

Current CONNECTION



March/April • Volume 76 • Number 2
A Bi-Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

CURRENT CORNER
Fiscal Responsibility and
Reliable Service

**2024 ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING**
Details and Voting Info

**CAPITAL CREDIT
DISTRIBUTION**
Moving to Fall

**CROW WING POWER
CREDIT UNION**
25 Years and Counting

ANSWERING THE CALL

Celebrating Lineman Appreciation in April

Every April, the nation unites to express gratitude for the unsung heroes of our communities—the linemen. Lineman Appreciation Month is a time to reflect on the dedication and resilience of these individuals who ensure our lights stay on and our communities thrive. As we delve into the lives of linemen across America, one resounding theme emerges—they answer the call.

In the heart of Texas, a cooperative line crew showcased their commitment beyond the routine as they rescued a baby lemur stuck in a tree. This act of kindness mirrors the ethos of linemen across the nation who not only grapple with outages and storms but also extend a helping hand to those in need. In 2021, four linemen from Lake Country Power rescued a 23-year-old mother of two from her overturned vehicle, exemplifying the selflessness that defines their profession. Just last December, a crew of eight Crow Wing Power linemen answered the call to assist

Cass County Electric Cooperative in restoring power after a devastating ice storm. Their response was, we know what it's like to work long hours restoring power after a devastating storm, it makes sense for us to help.

In the relentless face of storms and untimely outages, linemen stand on the frontline, confronting both natural disasters and service disruptions. They endure the darkness during power outages or working alongside busy roads in daylight, but their commitment remains unyielding. Despite advancements in safety measures and technology, the stark statistic of 42 out of every 100,000 linemen losing their lives on the job annually, according to utility company data, serves as a poignant reminder of the risks they undertake. Yet, their unwavering dedication to answering the call persists, emphasizing the vital need for these skilled individuals in our electricity-dependent society.

It's more than a profession; it's a calling. Linemen



From left to right: Karl Martinson, Todd Treichler, Dave Ethen, Josh Hofmann, Matt Ackerman, Justin Wilson, Luke Kasella, Jake Dehne

navigate the precarious balance between duty and danger, armed with the knowledge that their expertise can make all the difference in critical situations. As we honor Lineman Appreciation

Month, let's recognize and appreciate these unsung heroes who, without hesitation, answer the call to keep our homes lit, our communities safe, and our spirits lifted.

Thank You!

THE Current Corner

Fiscal Responsibility and Reliable Service at CROW WING POWER

Considering the coming 2024 rate adjustment, our commitment to delivering reliable service while being fiscally responsible has led us to adjust between the construction work plan and budget considerations.

During budget deliberations, we evaluated the remaining work plan projects for 2024, the final year of a 4-year plan. Essential initiatives such as the aging underground cable replacement in the Breezy Point Resort area and underground cable relocation at the intersection of County Rd 3 and County Rd 5, north of Merrifield due to the Crow Wing County roundabout project, were deemed imperative to move forward, ensuring long-term reliability. Simultaneously, we made the prudent decision to temporarily suspend projects like the replacement of three and a half miles of underground cable along County Rd 15 west of Gull Lake, saving an estimated \$600,000. Additionally, postponing the rebuilding of maturing wood structures in our Crosslake substation is expected to save one million dollars. Other small projects were delayed, resulting in an additional two million in cost-saving for the Cooperative. These projects will carry over into the new work plan.

In total, we made a calculated decision to reduce the budget by \$4.6 million while safeguarding the most crucial plans for the safety of our line crews and the uninterrupted service for our members. It's a delicate balance that requires thoughtful consideration of both short-term and long-term needs.

When establishing a multi-year work plan, being flexible is essential due to factors such as storms, equipment malfunction, or significant economic fluctuations. Looking ahead to our future work plan spanning from 2024 to 2028, we prioritize major projects within our service territory, collaborating with local government entities.

As your Chief Operating Officer, I want to assure you that every decision made is with the safety and reliability of the Cooperative in mind. We remain committed to delivering quality service while being mindful of the financial impact on our members.



Respectfully,

Eric Quale
Chief Operating Officer

Rate Adjustment Begins March 1, 2024

March usage will be reflected on the April bill. Scan the code to learn more.



Value Beyond
the Power
*human
connection*



A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



Crow Wing Power's 2024 Annual Business Meeting

Key Details and Voting Information

The 2024 Annual Business Meeting will be held at Forest View Middle School in the Cafeteria on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. As a member-owned Cooperative, the Annual Business Meeting provides an opportunity for members to hear reports from officers and directors, receive the 2023 Annual Report, ask questions, and learn the results of the director elections.

To facilitate proper seating arrangements, members are asked to RSVP at cwpower.com or by calling 218-829-2827 by June 13. Forest View Middle School is located at 12149 Knollwood Drive Baxter, MN 56425. Adequate parking is available in the main parking lot; enter through the main doors. Complimentary coffee and donuts will be provided to attendees.

The deadline for filing candidacy for an open director position is April 16, 2024,

at 4:30 p.m. Members residing or owning real estate receiving service from Crow Wing Power in District 1A, 2 At-Large, or 3B may file for candidacy during the open filing period.

Survey & Ballot Systems, an independent firm, conducts the election voting and will mail a ballot to Crow Wing Power members in May. Members can vote ahead of the Annual Business Meeting by mail, or electronic online voting. Ballots can also be returned to Crow Wing Power headquarters or brought to the Annual Business Meeting. Instructions for voting options will be included in your 2024 ballot.

Information about the Annual Business Meeting, Open Filing, and Director Voting can be found on Crow Wing Power's website at cwpower.com

Capital Credit Distribution moved to Fall

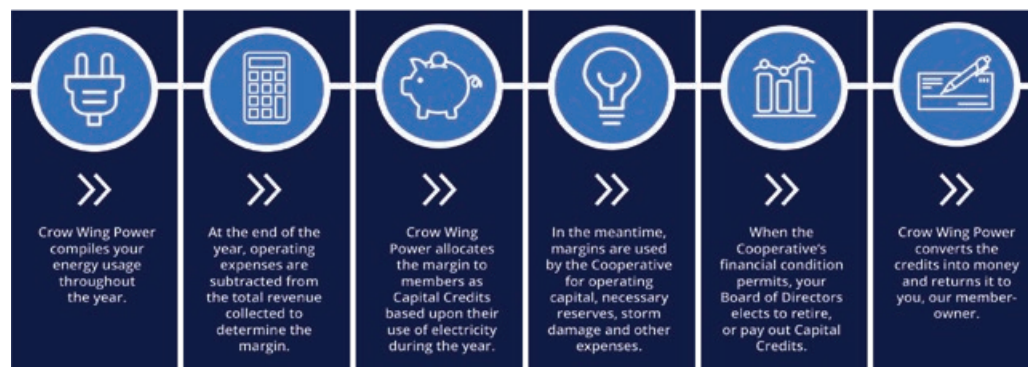
As proud member-owners, you've likely enjoyed the benefits of our Capital Credits program, receiving returns through checks or bill credits. These credits represent operating margins from our prior years that are reinvested into the co-op and are distributed based on your electricity usage during the retirement year.

In May 2023, active members who had service in 2008 and the first part of 2009 received their Capital Credits as bill credits. Historically, members receive their Capital Credit distribution in May via mailed checks. By issuing bill credits, we saw a decrease in unclaimed capital credits, enabling more members to readily

utilize these returns. Inactive members who were issued checks were mailed to the address they last provided.

At the January Board meeting, a proposal emerged to shift the retirement time frame of Capital Credits from Spring to Fall. This will allow the Board to consider a more comprehensive view of the Cooperative's annual financial health while balancing its obligation to retire aging Capital Credits.

For more information or to search for unclaimed capital credits, visit cwpower.com/capital-credits.



Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, December 21, 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
- Director shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The following actions were taken:

- Approve Rate Adjustment Associated with 2024 Operating Budget

The Board approved:

- November Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the November 16, 2023 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports November 2023
- Board Statement Regarding Transparency Advisory Motions

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

JANUARY

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, January 18, 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
- Finance Committee report
- Director shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative

The following actions were taken:

- Changes to capital credit retirement

The Board approved:

- December Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the December 21, 2023 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports December 2023
- 2024 Board and CEO Goals

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



CWPower.com

CELEBRATE 25 YEARS

of Community Commitment with Crow Wing Power Credit Union!

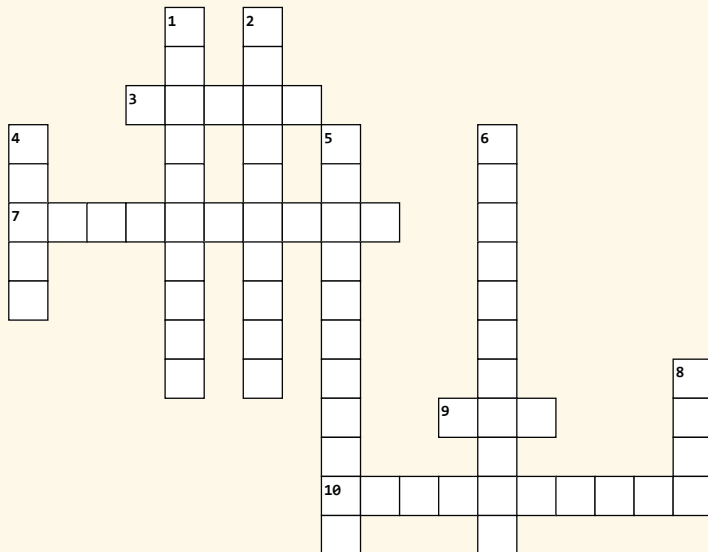
Join the celebration by becoming a member today! Since 1999, Crow Wing Power Credit Union has been committed to fostering financial stability and supporting our members' dreams. As part of the Crow Wing Power community, you understand the strength of working together. Now, extend that to your financial future. Crow Wing Power Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative, meaning our

members are part of the ownership structure. By joining Crow Wing Power Credit Union, you become part of a community-driven financial institution. We are committed to providing affordable loan rates, competitive interest rates, and personalized service for our members. Join today and celebrate 25 years of community with Crow Wing Power Credit Union!

MARCH PUZZLERS

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

Complete the puzzle and send back by April 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles. January winners: Dave Illies, Longville; Shirley Waytashek, Little Falls; Michelle Dryden, Bloomington.



Across

- 3. The animal that was rescued by a line crew in Texas.
- 7. Loan rates provided by Crow Wing Power Credit Union.
- 9. The storm that hit Cass County Electric Cooperatives' service territory.
- 10. How many years has Crow Wing Power Credit Union been serving the community?

Down

- 1. One-way members can vote for directors.
- 2. Crow Wing County road project.
- 4. Chief Operating Officer.
- 5. How do active members receive their Capital Credits?
- 6. Distributed Capital Credits are based on ___ usage during the retirement year.
- 8. Month that Annual Business Meeting is held.

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

PREVIOUS MONTH PUZZLE ANSWERS:

- Across: 2. Impact 3. Frog 4. Blog 6. Crosslake 8. Online 9. Seven
 Down: 1. Kangas 3. Five 5. Larson 7. Slide



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

EDITOR
 Jenna Anderson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Bob Kangas 218-587-4453
- 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.