community is evident, with \$85,000 in grants awarded to local nonprofits this year alone, promoting health, education, and financial stability for Lakes Area families. Their initiatives, such as the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Pop-Up pantry programs, have significantly enriched the lives of thousands, fostering early literacy and providing essential food resources.

Crow Wing Power remains dedicated in its commitment to serving the community, demonstrating its support for organizations like Lakes Area United Way through financial donations, sponsorships, volunteer engagement, and enthusiastic participation in community events like the Chili Cook-Off. This engagement not only strengthens community ties but also acknowledges the ripple effect, recognizing that every individual benefiting from these initiatives contributes to a thriving, unified community.

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>> Becca Magnan, Jenna Anderson, Laura Tucker, Chris Olander, Michelle Klecker



Slow Cooker Buffalo Chicken Chili

BY LAURA TUCKER

INGREDIENTS

- 4 chicken breasts, can put in frozen
- 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (15 oz.) can chili beans
- 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 (15 oz.) can corn, drained
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 med. Onion, diced
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1 Block cream cheese
- ½ c. buffalo wing sauce
- (Sweet Baby Ray's, Mild or regular)
- Optional: Blue Cheese Crumbles

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Spray slow cooker with Pam. Put in chicken, then put in everything else except the buffalo sauce, cream cheese & blue cheese.
2. Cook on low 6-8 hrs. Take out chicken & shred or cut into bite-size pieces. Return to cooker and add buffalo wing sauce and cream cheese stir until blended. Serve with blue cheese on top if desired.





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Addressing Rising Costs and Our Commitment to Service >>>

We've all witnessed the tremendous increase in the costs of goods and services in our daily lives over the past few years. Like most folks, we are working hard to balance our needs with the purchasing power we have within our budget.

Crow Wing Power takes great pride in maintaining affordable electric rates while delivering reliable service. However, that responsibility becomes more challenging as electric utility material prices have increased in unprecedented manner in recent years.

The reality is that those equipment costs cannot be avoided as we must continue to invest in utility poles, transformers, meters, trucks, cable wire and dozens of other things that enable us to provide reliable, affordable power at the quality service you expect.

As an at-cost service provider, we diligently work to find ways to manage operational costs.

Our historic investments in rights-of-way clearing and use of advanced technologies are greatly improving our efficiencies and we've found ways to work with purchasing partnerships to secure equipment during periods of short supply and high demand.

We are also trying to provide tools to help members save money through our website's energy expert blog and energy conservation initiatives. And, our staff has continued to thrive under the slogan of "do more with less".

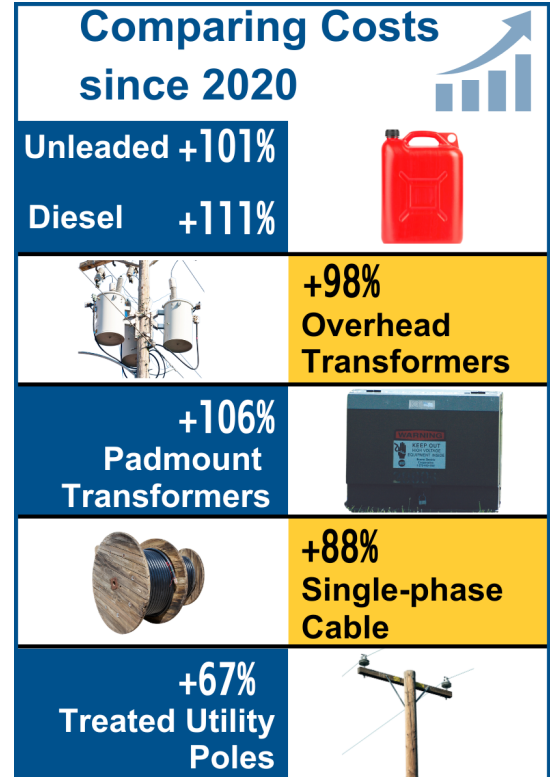
The Board of Directors will be working during these next couple of months to approve next year's budget to enable us to continue to provide the service you've come to expect with rates that remain affordable and can get the job done.

It's the annual fiduciary responsibility of the Board to determine whether rates need to be adjusted to cover the cost of service. At the time of this writing (late October) there's been no review and no decisions on rates for 2024.

In light of current trends, we may need to adjust rates at some point. We understand the importance of being mindful of our members' needs and will strive to make decisions that align with the best interests of the members of this Cooperative.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO



>> Every nut, bolt and piece of equipment we use has dramatically jumped in price in three years, but we're really feeling the pressure on the common big ticket items. For example, a residential 15 kVA overhead transformer that we paid \$581 for in 2020, cost almost double at \$1,153 this year. The big green padmount transformer boxes you see in yards that have underground electric service more than doubled from \$1,011 to \$2,080 in the past three years. We order 400 annually so that one item alone has a big impact.

Service Availability Charge vs. kWh rate

What does each component accomplish?

Your residential electric bill has two major parts – a service availability charge and an energy charge (kWh).



The service availability charge is designed to cover the costs to maintain power to a service regardless of the amount of energy used. This includes costs of poles, wires, transformers, meters, labor and other services associated with providing electric service.

The kWh rate is reflective of the cost of purchased wholesale power (generation and transmission) and cost to deliver power (distribution) and is charged based on the amount of electricity used.



Currently, some of our costs are being recovered through the kWh rate which is very common.

IS YOUR SNOWBLOWER READY FOR WINTER

PROMO REBATE

BATTERY-POWERED YARD EQUIPMENT

\$50 | **\$100**

Pre-Tax Purchase
price of
\$200-\$500

Pre-Tax Purchase
price of
\$501 and up.

Rebate good through December 31, 2023
visit cwpower.com



August Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 24, 2023. A quorum of directors was present.

President Mark Ronnei 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:

- Approve Operation Round Up board candidate
- The Board reviewed Advisory Motions from the 2023 Annual Business Meeting
- The Board revised Policy No. 102 Director Remuneration and Insurance

The Board approved:

- August Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the July 20, 2023 regular board meeting
- Minutes of the July 20, 2023 Board of Directors reorganizational meeting
- President Ronnei 2023-2024 Committee Assignments
- Director expense reports July 2023

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website.

September Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, September 21, 2023. A quorum of directors was present. Vice-President Giles Radtke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report

The following actions were taken:

- Approve the resolution Certification of Authority – Safety Deposit Box

The Board approved:

- September Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the August 24, 2023 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports August 2023

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website.

October minutes will be available after approval at the November meeting.



Notice of Tax Exemption for Electric Heat >>>

Minnesota law provides for the exemption of sales tax on residential electric heat. To qualify, you must be able to declare that 50% of your primary residential/commercial heat is electrical.

If you meet that requirement and comply with the other items on the check-list, you may sign an exemption form and avoid the tax for the months of November through April.

Sign up to receive a six-month electric heat tax exemption if you meet the following requirements: you have a single electric meter;

your primary heat is electric; you have not previously signed the exemption form; and you do not have a dual fuel or off-peak meter.

Those who have previously signed the form and people who have dual fuel or off-peak meters are already receiving the exemption. The Sales of Tax Exemption printable or online form can be found at www.cwpower.com under Service Programs and Rebates.

2024 Calendar available early December visit cwpower.com for more information.

Holiday Open House

Stop by each Friday in December for a cup of coffee and a doughnut. Enter to win a \$50 bill credit.



Crow Wing Power offices will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.

We're a Toys for Kids drop center. Bring your unwrapped gifts to our lobby in December.



CURRENT CONNECTION

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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 Koering218-851-9954
Bryan McCulloch218-821-8390
LuAnn Nelson.....612-400-4627
Giles Radtke.....218-839-9182
Gert Roggenkamp.....218-562-4566
Mark Ronnei.....218-831-8373
Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

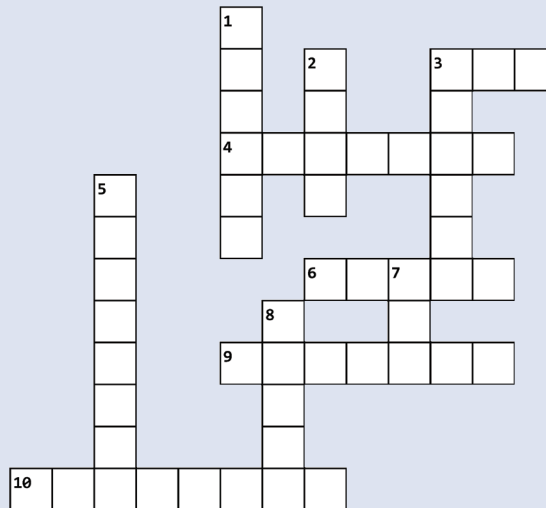
Puzzlers - Enter to Win One of Three \$25 bill credits! >>>

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

• Scan and email to info@cwpower.com • Mail it with bill • Online at cwpower.com - click 'Your Co-op' newsletter - November Online Puzzle.

September Winners: Jennifer Tretter of Hillman, Patsy Olson of Brainerd & Karen Lashinski of Bowlus

November Puzzle



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Acct number _____

November Puzzle Clues:

ACROSS

- Electric heat is exempt from this.
- This charge on your bill isn't based on kWhs used.
- Who ultimately determines electric rates?
- This year's Holiday Open House is five _____.
- November 11 Day

DOWN

- Type of fuel increased 111%.
- Promotion is on this type of Battery-powered equipment.
- Winning Recipe belongs to her.
- Yards with underground service have this transformer.
- United Way Director.
- Padmount transformers are generally this color.

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

SEPTEMBER PUZZLE ANSWERS

