

# CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS · MARCH/APRIL 2015 · VOLUME 67, NUMBER 2

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

## A Day in the Life of Linemen >>>

Other than the obvious 24/7 preparedness for restoring power during unexpected outages, what do Crow Wing Power linemen do on a daily basis? What does it take to be a line worker?

Whether it's maintaining and upgrading our electric infrastructure to insure reliable power or installing and upgrading new services for residential or growing businesses, every day is filled with a variety of work that takes skill and training to insure linemen's safety.

Substations receive monthly inspections and undergo annual maintenance. Periodically we need to install new substations to keep up with growing power supply, the newest of which is being built along Hwy 10 south of Little Falls.

In March, you may have seen linemen working along Hwy 45 south of Brainerd upgrading older wire and poles - a lengthy and tedious project that is continuous throughout our 5,000 plus miles of line within our territory.

Perhaps you have a home along Ruttger Road, northwest of Ideal Corners, where linemen were working to replace older wire

>>> Jake Dehne replacing equipment

with new more robust aluminum wire recently.

Or, if you saw activity on March 19 near the Southdale substation in Baxter (near the Forestview School), you would have seen men in full safety gear replacing equipment.

As you might expect, strict safety standards are followed which include monthly safety meetings, daily inspections of safety equipment, rubber gloves, rubber sleeves, hard hats, face shields, safety glasses, safety boots and additional safety devices are mandatory.

In addition to our 25 linemen, we have stakers, meter technicians, right-of-way technicians and others that also complement our team that help us maintain our reputation of reliable power and unprecedented customer service.

### What does it take to be a line worker?

There are five line worker schools in Minnesota that receive scholarship funding of up to \$1,000 for each Crow Wing Power member's son or daughter to attend. Scholarship funding is made possible through unclaimed capital credits each year. Most, after school, work for contractors initially and then are potentially hired by utilities as apprentices. A four-year apprentice needs to complete another program and 8,000 hours before they

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become a journeyman. A journeyman can become a crew chief, usually based on seniority or qualifications.

Not everyone is cut out to be a line worker as the work is strenuous, weather conditions can be extremely difficult and all need to be in shape, strong and attentive to detail. However, for those that like the work, it is an honorable and unique profession.

We applaud our linemen, as we do all of the Crow Wing Power employees, who dedicate their lives to provide members with unsurpassed service and reliability. April 13 is Line Worker Day in Minnesota – thank a line worker you know.

>>> Bryan Imdieke & Justin Sjoström upgrading poles



## Credit Union offering Exceptional Mortgage Rates Act Now Before Interest Rates Increase >>>

The Federal Reserve recently set the stage for potential rate hikes. It isn't clear, however, when that may occur. Refinance your mortgage to a lower rate with no closing costs at our Credit Union, while rates are low.



Continued on Pg. 4



# A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

## Keeping a Watchful Eye on the Mining/Mineral Markets >>>

The Iron Range iron ore and taconite industry has faced some unfortunate set-backs in Minnesota mining progress recently with news of layoffs, financial constraints and foreign influence (some illegal trade/tariff actions) and the like, causing shut downs and delays in the processing and sales of iron ore from tailings in northern Minnesota. In addition, Senate Majority Leader, Tom Bakk blames some of the financial constraints on high energy costs due to utility regulations.

Because we have a substantial amount of high grade iron ore in our manganese/iron deposit in Emily, we keep a close eye on both the manganese and iron markets.

Fortunately, we own a rich deposit of iron and manganese ores in our Cooperative Mineral Resources land that we continue to develop with the hopes of returning great financial gains for Crow Wing Power members, local communities and the State of Minnesota as the project progresses.

We've said from the beginning, that we will mine either the iron ore and/or the manganese veins that are the most cost effective and economically feasible when the time is right.

In the meantime, all mining and minerals in the world have been subject to the grave economic downturn since about 2008. Since there are a lot of steps to take to insure the project is done right, we've had the time and are well on our way to preparing the project.

Our latest partnership work has been with a green battery supplier – that would use our manganese to create new-age long lasting lithium manganese batteries that will replace lead acid batteries in the energy storage industry. Pilot work is being prepared to prove that our one and only North American source would pave the way for that exciting future opportunity.

We have signed a memorandum of understanding with third party mining and battery partners but have not yet signed a joint venture agreement. Careful planning and discussions are underway to insure we make the most of our project.

We continue to work and study other opportunities that the rich resource has to offer – in order to maximize the market value of both iron and manganese in a multitude of industries. Be assured that we are working diligently for the City of Emily, our members and the future of our children in this exciting project.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

>>> *The taconite plant in Keewatin recently announced the temporary layoffs of more than 400 Minnesota workers due to iron prices and high electric costs.*



## Join the Biggest Saver Family Contest! May 1 through September 1 >>>

All families of Crow Wing Power are invited to participate in a challenge to use less electricity than they have in previous years – a contest which could win your family a credit of up to \$250 off your electric bill. The Biggest Saver is the Biggest Winner. Here are the details/rules on the contest:

- The contest is open to all full-time residential members of Crow Wing Power with two or more members in the household.
- The contest runs from May 1, through September 1, 2015.
- Each contestant family must have been a full-time member of Crow Wing Power since at least May 1, 2014 (to be able to compare one entire year of electric use).
- Previous energy saving contest winners are not eligible.
- Winners will be determined by the percentage of electricity saved over the duration of the contest, compared to the same period last year.

### How do you enter?

To register go to [cwpower.com](http://cwpower.com) and click on the “Biggest Saver

Contest” link for online registration. Fill in the required information and click “submit”

To track your electric usage, you should use the SmartHub program. The online program allows you to view your electric use and bills and control how you pay your bill. If you are not a previous SmartHub user, you will need to go to [www.cwpower.com](http://www.cwpower.com) and register on the SmartHub link. To help you with your saving goals, we will send you a log book to take inventory of appliances, document energy usage habits, and changes/upgrades.

We will send out regular e-mails to contestants letting them know where their savings are and share tips from the group.

### Prizes to be awarded are as follows:

- Grand Prize \$250 credit on electric bill
- 2nd Place \$100 credit on electric bill
- 3rd Place \$50 credit on electric bill





## Directors View: Mark Your Calendars for the June 13 Annual Meeting >>>

By Gordon Martin

Your Board of Directors has scheduled this year's Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting for Saturday, June 13.

This year marks our 78th year of service as your electric cooperative.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, our bylaws require us to conduct an annual meeting each year and over the years the day has evolved into much more. We've found that members appreciate it when they can attend a day in their honor and learn more about the benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative.

You're welcome to come anytime from 9 a.m. to noon. We've selected a great door prize, one per family as you arrive

at the gates. Breakfast will be served until 11:00 a.m. Again this year, Virg and the Eldorados will provide live entertainment. Kids enjoy the day playing games and riding the horses. Information booths will be set up and the ever popular blood pressure room will be manned by nurses so you can get yours checked.

The annual meeting also culminates director elections. Ballots will be mailed to you in mid-May and I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. I look forward to seeing you on June 13. And, as always, I appreciate serving as one of your directors.

## Minnesota Twins Youth Tour Clinic Coming to Brainerd >>>

Crow Wing Power and Brainerd Parks and Rec will once again host a Minnesota Twins Youth Clinic. The clinic is available for boys and girls ages 6 – 16.

The event is scheduled for June 26 at Bane Park in SE Brainerd and, in case of rain, it will be moved to Forestview Middle School. Kids ages 6-9 will meet at 2:00 p.m. and ages 10-16 at 3:30 p.m. No registration is required.

This event is made possible by a sponsorship between the Twins Community Fund and Great River Energy (our power supplier).



## Notice of Cogeneration & Small Power Production >>>

In compliance with Minnesota adopted Rules Regulating Cogeneration and Small Power Production Chapter 7835, Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers which satisfy the conditions of a Qualifying Facility.

Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company 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.

Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Members interested in further information should contact the office of Jeff Wohlert, Key Account/Energy Management Consultant, Crow Wing Cooperative Power & Light Company, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401; or call 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.

## Three High School Juniors Win Trip to Washington D.C. >>>

Earlier this year, Crow Wing Power hosted a Washington Youth Tour contest for area high school juniors. Students wrote essays on innovative new energy technology ideas. The essays could be fiction or non-fiction.

Winners of this year's contest were Caroline Bender, daughter of Michael Bender and Jean Gustafson from Crosby; Matthew Staley, son of Raenetta Feters from Crosby; and Brooke Swenson, daughter of Charlie and Wendy Swenson from Pine River.

The three will join approximately 1600 high school students in June for the annual Youth Tour Trip to Washington D.C. which is co-hosted by electric cooperatives throughout the nation.



Caroline Bender



Matthew Staley



Brooke Swenson

## Credit Union offering Exceptional Mortgage Rates >>>

*Continued from Pg. 1*

If you owe less than \$100,000 on your home, cabin or land and have a rate over 3%, call our Credit Union today! They offer a great mortgage program that will save you hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. Gather your mortgage statement, income verification, and homeowners insurance and give them a call or stop by. Within 15 minutes their Member Service Representatives can pre-approve your loan and start the process to save you big dollars.

- No closing costs
- Rates as low as 2.90%
- Amortized for 15 years (\$50k or less) or 20 years (over \$50k), balloons in 5 years
- Up to 70% of the equity
- Residences, cabins or land in Minnesota

Do you owe more than \$100,000 on your mortgage? There are other loan options available to save you money.

Crow Wing Power Credit Union (CWPCU) in-house mortgage loans between \$100,001 and \$300,000

- Rates as low as 2.90% Amortized for 30 years, balloons in 3 years
- Up to 70% of equity on residences, cabins or land in Minnesota
- Member pays processing fees

Fixed rate mortgage rates are still low.

- The Credit Union will process 15, 20, and 30 year mortgages through AmeriCU Mortgage (NMLS #3028)
- Normal closing costs apply
- Work with your Credit Union and get the benefit of the long term fixed rate.

*\*Rate based on credit score so your rate may be higher. All loans are subject to credit approval. Current CWPCU loans are not eligible for these rates/terms.*



**CROW WING POWER**  
**CREDIT UNION**

NMLS #408088

## We'll Give You \$50 to Tune Up Your Air Conditioning System >>>



Clogged coils, low refrigerant levels, plugged drain lines and a host of minor problems can greatly affect the efficiency of your central air conditioner. To help you save energy, we're offering a limited number of \$50 rebates to residential members that get a tune-up. Rebates are limited therefore it's best to contact us first to make sure we still have them available.

There are other restrictions such as you need to have a certified HVAC contractor do the work.

You can go to [www.cwpower.com](http://www.cwpower.com) and click on AC tune up to find out the details or call us at 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.



# Security for Your Home is More Affordable Than you May Think >>>

With such a variety of security options, there are so many ways that homeowners can find a way to keep their homes and families safe – it removes uncertainties for people to decide whether they should have a security system for their home. Most people don't realize it's no longer a luxury item, but an essential part of owning a home.

Jason Cave, our Sales Manager, will meet with homeowners to help them decide what options best fit their lifestyles. Protecting your home is as important to us as it is to you. We are known for our local, caring and affordable service. Stay connected to your home anywhere, anytime using your smartphone, tablet or computer. Easily arm or disarm your security system, control your thermostat and much more! So, while home or away, with People's Security Company you can have peace of mind.

Take D. Roberts from the Walker area – she says, "My husband and I purchased a simple security system several years ago and have been pleased with the peace of mind it offers when we travel. Now that he's gone after his death in 2013, I appreciate the system so much more, whether I'm home alone or gone traveling during the

winter months. It's so inexpensive that I wouldn't even consider not protecting myself."

Take advantage of FREE INSTALLATION\* now while People's Security Company is offering this special to help save even more money! For a limited time, you can get your customized system installed for free by our attentive installation technicians.

You can buy a system from a nationwide security company, but you won't get the special one-on-one attention and service you'll get from our local People's Security Company, who have been providing this service for over 25 years in our area.

*\*Monitoring required. Restrictions apply. Packaging and pricing subject to change. Not valid with other offers.*



## Capital Credit Checks Will Be Sent in May >>>

Capital credit checks totaling \$628,488 will be mailed to 12,628 cooperative members in May. The checks will be distributed for allocations that were made to members for the electricity they used for the remainder of 1988. Over \$11 million has been returned in the past 19 years.

Crow Wing Power was formed as a not-for-profit cooperative in 1937 to bring affordable electricity to the members that belong to it. Capital credits are a benefit of the cooperative form of ownership, giving back margins over and above operating costs. Annually the board must evaluate the financial ability to return capital credit checks.

## Let's Start Cookin' >>>

Send your favorite **grilling recipe** to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. If your entry is drawn and printed in the July Current Connection, you'll receive a \$25 credit on your

electric bill. If you want to receive a recipe card each month in the mail, fill in the form below. Recipes, puzzles and cookin' club forms can be sent in one envelope.

### Last Issue's Winner:

### Broccoli Slaw with Lemon Dressing

Linda Mensing, Lester Prairie

- 1/2 c. Sour Cream
- 3 TBSP. Lemon Juice
- 2 TBSP. Mayonnaise
- 1 TBSP. White Wine Vinegar
- 2 tsp. Grated Lemon Peel
- 1 tsp. Dijon Mustard
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1/4 tsp. Freshly Gound Pepper
- 12 oz. Broccoli Coleslaw Mix
- 2 Large Red Apples-Julienned

In a large bowl mix the first eight ingredients. Add coleslaw mix and apples; toss to coat. Refrigerate covered until serving. Yield: 10 servings.

*Yes, I'd like to join the Co-op Cookin' Club and receive a new recipe each month in the mail. I understand there is no charge.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



www.cwpower.com  
218-829-2827 • 1-800-648-9401

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## Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Kay Blais .....(218) 363-2800
- Lois Hansen .....(218) 833-0364
- Bob Kangas .....(218) 587-4453
- Gordon Martin .....(218) 746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch .....(218) 763-2773
- Kenneth Miller .....(320) 632-5842
- Don O'Brien .....(218) 829-6336
- Gert Roggenkamp .....(218) 562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse .....(218) 829-7805



## Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by May 20, 2015. We've sized it to fit in your billing payment, so you can save a stamp. If you'd rather, you can send it separately to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. Attn: Puzzle. The winning entry will be drawn on May 20.

*Our winner for the last puzzle: Bruce & Lori Thramer, Baxter*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Acct number \_\_\_\_\_

- Tune up your air \_\_\_\_\_ system
- Crow Wing Power was formed as a not-for-profit \_\_\_\_\_
- Lithium manganese \_\_\_\_\_
- Biggest \_\_\_\_\_ family contest
- \_\_\_\_\_ will travel to Washington D.C.
- People's Security offering \_\_\_\_\_ installation
- Mn Twins \_\_\_\_\_ is June 26
- \_\_\_\_\_ receive monthly inspections
- Refinance your \_\_\_\_\_ to a lower rate
- Send your favorite \_\_\_\_\_ recipe
- Member Appreciation Day is \_\_\_\_\_ 13
- Current Connection is published \_\_\_\_\_

### Last Issue's Puzzle Answers:



Filing, Infrared, Recipe, River, Resources, Washingtondc, Automated, Filters, Kangas, Heating, Visiting, Prairie, People