



Anthony Buss, Jr.,  
Board Chairman

## 2019: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you to all of our consumer-members for your support of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative in 2019. It is an honor

and privilege to serve you and to support the communities of central Wisconsin. Although 2019 had its challenges, the year was marked with many successes.

In July of 2019, we experienced a once in a lifetime storm that wreaked havoc across Wisconsin. The resulting high winds and torrential rain caused destruction on a scale many have never seen. Our service area was particularly hard hit as the trees and limbs fell across our overhead power lines, knocking poles and wires down. After the roadways were cleared and damage assessed, linemen and contractors were dispatched to the hardest hit areas to begin the restoration effort. A call was placed to our fellow electric cooperatives and help came from all parts of the state. The restoral process was lengthy, but the crews worked safely and power was restored to all of our system. The patience of our members was evident and we are forever grateful for the kind words you gave to our field personnel and office staff.

Our new Chevy Bolt electric vehicle and outdoor charging station debuted at the Member Appreciation Breakfast in

October. Many members took advantage of the opportunity to view the car and learn more about it. We are developing a program to allow our members to test drive the electric vehicle. Details of the program will be released at a future date.

In keeping with our cooperative principals, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$325,000. Capital credits represent each member's equity in the cooperative. They are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their purchases from the cooperative in previous years. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

In 2019, cooperatives in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa partnered to extend power to a remote village in Guatemala. Our own Operations Crew Leader, Mackenzie Yarbrough, went with 11 other linemen to Tierra Blanca Chixoy and worked for three weeks to energize a village that was receiving power for the first time. Mack will be at our annual meeting in April to talk about his trip and the impact it has made on his life.

The board and management worked together in 2019 to develop a strategic plan that will help position our cooperative to meet the challenges of the future. As a result of the work that was done, a



new mission statement was developed that reflects who we are and the values we share. The new mission statement, "We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support," represents our commitment to being the preferred energy provider to our members and the value we place on supporting our communities.

The construction of the West Riverside Energy Center in Rock County, Wisconsin, will be completed soon. As you will remember, the cooperative owns 5 MW of an Alliant Energy 700 MW combined cycled natural gas power plant. This partnership will help us lower power costs for our members for many years. We look forward to the plant becoming operational in 2020.

Throughout 2019, the cooperative focused on providing safe and reliable electric energy to our members and supporting our local communities. We look forward to the challenges of 2020 and continuing to meet the electric needs of our consumer-members.

