



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

2021 ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 27 WILL BE VIRTUAL

At their January board meeting, the board of directors voted to conduct the 2021 CWEC Annual Meeting virtually. This will be the same format that we followed in 2020.

The board looked at several options for conducting an in-person meeting, but did not feel that an in-person meeting would be appropriate given the status of the rollout of the vaccine and the circulation of new variants of the COVID-19 virus. The health of our members is of utmost importance and a virtual meeting will allow us to hold a meeting safely. Please look for more information on our annual meeting on page 18 in this edition of the *WECN* magazine.

Special thanks to the Nominations Committee for its work in interviewing candidates for this year's board election. The committee has the responsibility of selecting candidates that meet the qualifications defined in our bylaws and policies, and who are committed to serving in the best interests of all members. In addition, the committee approves the

rules that we follow at each year's annual meeting of the membership. Thank you for your service to our cooperative.

I would also like to thank the Operation Round Up Trust committee for its work in helping our communities and our members. They spend considerable time reviewing applications and ensuring that our Operation Round Up funds are used to support needs in our service area. By "rounding up" your electric bill and contributing a few cents each month, we are able to do great things for our members and our communities.

A big thank you to Tony Buss and Leonard Oppor for their service on the board of directors. Tony and Leonard are retiring from the board, but their hard work and dedication will not be easily forgotten. The achievements of our cooperative are due in part to the leadership they have shown and their commitment to our membership. We appreciate their service and wish them the very best as they move on to new challenges.

I know each of you has a busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to attend our virtual annual meeting in April. See you then.



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.



Source: www.energy.gov

MY CO-OP

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held both in-person and via teleconference on December 31, 2020 at 7:55 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the December 1, 2020 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The board approved the 2020 write-off of uncollectable debt from 2019 in the amount of \$27,102.78.
- The board approved holding the November 2021 board meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 25, 2021.

- The board approved the new Board Policy No. 409 – West Riverside Energy Center Internal Accounting, regarding the accounting of CWEC's partial ownership of West Riverside Energy Center.
- The board reviewed the proposed 2021 Budget and Goals in detail and approved as presented.

Operations and Engineering – Recognition was given to two operations employees regarding their handling of a vehicle accident that occurred while on a job site. The history of our underground locating service was discussed.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported Toys For Tots is wrapped up for 2020 with approximately 1,100 children receiving toys. The staff was thanked for their help in making this year a huge success.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.



BUSS REFLECTS ON 20 YEARS ON CWEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



After serving on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors for the past 20 years, Anthony Buss, Jr. is retiring from the board.

Buss was first appointed to the board in 2001, and has served as the chairman of the board since 2009. Prior to that, he had served as a District Committeeman for

CWEC for around 15 years.

The cooperative way of life was instilled in Buss early, as he grew up on a family farm that was a member of different cooperatives. He eventually took over the farm, and joined a couple of other cooperatives.

"Growing up with cooperatives in the family, I guess it just sort of rubbed off on me," Buss said.

With his background in cooperatives, and his time serving as a committeeman, it was easy for Buss to agree to be a director on the CWEC board when he was asked.

Buss said he didn't have any specific goals once he joined the board because, as he put it, "you have to get your feet wet for quite a while."

Moving the co-op to a new headquarters building was something Buss had his eye on since his time as a District Committeeman.

"One of my goals was to have a new headquarters, because the one in Iola was very antiquated," Buss said.

That goal was realized in 2011.

"It's a building now that other co-ops, when we built it,

other co-ops came and looked at it, and they used us as a model," Buss said. "A guy gets pretty proud of what we have in Rosholt."

Buss said another accomplishment was getting CWEC to gain partial ownership of the West Riverside Energy Center located near Beloit when it was recently constructed.

"It's supposed to benefit the (CWEC) members and we're just starting to see it (benefits) a little bit on our bills now," Buss said.

His proudest accomplishment doesn't involve the construction of a new building or plant, though.

"If I ever got a question or complaint from a member, I tried to get them an answer and get the problem solved as quick as possible," he said. "That's probably the thing I'm most proud of and the thing I've done throughout my career."

Citing health issues, Buss said the time is right to retire from the board.

"I think the most enjoyable part of being a director is the camaraderie you develop with your other directors," Buss said. "I think within the last 9–10 years the board of directors has stayed the same, so you get to know everybody very personally, and you almost develop a family, especially with your directors and some of the employees. Not only is the camaraderie on a local level, but it's also on a state and national level when you go to meetings you have to attend."

Buss said his retirement from the board will allow him to spend more time with his family and see his grandchildren more.



ELECTRIC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will once again offer a \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship in 2021. Traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply. Applicants need not be a member of the Co-op, but preference will be given to CWEC members.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab), by calling 1-800-377-2932, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.

The deadline for returning completed

applications is Thursday, April 1, 2021. Students can mail the completed scholarship application to the address below, or drop it off in person at the CWEC office located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt. Scholarship winners will be chosen shortly after the deadline.

CWEC

Attn: Electric Utility Scholarship
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

If you have any questions please call Bert Lehman at 800-377-2932.

retirement!



OPPOR HAS FOND MEMORIES OF HIS TIME WITH CWEC



After more than 40 years with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, first as an employee, and then as a board director, Leonard Oppor is retiring from the board.

Prior to becoming a director on the board, Oppor worked for the co-op for 30 years, retiring as a lineman in 2001.

It was his time at the co-op as a lineman that eventually led him to seek election to become a director in 2009.

"I wanted to find out what goes on in the office. I was a lineman and I never got into the office part," Oppor said.

His time spent as a lineman with CWEC proved to be beneficial for himself, as well as other members of the board.

"The rest of the board was asking me questions about things that took place out in the field, and I could answer them," Oppor said.

It was also Oppor's time as a lineman that helped form his goals for his time as a director on the board. He knew what linemen endured out in the field and he wanted to make sure they had equipment needed to do the job efficiently.

"I wanted to push for a new bucket truck," Oppor said

about one of the first items of equipment he pushed for. "We had an old one we were using."

When Oppor was first elected to the board, the CWEC headquarters was located in Iola. Moving the headquarters to a new building in Rosholt was cited by Oppor as one of the accomplishments he is proud of when looking back at his time on the board.

"That was one of our accomplishments as a board, not just mine," Oppor added.

Even though Oppor said he didn't enjoy the traveling aspect of it, he did enjoy attending meetings throughout the country.

"We'd get to visit with other board members and bring that information back to our board," he said. "I thought that was pretty interesting."

Oppor said he made a lot of friends during his time as a director, but part of his decision to not seek re-election was an effort to get "new blood" on the board. He added that more people should try being on the board.

"New ideas don't hurt," he said.

Spending more time with his family is one of the things Oppor said he is looking forward to in retirement.

COLLEGE, TECHNICAL, AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Once again, scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school bound students through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Operation Round Up program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Round Up. Applications are available from your high school guidance counselor, online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab), by contacting Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.

Since the CWEC scholarship program began in 2005 CWEC has provided



more than \$250,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of our members is another.

The deadline for returning completed applications is Thursday, April 1, 2021. Please mail your completed scholarship application to the address below, or drop it off in person at the CWEC office located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt.

CWEC

Attn: Scholarship Program

PO Box 100

Rosholt, WI 54473

Scholarship winners must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and fulltime student equivalent during their

first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school. Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient will need to provide CWEC with a copy of their grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester.





CWEC 83rd ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 27

**MEETING
WILL BE HELD
VIRTUALLY**

BUSINESS MEETING: 6 P.M.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will be hosting a virtual annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 6 p.m.

CWEC had hoped it would be able to return to its traditional in-person annual meeting in 2021, but due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the CWEC Board of Directors has chosen to hold a virtual annual meeting. The decision was made for the safety of CWEC members and employees.

This year's virtual annual meeting will be held in a similar fashion as the virtual annual meeting that was held in 2020. The virtual annual meeting will be open to CWEC members only.

Two director positions on the CWEC board are up for election. Both incumbents for those positions, District 1 Anthony Buss, Jr. and District 2 Leonard Oppor, have decided to not run for re-election. Prior to the annual meeting, members in the districts that Buss and Oppor represent will receive a director election mailing from CWEC with instruction on how to cast their vote.

All CWEC members will receive information through the mail about the virtual annual meeting, including how to register for the meeting and how to log in.

During the virtual annual meeting, President & CEO Mike Wade and Board Chairman Anthony Buss, Jr. will keynote the meeting's business session, which begins at 6 p.m. During the business session, members will have the opportunity to hear how their co-op is faring financially, learn details about various services offered by their member-owned power supplier, and receive updates on state and federal regulatory issues of importance to electric co-ops. The results of the election of two board positions will also be announced.


A bill credit will be given to all members who attend virtually. In addition, additional bill credits will be given away as door prizes. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present throughout the entire meeting.

As information about the virtual annual meeting becomes available, it will be posted on the CWEC Facebook page, as well as its website at www.cwecoop.com.

For more information call 715-677-2211.




**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,
Rosholt, WI 54473
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www.cwecoop.com

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and Facebook

Mike Wade, President & CEO
Bert Lehman, Editor

Board of Directors

District 1

Anthony Buss, Jr.
Chairman
715-701-1358

Tom Smith
Vice-Chairman
715-701-2051

District 2

Lee Lehrer
920-851-4545
715-677-3850

Leonard Oppor
715-701-2042

Michael Schultz
715-370-1378

District 3

Elaine Eckendorf
Secretary-Treasurer
715-701-2052

Sue Rombalski
715-701-2053

Our Mission

**We are your trusted energy
partner and provider of valued
community support.**