




**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## TWO BOARD VACANCIES WILL NEED TO BE FILLED IN 2021

**B**est wishes to all of our members in the new year! It is my hope that you and your family have a healthy, happy, and prosperous year. 2020 will long be remembered as the year of the coronavirus pandemic. A year of wearing masks and social distancing and not being able to do the things we truly enjoy. But it is also the year we were reminded how adaptable and strong we are and how important our friends and family are to us. As your cooperative, we look forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to you in the new year.

The director election for our board of directors will be coming up in a few months. We have two director positions vacant this year and qualified members interested in these open positions should contact a member of the Nominations Committee. You will see more information concerning our election process in

this edition of the magazine. If you have questions regarding director qualifications, please contact our office.

This winter, you may see our line crews on the road as they inspect our overhead lines for damage or potential problems. This is part of our annual hazard recognition program to ensure that our distribution lines are in good working order. If you see our crews on the roadway, please slow down and keep a safe distance while passing them. They are working to keep our electric distribution system safe and reliable.

As we move into the most dangerous part of winter, I ask each of you to make the necessary preparations to stay safe. Listen for emergency weather information and alerts and prepare your home for the possibility of blizzard conditions. Gather up the necessary supplies in case of a prolonged outage. Extra batteries, blankets, bottled water, and nonperishable food are essential emergency supplies. And keep an emergency supply kit

in your car in case you become stranded on the road. Having jumper cables, sand or kitty litter, a flashlight, blankets, bottled water, and snacks in your car during the winter is a smart way to travel.

Although 2020 is behind us, the cooperative appreciates the privilege of serving you, our members. We will continue to focus our efforts on the needs of our membership and we hope that each of you stays healthy and safe. We look forward to serving you. Happy New Year!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy bills can increase during winter for a variety of reasons, like houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs, and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.



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 October 29, 2020 at 8:01 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 24, 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 Governance Committee discussed adding language to Board Policy 202 – Director Fees and Expenses for participation in virtual annual meetings. Proposed changes will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- The board approved the Resolution for the Forfeiture of Unclaimed Capital Credits in the amount of \$5,958.83 from 2016 and 2017.
- Krista Donahue of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP reviewed the 2019 IRS Form 990 via teleconference call with the board.
- The Board approved holding the 2021 CWEC Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 in-person at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School pending the status of COVID-19. If the cooperative is unable to hold an in-person meeting, the meeting will be held virtually.
- The board approved the Nominations Committee Meeting on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at 9 a.m. The board also approved the following members to fill the vacancies on the committee: Kathy Prahl – Sub District 1(b), Ryan Opperman – Sub District 2(a), and

Jeff Javorek – Sub District 3(c).

- The board approved modifying our Energy Conservation Rewards rebate for solar electric systems and wind systems from a maximum of \$1,500 to a maximum of \$500.
- The board approved eliminating the option to purchase a pole for an outdoor light in our Outdoor Lighting Service Schedule (SL) and only offer the monthly rental option.
- The board approved having CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP perform the financial audit of CWEC for the fiscal year 2020.
- The board approved Mr. Wade, CEO, as the voting delegate for CWEC at the 2020 WECA Annual Meeting / Federated Youth Foundation in November.
- The board approved a Revolving Loan Fund request for the Rosholt Blizzard Busters.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported the work plan project on County J has been completed. Chapman completed meter inspections on 225 meters this year off the Almon and Tigerton substations. YTD outages are lower this year than last year. The demolition of the Tigerton Tower is very close to being completed.

Accounting and Finance – Ms. Shower, VP of accounting and finance, reported on her submitted report.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the Toys-For-Tots collection boxes are being delivered this week to the collection sites. Set-up for the Annual Member Appreciation Breakfast will begin today.

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

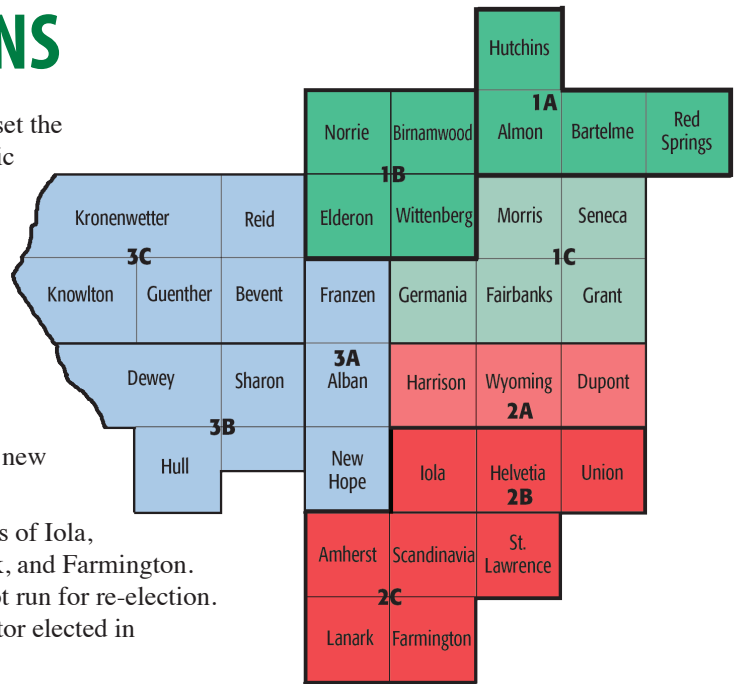
Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

# 2021 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts up for election this year. Terms for District 1 and District 2 are three-year terms. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Saturday, January 16.

**District 1** – Consists of sub districts 1A & 1B – Townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, Red Springs, Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, and Wittenberg. The current director is Anthony Buss, Jr., who has decided to not run for re-election. With Buss not seeking re-election, there will be a new director elected in District 1 in 2021.

**District 2** – Consists of sub districts 2B & 2C – Townships of Iola, Helvetia, Union, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. The current director is Leonard Oppor, who has decided to not run for re-election. With Oppor not seeking re-election, there will be a new director elected in District 2 in 2021.



## Qualifications to Serve on the Board of Directors

*(As they appear in Article IV, Section 5 of the cooperative's bylaws)*

To become and remain a Director, a person must comply with the following qualifications:

- A. be an individual who is a member served by the Cooperative at his or her residence, who is a bona fide domiciliary of the district which the individual is to represent, and who has been a bona fide domiciliary of that district for at least the one year immediately before his or her nomination;
- B. have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
- C. while a Director and during the one year immediately before becoming a Director, not be, be employed by, control, own more than ten percent of, serve as a director or officer of, or receive more than ten percent of annual gross income from
  - a. an individual or entity that competes with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate,
  - b. an individual or entity that provides a good or service similar to a good or service provided by the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, within the same geographic area as the Cooperative, Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate, or
  - c. an individual or entity that directly or indirectly advances the individual or entity's pecuniary interest by engaging in business dealings with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, if such interest or relationship would likely impair the individual's ability to serve the best interest of the Cooperative. Nothing in this provision shall be construed
- D. while a Director and during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate;
- E. while a Director, not be a relative of a Director or Employee of the Cooperative or of a Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate except as may be reasonably authorized by the Board as set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board;
- F. not have been previously removed as a Director by the Board or the members in accordance with these Bylaws, or shall not have resigned as a Director while a proceeding to remove him or her was pending;
- G. while a Director not be, and at any time during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not have been a party in any stage of mediation, arbitration, lawsuit, or other legal action against or by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;
- H. while a Director and during the five years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or first degree misdemeanor;
- I. except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least two-thirds of all Board Meetings during each year of the Director's term of office; and
- J. any other reasonable qualifications set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board.

## 2021 Nominations Committee

Elton Strassburg,  
District 1A  
W14986 Couty Road D  
Bowler, WI 54416  
715-793-4425

Ryan Opperman,  
District 2A  
E3453 County Road C  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-570-9369

Renee Groshek,  
District 3A  
1744 Sunset Lake Road  
Amherst Jct., WI 54407  
715-677-3064

Kathy Prael,  
District 1B  
2141 Willow Drive  
Eland, WI 54427  
715-454-6531

Dale Bestul,  
District 2B  
P. O. Box 94  
Iola, WI 54945  
715-445-2576

Anthony Danczyk,  
District 3B  
3594 Sunset Drive North  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-344-7154

Gerald Erdmann,  
District 1C  
W15416 Fairmorr Road  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-851-5184

Bryan Fuhs,  
District 2C  
E595 Nottleson Road  
Scandinavia, WI 54977  
715-467-3262

Jeff Javorek,  
District 3C  
206649 County Road X  
Mosinee, WI 54455  
715-693-1801

## DIRECTOR NOMINATION BY MEMBER PETITION

Members may nominate director candidates by a nominating petition. Nominating petitions must be obtained from the Co-operative, and returned to the secretary-treasurer at least fifty (50) days prior to the day of the annual meeting.

A nominating petition must contain the signatures from a minimum of 20 members, along with their address and the date signed. No member may sign more than one nominating petition for a particular director position.

To nominate a candidate for a director of a district, only members residing within such district may sign a petition. Members from any district may sign a petition to nominate a candidate for the at-large director.

For more information contact Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 715-677-2211.

## CHARNECKE TENTS CELEBRATES THE PAST, AND KEEPS AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

If you're looking for a tent to rent for an event you are planning, Charnecke Tents probably has what you are looking for.

Charnecke Tents has a long family history behind it. The company was start-



ed in a small town in Wisconsin in 1929 when Ed Charnecke furnished a large canvas tent he had purchased to a couple to help them celebrate their wedding. He continued to rent tents to couples getting married, and a business was born.

"He also played the Concertina in a band and made moonshine, so he would provide all three for weddings," said Jenny Cole, Ed Charnecke's granddaughter.

In the 1970s, Ed Charnecke's son, Ken Charnecke Sr., joined the rental business, and the company expanded its rental service into the Milwaukee area renting tents for church festivals. Since then, the company has expanded its tent rental service throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Not satisfied with just renting out tents, Charnecke Tents began manufacturing its own tents in the 1980s. The company currently sells tents to rental

companies across the country, as well as internationally. In the early 2000s, the company began manufacturing machines to wash the large tents for gatherings.

"From there we expanded and began CCC Washers Inc., a manufacturer of Tent Washing Machines and accessories," Cole said.

During that entire time, the business has stayed in the family and is currently being transitioned to Cole and her brother Ken Charnecke, who will co-own the business.

"It is very satisfying to have the company remain in the family and we hope it will continue that way for years to come," Cole said.

With many events cancelled in 2020

due to COVID-19, it has been a challenging year for Charnecke Tents.

"We had to look at other avenues for our business," Cole said. "Different types of rentals and marketing our company in a way to let our customers know we are still here for them and will help them in whatever way they need."

Charnecke Tents recently upgraded its lighting fixtures to energy efficient LED. To help with that project, Charnecke Tents applied for and received an energy conservation reward from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Even though 2020 has been a challenging year, Cole said the company still has its eyes on the future.

"Expanding our frame tent selection, including getting our tents engineered for snow loads since in these times, businesses need to expand their inside spaces, so tents can be a great option," Cole said.

## REBATE REMINDER

Have your projects around the house included any energy-saving home-improvement measures? Perhaps you've updated your appliances to new, energy efficient models or insulated your home.

If so, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate.

Don't delay—receipts must be submitted in the year the items were purchased to qualify.





In the battle against power outages, Vegetation Management is the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's most effective weapon.

**What is a Vegetation Management Program?** Our Vegetation Management Program is the process we use to clear trees and vegetation using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers to keep our rights-of-way clear. In addition, when appropriate, selective herbicide application is used.

**What are Rights-of-Way?** A right-of-way is a corridor or pathway of land that CWEC's electric lines follow. These rights-of-way provide CWEC an operational safety zone between the wires and trees, buildings, or other objects. When they are kept clear they also provide safe access for line crews to maintain, repair, or improve the lines and poles. CWEC uses a Vegetation Management Program to keep the rights-of-way clear of undesirable vegetation.

**Why Do We Clear Rights-of-Way?** To maintain reliability and shorten the length of

outages, and to provide for public safety and the safety of the workers who need to work on the utility lines.

**Who Does the Clearing?** The tree contractors who work to accomplish the goals of CWEC's Vegetation Management Program are qualified and insured to do this work. In 2021, CWEC will enter its third year of contracting with Zielies, which is located in Bruce, Wisconsin. We are also currently on a scheduled six-year substation/circuit vegetation management program.

**What is the Hazard Tree Program?** CWEC has a Hazard Tree Program that identifies trees outside of the 30-foot right-of-way (15 feet on either side of the line) and removes them if they are deemed a threat to fall on power lines.

**Where is Vegetation Management Happening in My Area?** 2021 CWEC Vegetation Management operations are happening on circuits in the following townships – Groenier F1 (Bevent, Franzen & Elderon), Groenier F4 (Dewey, Sharon & Stockton), Wittenberg F2 (Wittenberg & Morris), and Wittenberg F3 (Elderon, Wittenberg & Birnamwood). Also, Herbicide Treatment sites for 2021 will include – Iola F2 (Helvetia & Union), Iola F3 (Iola & Scandinavia), Iola F4 (New Hope & Iola), and Iola F5 (Iola & Harrison).

**What Is an Integrated Vegetation Management Program?** Two years after cutting and trimming, a contractor will survey for possible selective herbicide application. Not all areas that are cut are appropriate for herbicide application. CWEC uses herbicides to control the amount of brush that sprouts from hardwood species that were cut. Once a single stem has been cut, it may sprout into as many as 15 new stems that grow rapidly. The selective herbicide application targets only these species.



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**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.

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: WE NEED YOUR GRADES

Congratulations for concluding your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for second semester to receive your scholarship money.

Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average, been a full-time student, and completed 12 or more earned credits during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. You can mail or email your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:

CWEC, Attn: Scholarship Program, PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473  
Email: [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com)