

Current CONNECTION



July/August • Volume 76 • Number 4
A Bi-Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

CURRENT CORNER
Harnessing the Power of Mutual Aid During Weather Disasters

QUICK ACTION
Crow Wing Power Successfully Mitigates Network Breach

THE NEXT LEADER
Announcing the Search for Crow Wing Power's Next CEO

EXPLORE THE POWER!
Exclusive for Members:
Basin Bus Tour,
October 2-4

SAVE THE DATE!

Heartfelt Celebrations for Our Valued Members

We are excited to share a year filled with events that celebrate YOU, our cherished members. Our journey together is enriched by your support, and we're thrilled to create meaningful experiences in our communities.

Basin Bus Tour: Embark on a remarkable three-day, two-night journey with us to explore the cooperative power supply system. Discover the fascinating origins of your electricity, from Basin Electric headquarters to wind projects and coal refinement. It's an adventure that highlights the strength and innovation behind our cooperative. Register by August 30, 2024.

Celebrate YOU at the Zoo: Back by popular demand, join us September 21 or 22 at Safari North Wildlife Park. Enjoy free admission, exclusive park discounts, and a day filled with wildlife wonders. This special event is our heartfelt thank you for your loyalty and support. Together, we'll create unforgettable "paw-some" moments in the wild world of Safari North Wildlife Park!

Annual Pancake Breakfast: Get ready to flip out during Cooperative Month! Stay tuned for details about our scrumptious morning gathering, where we'll be serving up stacks of fluffy pancakes right in your backyard. It's the perfect opportunity to savor delicious pancakes and connect with fellow members in Crosslake, Brainerd, or Pierz. Whether you're a pancake aficionado or just love

breakfast, join us for a morning filled with great food and even better company!

Holiday Open House: Every Friday in December, drop by for a doughnut, coffee, and a chance to win a \$50 bill credit. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Kids and share in the co-op cheer. These moments of joy and generosity embody the spirit of our cooperative family.

Our presence in the community extends further . . .

Music in the Park: On August 1, join us in Crosby for an evening of live music and bucket rides with our lineworkers. It's a wonderful way to enjoy a summer night together.

National Night Out: On August 6, come together in Pequot Lakes or Baxter to strengthen community bonds and celebrate partnerships with police and emergency services. Lineworkers will be giving bucket rides.

Brainerd Fire Department Open House: Later this fall, visit with Crow Wing Power employees to learn about electrical safety during this event.

In the past, hosting one large event at our headquarters posed challenges with fire safety, traffic, and the potential for outages. To better ensure everyone's safety and maintain our ability to serve you, we've shifted to multiple gatherings throughout the year. Our commitment to safety and meaningful connections remains



Don't miss the Celebrate YOU at the Zoo event in September. Free admission!

steadfast. Each event is a chance to celebrate our cooperative spirit and the incredible community we've built together.

We can't wait to see you at these events and share in the joy and pride of being part of Crow Wing Power. Here's to another wonderful year of connection, celebration, and community! All event information can be found at cwwpower.com.

**Bucket rides are dependent on weather and lineworker availability.*

THE Current Corner

Harnessing the Power of Mutual Aid During WEATHER DISASTERS

In recent years, the Midwest has faced a series of devastating storms that have severely impacted our communities. The straight-line winds, rain, and snowstorms of 2022 repeatedly battered Crow Wing Power's service area, and recent tornadoes this June caused significant power outages and infrastructure damage.

At Crow Wing Power, we rely heavily on mutual aid from sister cooperatives, municipalities, and contracted companies during these crises. Mutual aid is a critical strategy during weather-related disasters, ensuring we can swiftly and effectively respond to emergencies.

Crow Wing Power, along with other cooperatives across the state, participates in mutual aid agreements. These agreements guarantee that when disaster strikes, we can call on neighboring cooperatives and municipalities for help. Although there are costs involved, as we pay for the assistance we receive, we also provide aid when needed. These costs can be offset by state dollars when the damage exceeds county thresholds, as was the case during the storms of 2022 and potentially the most recent June storm.

When severe weather is predicted, line superintendents across the state stay in close communication to assess crew availability. During major outages, we coordinate with nearby cooperatives like Todd-Wadena and Itasca-Mantrap. The similarities in systems, equipment, and safety training across cooperatives streamline collaboration. We also have an agreement with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, which allows us to call on Brainerd Public Utilities, conveniently located in Brainerd. Besides other cooperatives and municipalities, we also work with contracted crews who are often more readily available and provide a much-needed helping hand.

Mutual aid essentially doubles our workforce, allowing for faster power restoration and reduced fatigue for lineworkers. Our line superintendents play a crucial role in planning, estimating outages, and determining needs. We utilize our power quality and staking engineers to lead mutual aid crews.

Once power is restored, additional crews are sent home, and our crews continue to repair infrastructure and clean up affected areas. By leveraging mutual aid, it ensures that our members receive the swift and efficient service they need during times of crisis. Crow Wing Power is committed to restoring normalcy as quickly and safely as possible.



Sincerely,

Eric Quale | Interim Chief Executive Officer

2024 Election Results

Welcome Two New Directors

Explore the 2024 election results—scan the code to read article.



Sam Miller, Lineworker

Value Beyond
the Power
*human
connection*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

In compliance with Minnesota Adopted Rules relating to Co-generation and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, Crow Wing Power is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualified facility. Crow Wing Power has available and will provide free information to all interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the cooperative. For more information on cogeneration please visit <https://cwpower.com/member-owned-generation>

Announcing the Search for Crow Wing Power's Next CEO

Message from the Board President

I am pleased to recap the 2024 Annual Business Meeting, held on June 15 at Forest View Middle School's Cafetorium. It was a wonderful space for sharing updates and reflecting on the past year.

A special moment was the recognition of Bob Kangas for his 27 years of dedicated service to our board and his 25 years as Director of Crow Wing Power Credit Union. We also shared updates on the Capital Credit adjustment schedule, the Emily Deposit, and other important board activities.

Members of attendance were given an update following Bruce Kraemer's retirement. The board appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer Eric Quale and thanked him for stepping into the position. To help define the role and lead the search for our next CEO, we have engaged HRExpertiseBP, a consulting firm based in Brooklyn Park. With extensive experience in the electric cooperative industry, HRExpertiseBP is well-equipped to guide us through this crucial process, ensuring we find the right

leader for Crow Wing Power.

Chief Financial Officer Susannah Jensen gave an insightful update covering our Cooperative's financial position, Capital Credits, and long-term debt. Eric Quale provided an operations update, discussing Minnesota's Green Mandates, our upcoming withdrawal from Great River Energy, and the reliability of Crow Wing Power.

Serving as your Board President this past year has been an incredible learning experience. I commend our employees for their unwavering commitment to delivering safe, reliable power and their focus on service and community. Thank you, members, for your continued support and for sharing your concerns as we navigate the ever-changing energy landscape.



Sincerely,

Mark Ronnei
Board President



Crow Wing Power SUCCESSFULLY MITIGATES Network Breach

Crow Wing Power and Crow Wing Power Credit Union wish to inform our members of a recent network security incident that was swiftly and effectively handled. On Sunday, June 2, the Department of Homeland Security, through the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department, contacted us regarding a potential threat to our network.

Despite the incident, our Operations Department and line crews successfully managed storm-related outages, ensuring uninterrupted power distribution services to our members. This highlights our commitment to reliability, even in unexpected challenges.

The week of June 3, we remained operational without internet access. Our teams performed their duties with

minimal disruption while a cybersecurity team conducted a thorough investigation. The investigation concluded that although there was unauthorized access to our network, no data was accessed, nothing malicious was placed, and our power grid was safe.

We take cybersecurity seriously, with employees undergoing regular IT training to identify phishing scams, recognize potential breaches, and adhere to best practices regarding sensitive data. We assure our members and the public that we continuously enhance our cybersecurity measures and remain vigilant in protecting our infrastructure as well as members' sensitive data. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, March 21, 2024. A quorum of directors was present.

President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Director shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The Board approved:

- March Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the February 15, 2024 regular board meeting
- Changing the date for the August 2024 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports February 2024

APRIL

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 18, 2024. 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
- Director shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The following actions were taken:

- Board approved revision to Policy No. 505 Operation Roundup Solicitation

The Board approved:

- April Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the March 21, 2024 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports March 2024

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





EXPLORE THE POWER Behind Your Switch!

Join us for the **2024 BASIN BUS TOUR**
October 2-4 | Bismarck, ND

\$175 per Person • Four Meals • Bus Transportation • Three Days/Two Nights • Limited to 45 People!

Join Crow Wing Power for an exclusive tour of our cooperative power supply system! As a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, experience how we ensure reliable, affordable energy. Visit key locations, including Basin Electric headquarters, wind projects, and coal refinement sites. This tour offers insights into our 7,200 MW capacity and 2,500 miles of transmission lines. Sign up by August 30, 2024, by printing and mailing the registration form on the website or calling Crow Wing Power offices at 800-648-9401. Don't miss this enlightening journey!

JULY PUZZLERS

Enter to win one of three \$25 bill credits!

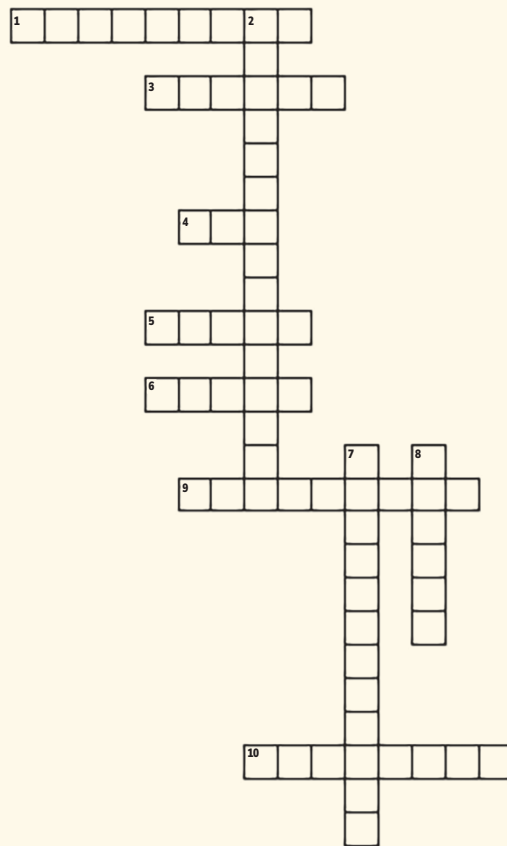
Complete the puzzle and send back by August 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles. April winners: Daryl Albers of St. Cloud, Jean Rasmusen of Motley, Richard Roberts of Crosby

Across

- What does Crow Wing Power rely heavily on during weather crises?
- National Night Out location.
- Number of new directors elected to the board.
- How many days is the Basin Bus Tour?
- How much is the bill credit you can win at the Holiday Open House?
- Brainerd Public Utilities is a _____.
- Served at annual event, now in three different locations.

Down

- An application is required for this process between Co-Generation and Crow Wing Power's Distribution System.
- One of the sites visited during Basin Bus Tour.
- Outgoing board member recognized for service.

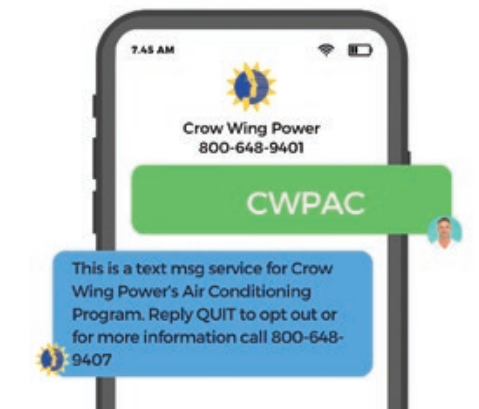


Name _____
 Address _____
 City / State / ZIP _____
 Email _____
 Account # _____

PREVIOUS MONTH PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Across: 3. Lemur 7. Affordable 9. Ice 10. twenty five
 Down: 1. Electronic 2. Roundabout 4. Quale 5. Billcredits 6. Electricity 8. June

AC CONTROL TEXT NOTIFICATION



Publication of
Crow Wing Power
 218.829.2827
 800.648.9401
www.cwpower.com

EDITOR
 Jenna Anderson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dave Albers 651-249-3127
- Jon Lubke 218-232-2124
- Paul Koering..... 218-851-9954
- Bryan McCulloch 218-821-8390
- 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

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.