



Anthony Buss, Jr.,  
Board Chairman

# 2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

**T**his year, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will hold its 83rd annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27.

As we did in 2020, we will hold this meeting electronically so that you can attend from the safety of your home. It is our hope that we will be able to meet in person at our annual meeting next year.

2020 has been a year that we will never forget. The pandemic has impacted our lives in many ways and we yearn for life to return to normal. Unfortunately, we have yet to discover what the new normal will look like, but we are seeing promising signs that recovery is in sight. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, your cooperative adjusted to the changes and worked to complete the goals set by the board of directors.

- Our lobby was closed in the initial stages of the pandemic and many of our employees began working from home. Field crews limited their access to the office and social distancing became the norm.
- The board of directors cancelled in-person meetings and held their board meetings through teleconference.
- Our 2020 annual meeting was cancelled in April and we ultimately held a virtual annual meeting in August.

- We instituted a COVID-19 protocol that allowed our employees back in the office, but limited their access to one another so that employees could work safely.

Although the pandemic altered our normal routine, we are extremely proud of the accomplishments and milestones we reached.

The construction of the West Riverside Energy Center in Rock County, Wisconsin, was completed and we began receiving a capacity credit in proportion to our ownership level. The cooperative owns 5.5 MW (megawatts) of the Alliant Energy natural gas power plant and we have begun passing on savings to our consumer-members on each monthly electric bill. Our ownership stake of West Riverside will allow us to help control our wholesale power costs into the future.

In keeping with our cooperative principles, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$415,838. Capital credits represents 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. In addition to our normal annual retirement, the board approved returning capital credits to the heirs of deceased members. As the cooperative is financially able, it



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

I am pleased to report that we experienced zero lost-time accidents in 2020 and we have driven over 1 million miles without a vehicle accident. This milestone does not happen by chance and is evidence of the importance our employees place on safety. I thank our employees for doing their jobs safely and responsibly for the benefit of our consumer-members.

At our director election in August 2020, we welcomed Mike Schultz as a new addition to our board of directors. Mike previously served on our nominations committee and is getting up to speed on his new duties and responsibilities. In 2021, we will be electing new members to the board to replace myself and Leonard Oppor due to our retirement. I wish each of the new directors my best and I know they will do a great job on behalf of our membership.

Although the pandemic did not make our job an easy one, the cooperative focused on providing safe and reliable electric energy to our members and supporting our local communities. Our goal in 2021 is to continue to focus on the needs of our members and the communities in which they live. And I look forward to seeing you at our 83rd annual meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 6 p.m.