

CURRENT CONNECTION

Operation Round Up Helps Essential Programs in Our Communities >>>

Our community giving program, Operation Round Up, has been distributing grants since we began in 1996 and to date has donated over \$2.9 million to help local charitable projects and programs.

Participating Cooperative members who allow us to round up their electric bill to the nearest whole dollar fund Operation Round Up. The change is pooled and used by our separate trust board, Crow Wing Power Community Trust, made up of volunteer members like you.

We'd like to highlight just a few of the many deserving organizations that Round Up has helped over the past twenty years. In the past year alone, the Trust board has donated to 13 food shelves, nine not-for-profit quilter's guilds, about a dozen handicap, disabled and veteran organizations, 16 youth groups and many first responders.

We visited the RSVP Quilters in Emily at their meeting in March, where seven women were working together to make quilts. Some are part of that group and also quilt with Loon Crafters Quilt Guild.



>>> Emily RSVP Quilters donate 150 to 200 quilts a year to many in need. Pictured (L to R) Shirley, Jan, Carolyn, Bette, Marie and Diane.

True North Ranch Ministries (TNRM), located near Merrifield, brings hope and healing to children and families by connecting them with a mentor and a horse. Owners Lee and Dan Shelstad feel the horses play an important role in breaking down the barriers that so many of the youth visiting the ranch harbor. The two Belgian horses, Bokoda and Nugget, have a very special way of developing a trust and hope that many of the kids do not have. The horses are as important as the volunteers at TNRM. TNRM offers the horses a safe and enjoyable life with a great purpose.



INSIDE

- Word From Your CEO2
- Osprey Cam3
- Washington Trip Winners.....4
- Capital Credit Checks.....5
- Puzzle6

"Our ranch is here to serve a community not itself. TNR is here to provide a safe place for children, teens, and families struggling with everyday trials. If the horses can bring a smile, love and some hope, then that is why God has placed us here," said Lee Shelstad.

Continued on Pg. 3

Rates as low as
2.75%

Low Mortgage Rates Without High Stress >>>

Crow Wing Power Credit Union is offering mortgage loans with rates as low as 2.75%. Financing is available for primary residences, vacation homes or land in Minnesota.

Continued on Pg. 4



A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Community Solar Survey Completed >>>

We recently hired National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) Market Research to conduct surveys on our behalf in order to learn whether our members would support a Community Solar project. We received the results of the survey in mid-March.

If you've been following our newsletter, website or bill stuffers, you'll know that Crow Wing Power would not subsidize or pay for any of a Community Solar project. The project would only be for those members that are willing to pay for shares in the panels at a cost of \$1,200 to \$1,600 upfront. In turn, they would receive credits at about \$50 annually, based on the value of the solar output of those panels. We want to make it clear that those who don't want to participate, will not pay for this project.

Telephone surveys had a total of 304 residential members respond and an online survey of 268 were completed. So all in all we had 572 residential opinions and thoughts.

We, like other cooperatives in the nation, use NRECA Market Research for our bi-annual satisfaction surveys as well.

For one of the questions, members were asked how likely it is that they would pay \$1,200 to \$1,600 to participate. Four percent said they definitely would. Fifteen percent said they probably would. That's a substantial number based on about

40,000 members total. We were surprised, but know we live in an environmentally sensitive area in the lakes area.

For those that appear to support participating in a Community Solar project, environment more than finances seems to be the most important factor.

We did have a lot of comments given to us both pro and con with a great majority of members not wanting to finance such a project and sharing their concerns about future electric rates. The payback period for a solar project like this is quite lengthy, taking typically more than 20 years to get a return on your investment. With that knowledge we had 32 comments including one positive, 21 negative and ten neutral.

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the survey results and will make a decision at a later meeting. In the meantime, we have not run specific details on a project yet. If we decide to build a Community Solar project, we would get some bids on solid specifications and most likely have the interested members put a deposit down to insure the project is no cost to Crow Wing Power.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO



Directors View: Mark Your Calendars for the June 11 Annual Meeting >>>

By Gert Roggenkamp

Your Board of Directors has scheduled this year's Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting for Saturday, June 11.

This year marks our 79th 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 information booths will be set up and the ever popular blood pressure room will be manned by nurses so you can get yours checked.

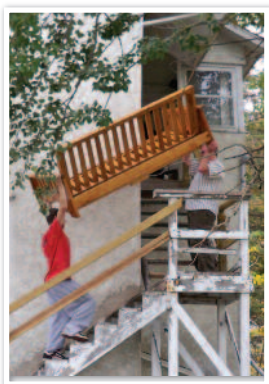
The annual meeting also culminates director elections. Ballots will be mailed to you in mid-May and I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. I look forward to seeing you on June 11. And, as always, I appreciate serving as one of your directors.

Operation Round Up Helps Essential Programs in Our Communities >>> Continued from Pg. 1

Volunteer First Responders are essential to the rural areas we serve. Operation Round Up has historically donated to responders for life-saving equipment and specialized training. We are so thankful for our members that are important first responders and glad we have a program like Round Up that can help them.



>>> *Pierz First Responders – Pictured front row (left to right): Amy, Meghan, Kim; Back row: Josh, Dan, Lois, Lynn*



Salem West, a division of Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood, has provided families in need with much needed household items, clothing and furniture for the past twenty years. They work in collaboration with Bridges of Hope, Lutheran Social Services and county agencies to name a few.

>>> *Salem West delivering furniture to a family in need.*

New Webcam Installed at Central Lakes College >>>

In early March, Crow Wing Power line workers took a bucket truck to replace an old webcam from the nesting platform. Last year, the webcam we supplied in the spring of 2010 stopped working during nesting season, so we didn't get to watch the Osprey pair as they raised their chicks. Normally the Osprey will be back by mid to late April. We will put a link on our website and announce their return on our Facebook page.

The Osprey cam project is a joint effort of Crow Wing Power, People's Security, Consolidated Telephone Company, Brainerd Public Utilities, the DNR and the College's IT Department and the Natural Resources school program headed by Dr. William Faber.

Historically area Boy Scout troops have built the Osprey nesting platforms for us to use throughout our service area, where Ospreys have interfered with our power poles. We do this to help protect the Osprey and insure reliability for the power we distribute.

The online link is <http://ospreycam.clcmn.edu/>.

>>> *Conrad Voels from People's Security installs new Osprey cam at Central Lakes College.*



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.

2016 Rebates

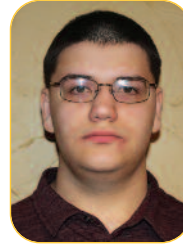
- Energy Star Air Conditioners:
.....\$30 - \$330
- Off-Peak Water Heating:
.....up to \$300.00
- Off-Peak Heating:
(underfloor cable, brick storage room units and furnaces)
.....\$25 per KW
- Dual Fuel:
(Plenum Heater/Boiler/Ductless ASHP)
.....\$200.00
- Energy Star Refrigerator or Freezer
.....\$75.00
- Geothermal Heat Pumps
.....\$100.00/ton
- Air Source Heat Pumps
.....\$330 - \$630
- Energy Star Clothes Washers
.....\$50
- Air Conditioning tune up
.....\$50 residential
.....\$75 commercial
- LED Light Adapters
.....\$3

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 are Matthew Reff, son of Tim and Colleen from Baxter; Joshua Sweeney, son of Scott and Ann from Backus; and Hannah Wiedewitsch, daughter of Amanda Tennier from Pequot Lakes.

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.



Matthew Reff



Joshua Sweeney



Hannah Wiedewitsch

Low Loan Rates Without High Stress >>>

Crow Wing Power Credit Union (CWPCU) is offering Home Equity Loans with rates as low as 2.75%. If your current home equity loan has a higher rate, give the credit union a call to see how easy it is to move your loan, lower your rate and save money. No closing costs if your loan is under \$100,000.00. Loans less than \$50k will be amortized for up to 15 years and will balloon in three years. Loans less than \$100k will be amortized for up to 20 years and will balloon in five years.

This program is perfect for small balance home loans or if you plan on selling the property within three to five years. Avoid the huge closing costs associated with fixed rate mortgages. And you will be shopping local. The processing, underwriting, closing and servicing departments are right here at the Crow Wing Power office.

Fixed Rate Mortgage Loans

CWPCU has partnered with AmeriCU Mortgage to provide members a full array of home loan options. Buying your first home, moving up or down-sizing, purchasing a vacation or investment property; they have the mortgage solution for you. The experienced

staff will help guide you through the maze of loan programs to find the right loan to fit your needs.

Come to the people you know and trust. Save money on the closing costs and work with Crow Wing Power Credit Union for your mortgage loan solution. CWPCU NMLS #408088 and AmeriCU NMLS #3028.



Loan rates
as low as
2.75%



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 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 who are unsure about purchasing 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, 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.

You can count on affordable and reliable service, from our local company who has been providing home security in the Lakes area for over 25 years.

**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 \$727,773 will be mailed to 13,573 cooperative members in May. The checks will be distributed for allocations that were made to members for the electricity they used for the first half of 1989. Over \$11.7 million has been returned in the past 20 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:

Tomato Bisque Soup

Ethel Mae Hallberg, Hillman, MN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¾ Cup Chopped Onions 1 Tsp Dried Oregano 3 Cans Chicken Broth ¼ Cup Parsley, Fresh or Dry 2/3 Cup Butter ½ Cup Flour ½ Tsp Salt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¼ Cup Honey 1 ¾ Tsp Dill Weed ½ Tsp Pepper 3 14-oz Cans Diced Tomatoes 1 ½ cup Half & Half
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Saute onions with butter, add dill and oregano. Add flour and stir until smooth and thick. Add tomatoes and broth with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and simmer about 15 minutes. Add parsley, honey, and half and half. Heat until hot and serve. I usually mix the flour with cold broth (small amount) so it does not get lumpy, and set it aside.

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

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: _____
(____) _____

CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

(ISSN 1068-1949)
USPS 456-180

Published bimonthly by Crow Wing Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401.
218-829-2827
800-648-9401
www.cwpower.com

Editor: Char Kinzer

Periodical postage paid at Brainerd, MN. Send change of address form 3579 to: Current Connection, Crow Wing Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Annual Subscription Rates:
Members - \$3.00
Non-Members - \$3.50

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Kay Blais(218) 363-2800
- 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) 831-8605

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by May 20, 2016. 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: Jeff and Cathy Thorson, Baxter

T X B J H L A A E H V Z L V R	Name _____
U C U D L E I F I R R E M K E	_____
P F O T R C G P T H I R D I F	_____
W G H M S E U K Z A A W N N R	Address _____
B H K H M F S K M N V S E R I	_____
R G Q H B U S P Z J T W N G G	_____
E O N Z Q Q N J O A S X N I E	City _____
A S X I H T P I L N I B Y Y R	_____
K P I O L G I L T A D T J M A	State _____ Zip _____
F R N Y F L A D J Y I E Q G N	_____
A E Z G L T I F E U A T R C T	Acct number _____
S Y W G I M E R Q R X I X S W	_____
T Z R O B F Y E G S C V Q V D	_____
Q J N P E L B A T I R A H C O	_____
Y Z E N I L N O P O L W Z S C	_____

1. Operation Round Up helps _____ projects and programs
2. Capital _____ checks will be mailed in May
3. _____ will return in April
4. TNRM located near _____
5. Low _____ levels affect efficiency of air conditioner
6. Telephone and _____ surveys were done
7. Send your favorite _____ recipe
8. People's Security offering free _____
9. Board meetings held the _____ Thursday of each month
10. Volunteer First _____ serve rural areas
11. _____ solar project
12. Home _____ loans as low as 2.75%
13. _____ served until 11:00 am

Last Issue's Puzzle Answers:

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

Agriculture, Filing, Loan, Seminar, Two, Bar, Honeywell, March, Ten, Businesses, Jason, Photovoltaic, Three