

Current CONNECTION



Quarter 2 • Volume 77 • Number 2
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CURRENT CORNER

Looking Ahead
with Excitement

SAVE THE DATE!

2025 Annual
Business Meeting

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Upcoming
Cooperative Elections

PUZZLERS

Enter to win one of
three \$25 bill credits

Safety



The Heartbeat of Crow Wing Power

As signs of spring begin to emerge across our north-central Minnesota service territory, we welcome longer days, unpredictable weather, and a much-needed dose of sunshine. There is something about that extra vitamin D that puts a smile on the faces of Minnesotans. At Crow Wing Power, however, April brings another reason to celebrate—Lineworker Appreciation Month. Last year, we shared how being a lineworker is more than a profession—it is a calling. This year, we are diving deeper into what drives that calling: safety.

At Crow Wing Power, safety is not just a priority—it is the foundation of everything we do. As we transition from celebrating our lineworkers in April to recognizing Electrical Safety Month in May, we emphasize how

these two go hand in hand. Keeping our crews safe means keeping our members safe, and that commitment starts with education and training, one of our guiding principles.

Each month, our lineworkers participate in rigorous safety training, covering topics such as outdoor environmental hazards and emergency response drills like Pole Top Rescue and Mayday procedures. We partner with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) to deliver comprehensive safety programs, ensuring our crews stay up to date on best practices. Additionally, all lineworkers maintain certifications in CPR, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and first aid.

Training does not stop there. Every three to four years, our crews along with crews from around the state attend Hot Line School in Wadena, where they practice working on simulated power lines in a controlled setting. In the winter, foremen, journeymen, and apprentices participate in workshops focused on the latest safety techniques, equipment inspections, and hands-on demonstrations.

Beyond hands-on training, Crow Wing Power invests in cutting-edge technology



to enhance safety and reliability. Our Geographic Information System (GIS) provides real-time updates on our electrical system, ensuring lineworkers have accurate information on system changes, new equipment, and work locations. Additionally, our proactive inspection programs help identify and address potential hazards before they become serious issues.

Safety is not just a part of our work—it is the heartbeat of Crow Wing Power. We will continue to celebrate the dedication of our lineworkers, ensuring they have the training, tools, and technology to perform their jobs safely. Just as importantly, we remain committed to educating our members on electrical safety because a safe community is a strong community.

To learn more about electrical safety and how you can protect yourself and your family, follow Crow Wing Power on social media or visit cwpower.com/safety.



THE Current Corner

Looking Ahead with EXCITEMENT

As I wrap up my first month at Crow Wing Power, I want to take a moment to express how excited I am to be here. Meeting the outstanding employees who keep this cooperative running has been an incredible experience. Their dedication to providing safe, reliable electricity at the most competitive rate is evident in everything they do.

One thing I've carried with me from my years in cooperatives is a deep commitment to safety. It's been reassuring to see that Crow Wing Power shares those same values. At the end of the day, nothing is more important than making sure every employee goes home safely to their families. Whether it's our line crews out in the field or the team working behind the scenes, safety is at the core of everything we do. That same commitment extends to our members—we work hard to ensure that the electricity we provide is as reliable and as safe as possible.

Getting to know the day-to-day operations has been both eye-opening and inspiring. Seeing firsthand how integrated our employees are in their work confirms that this Cooperative is in great hands. And while I've appreciated learning about where we've been, I'm even more excited about where we're going. After all, the windshield is much larger than the rearview mirror.

Having spent my career in electric cooperatives, I understand just how vital local governance is. As a member, you are also an owner, and I encourage you to take that responsibility seriously. One way to do that is by familiarizing yourself with our election process and making your voice heard. This year's election includes important bylaw changes—your vote matters.

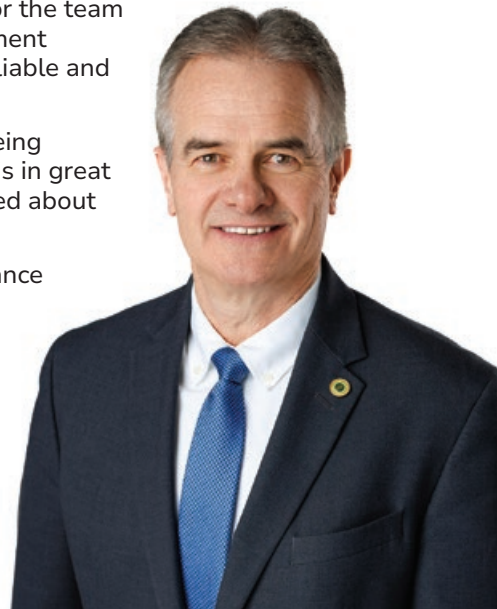
Looking ahead, I invite you to join us at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting on June 14. It will be a great opportunity to connect, learn more about your Cooperative, and help shape the future of Crow Wing Power.

I'm grateful to be here, committed to serving the members and employees of Crow Wing Power, and look forward to meeting more of you in the months ahead. Please feel free to reach out to me.

Your cooperative, our commitment,



Tim Thompson
Chief Executive Officer



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>





You're Invited to the 2025 Annual Meeting!

Mark your calendar and join us for Crow Wing Power's 2025 Annual Meeting on **Saturday, June 14, at the Brainerd Curling Club.**

Enjoy a light meal and connect with fellow members. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., before we begin the official business meeting at 10 a.m. The meeting will include important updates, election results, and presentations about your Cooperative.

This year, we're excited to partner with the Arbor Day Foundation to offer free energy-saving trees—available on a

first-come, first-served basis with limited quantity. Our staff will help members determine the best planting locations to maximize energy efficiency and ensure safety.

Plus, don't miss your chance to win great prizes. We'll have drawings for bill credits, solar lights, and battery-powered lawn tools.

To help us plan for meals and seating, please **RSVP by June 2, 2025, at cwpower.com**. We look forward to seeing you there!



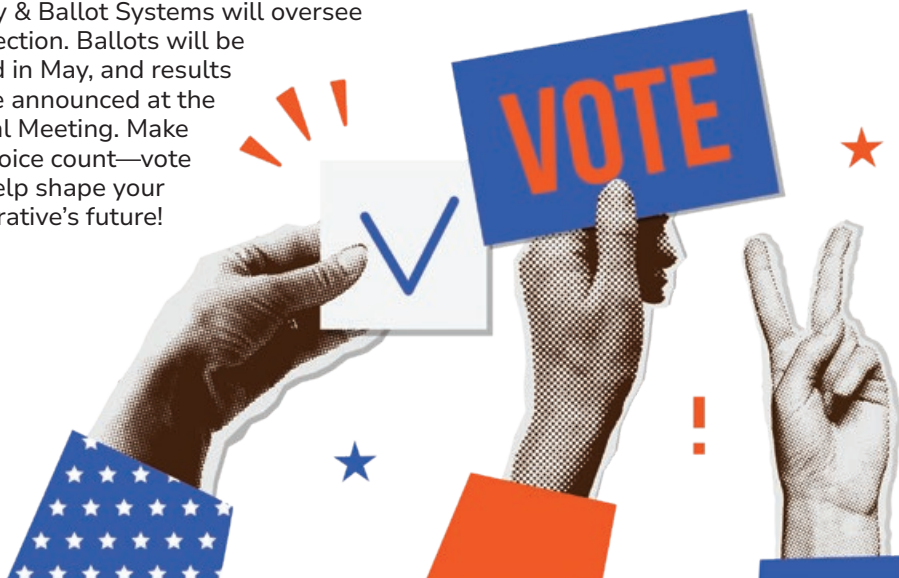
2025 Board Elections & Voting Information

Crow Wing Power's 2025 Board of Director elections are underway! Filing opened on January 30 and closed on April 15, 2025. Members will vote for directors in Districts 1B, 2A, and 3 At-Large, along with a proposed bylaw change. Voting opens May 16, 2025, and concludes at 9:45 a.m. on June 14, 2025, during the Annual Meeting at Brainerd Curling Club.

HOW TO VOTE:

- **ONLINE** – Log in to SmartHub (app or online) and click "Vote Now."
- **QR CODE** – Scan the QR code on the yellow return envelope.
- **MAIL** – Follow the provided instructions, ensuring ballots arrive by June 14 at 10 a.m.

Survey & Ballot Systems will oversee the election. Ballots will be mailed in May, and results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Make your voice count—vote and help shape your cooperative's future!



Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2025

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, February 20, 2025. A quorum of directors was present. President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Update on Community Solar Phase I, II, III
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved February Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of January 16, 2025, regular board meeting.
- Approved new real estate advisor for Market Analysis of the Xcel building.
- Approved proposed Bylaw revisions to Article II, Section 3.
- Approved proposed Bylaw revision to Article III, Section 3.
- Approved Cogeneration and Small Power Production Report.
- Approved Qualifying Facilities Report.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for January 2025.

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



CWPower.com

Spring Cleaning for Energy Efficiency



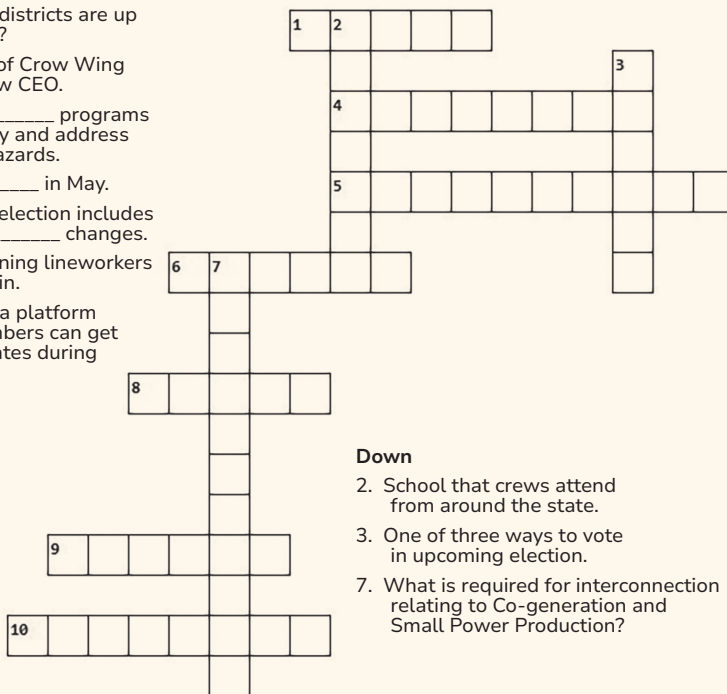
SPRING PUZZLERS

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

Complete the puzzle and send back by May 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles.
January winners: Joel Kinney, Pequot Lakes; Rosemary Mischke, Pierz; Ben Butler, Falcon Heights

Across

- How many districts are up for election?
- Last name of Crow Wing Power's new CEO.
- Proactive _____ programs help identify and address potential hazards.
- Ballots are _____ in May.
- This year's election includes important _____ changes.
- Type of training lineworkers participate in.
- Social media platform where members can get timely updates during outages.



Down

- School that crews attend from around the state.
- One of three ways to vote in upcoming election.
- What is required for interconnection relating to Co-generation and Small Power Production?

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY ANSWERS:

Across: 4. April 6. Transmission 8. Frequent 9. Hydro
Down: 1. September 2. Qualified 3. Basin 5. Maximum 6. Three 7. January

REMINDER!

Current CONNECTION
is now quarterly!

But don't worry! Cooperative news can be found by scanning the QR code on the back of your bill during the months that you don't receive a printed Current Connection. Stay connected!



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Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.