

Current CONNECTION



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CURRENT CORNER

Preparing for New
Energy Demands

PLANNING UNDERWAY

2027 Annual Meeting

IMPACT GRANT

Applications Due
January 2027

PUZZLERS

Enter To Win One Of
Three \$25 Bill Credits

POWERING UP OUR DEFENSES

How Your Co-op Is Strengthening Cybersecurity

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and at Crow Wing Power, that's more than a calendar note. It's a reminder of work happening year-round to protect the systems that keep your lights on.

Behind every flipped switch is a network of technology: our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, which monitors and controls the grid in real time, along with our communications infrastructure and our billing and information systems, where member data is stored. As these systems become more connected, they also become bigger targets for cyber threats. That's why Crow Wing Power made securing our digital

infrastructure a top priority, partnering with Xtona, a local security company considered an expert in the field, to strengthen our defenses and better protect our systems, servers, and data. This work is also an imperative in our strategic plan: Crow Wing Power is committed to being a technology leader for our members, and that starts with security.

We're not alone in this. Cooperatives nationwide are taking the same steps. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has again partnered with the Department of Homeland Security, the National Cybersecurity Alliance, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to raise awareness

and equip co-op employees with cybersecurity skills. NRECA's Threat Analysis Center helps co-ops share intelligence in real time, since a threat to one is a concern for all, and Crow Wing Power plans to join in 2027.

"This past year, our focus has shifted to prioritizing technology and cybersecurity, and it's meant a lot more work," said Lloyd Warren, IT Manager. "But it's necessary. Leadership has been supportive, and the resources we now have make our co-op stronger and our members safer."

Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, at the co-op and at home. Together, we're keeping the grid secure.



Protect your own data, too.

THIS OCTOBER, CONSIDER:

- ✓ Use strong, unique passwords and a password manager to track them.
- ✓ Turn on multi-factor authentication, especially for email and banking.
- ✓ Think before you click on unexpected links or attachments, even from familiar senders.



THE CEOCorner *Tim Thompson*

PREPARING FOR New Energy DEMANDS

Data centers may feel like a big-city phenomenon, but they are increasingly becoming part of the electric utility conversation across rural America. While data centers have been around for decades, their size and the technologies they support, including artificial intelligence, are driving significant growth in electricity demand.

In many ways, this growth is connected to technology we use every day. Streaming services, cloud storage, online applications and artificial intelligence all rely on data centers operating behind the scenes. As our reliance on these technologies grows, so does the need for facilities capable of storing and processing enormous amounts of information.

Data centers are a hot topic across the country, and electric cooperatives are beginning to receive inquiries from developers looking for places to build and connect these large facilities. Crow Wing Power has not been approached by a developer seeking to connect a data center to our system. However, we believe it is important to be proactive and prepared. If a request does come our way, we want to understand what serving this type of load would require and be prepared to make informed decisions.

What makes these facilities different from many other businesses is the amount and consistency of electricity they require. Data centers operate around the clock, which means the electric system serving them must have the capacity and reliability to meet that demand every minute of every day.

For Crow Wing Power, this presents both an opportunity and a challenge. When properly planned and structured, a large, steady load can support long-term growth and help

justify investments in our electric system that can benefit the cooperative and its members. At the same time, serving a load of this size requires careful planning. Power supply, substations, transmission, and distribution infrastructure can require significant lead time and investment.

As I shared in September, our board has adopted a position outlining how we would approach a potential data center connection. Our focus is that of a utility. If we have the available power capacity and can feasibly and reliably serve a new load, our responsibility is to provide that service. That does not mean our members should bear the financial burden of serving it. Any agreement would require the developer to pay the upfront costs of design, infrastructure, and construction necessary to serve its operation. Additional terms could also be established to protect the cooperative and provide value to our members.

This is not about pursuing data centers or determining where they should locate. It is about understanding the changing energy landscape and being prepared to fulfill our responsibility as a utility if a large new customer seeks service from Crow Wing Power.

Our commitment is to plan responsibly, ask the right questions, and make sound utility-focused decisions that protect the safe, reliable service our members depend on.

Your Cooperative, Our Commitment

TIM THOMPSON
Chief Executive Officer



2027 Annual Meeting & Board Elections

Planning is underway for Crow Wing Power's 2027 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, May 20. Board filing will open in December, with elections taking place in March 2027.

Seats up for election include **District 1A, District 2 At-Large and District 3B.**

Watch cwpower.com, SmartHub and other Crow Wing Power communications for official dates and additional details as they become available.

5 REASONS to Love YOUR CO-OP



Celebrating Cooperative Month / October

- 1 You're an Owner**
Your membership gives you a voice and a vote.
- 2 We're Local**
Your co-op lives, works and invests right here in the community.
- 3 Members Come First**
We exist to serve our members, not outside shareholders.
- 4 We Give Back**
Your cooperative helps strengthen the communities we call home.
- 5 We're Better Together**
Cooperation is at the heart of everything we do.

Happy Cooperative Month!

Powered by members. Built for community. Stronger together.

Are you making an **IMPACT**
in our community?



Is your organization making a difference in the community through a unique project, program or initiative? The 2027 IMPACT Grant may be an opportunity to give your efforts an extra boost.

Applications are due January 1, 2027, for consideration at the January Crow Wing Power Trustee meeting. The grant provides substantial, one-time support for organizations that can demonstrate how the funding would make a meaningful impact and build on a history of positive outcomes.

The top three to four applicants will be

invited to present their proposals during a 15-minute presentation to the Trustees in April.

The IMPACT Grant is made possible by Crow Wing Power members who participate in Operation Round-Up®, rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar. Those small contributions add up to make a big difference in our communities.

Questions about applying?

Contact Jenna Anderson at Crow Wing Power at 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.

Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2026

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 16, 2026. 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
- COO Report
- CFO Report
- IT Report

Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved July Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Minutes of June 25, 2026, Regular Meeting.
- Accepted the April Financial Report.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for May 2026.

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

CWPower.com



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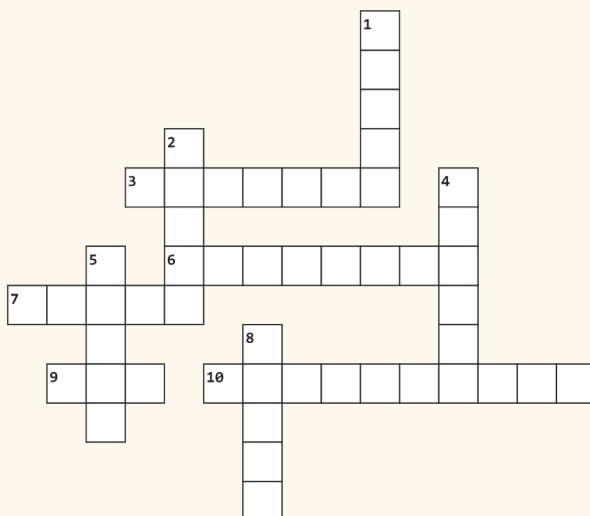


2026 QUARTER 4 PUZZLERS

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

Complete the puzzle and send it back by **NOVEMBER 15, 2026**. Three easy ways:
Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles.

Q3 Winners: Bruce Levchak of Hanover MN, Robert Waldock of Little Falls MN,
Lizzie Hoppe of Merrifield MN



Across

3. This month is both Cooperative Month and Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
6. Filing for open board seats opens this month.
7. The local security company Crow Wing Power partnered with to strengthen its digital defenses.
9. Crow Wing Power's 2027 Annual Meeting is expected to happen in mid-this month.
10. What kind of facility is the focus of the CEO's message about rising electricity demand?

Down

1. As a co-op member, you're not just a customer — you're an ___ with a voice and a vote.
2. The system that monitors and controls the electric grid in real time (abbr.).
4. Last name of the IT Manager quoted about the co-op's growing cybersecurity focus.
5. Your co-op lives, works and invests right here in the ___ community.
8. Board elections for three open seats will take place in this 2027 month.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Email _____

Account # _____

2026 QUARTER 3 ANSWERS:

Across: 1. Screenshot 5. PelicanLake 7. Rezoning 8. Memories 9. Response
Down: 1. Credentialed 2. Milestone 4. Dangers 6. Fourth 7. Requirements

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**Cut the
Clutter**

Now through
December, sign
up for
paperless
billing and win
cool prizes!



**Publication of
Crow Wing Power**

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Board meetings are held the fourth
Thursday of each month beginning at
8:00 a.m. This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.