


AS THE END OF THE YEAR NEARS, PLENTY IS TAKING PLACE AT YOUR CO-OP



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

Our 2021 cooperative calendar is ready and was handed out to members who attended our Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Breakfast. If you weren't able to attend, please stop by our office to pick one up. As always, it was a tough choice to select the best photos to represent each month. We are fortunate to have so many members willing to photograph the amazing scenery Wisconsin has to offer. Thank you for submitting your photos and helping us create a beautiful calendar for all of our members to enjoy.

In keeping with our cooperative principles, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$350,000. Capital credits represent each member's equity in the cooperative. They are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their energy purchases from the

cooperative in previous years. This year, the board changed the method of retiring capital credits by applying 70% of the retirement to the oldest year and 30% of the retirement to more recent years. This will help us keep a fair retirement rotation by allowing us to clear older years off the books. If your capital credits were part of the retirement, you will have noticed a credit on your electric bill or have received a check in the mail. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

We thank the members of the board of directors for their willingness to serve their fellow members. Each director is democratically elected by the membership and they work together as a board to establish policy and provide guidance and oversight to the president/CEO. We have a very engaged board of directors that is willing to take on the challenges we face as we provide electric energy to our members and support our commu-

nities. Thank you to each board member for a job well done.

Our Toys for Tots campaign for Christmas has begun. Go to our website to find a list of donation drop locations in your community. These toys will find their way into the hands of deserving children in our area. Your generous donations have put smiles on the faces of thousands of children in our communities since the program began. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you and be safe and stay healthy as you enjoy this holiday season.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

—Source: www.energy.gov



MY CO-OP

BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

A special board meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held outside the Community Center in Galloway at 1:51 p.m. on August 4, 2020. The board moved to Executive Session at 1:52 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

* * *

A special board meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held both in-person and via teleconference on August 7, 2020 at 7:59 a.m.

Action Item

- The board approved meeting rules regarding holding the Annual Meeting in a virtual format versus an in-person format.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

* * *

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held both in-person and via teleconference on August 27, 2020 at 7:54 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the July 30, 2020 meeting, minutes of the August special meetings, 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.
- Officer elections were held with Attorney Bruce Meagher assisting. Anthony Buss, Jr was elected as chairman, Tom W. Smith as vice chairman, and Elaine Eckendorf as the secretary-treasurer.

- The Governance Committee approved the proposed changes to section 2.5.8 Distributed Generation of the Service Rules and Regulations.
- Matt Waldron from American Transmission Company (ATC) and his staff gave a presentation to the board on their Transmission System Reliability Performance, Vegetation Management Plan and Maintenance Plan via teleconference.
- The board discussed the Virtual Annual Meeting which was held on Thursday, August 13, 2020.
- The board approved holding the annual Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 31, 2020 as a drive-thru style rather than in-person for the safety of our members and staff.
- Mr. Wade and Ms. Shower gave a presentation to the board on options for retiring capital credits using a combination of FIFO (First In-First Out) and a percentage methodology.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil discussed the progress of American Transmission Company (ATC) performing right-of-way maintenance to the Groenier substation. ATC will also change out chipped insulators. During this time, the Rosholt and Groenier substations will be back fed from other substations. Work will begin on extended three-phase service to Rivers Edge Campground in October.

Accounting and Finance – Ms. Shower reported on her submitted report.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the photo contest has concluded and we have 40 entries which is up from last year. Work will begin on preparations for the Member Appreciation Breakfast. The WECA/Kwik Trip Dairy Promotion gave away 14,000 gallons of milk among 15 co-ops participating.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.



UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC CABLE INSTALLED ALONG COUNTY ROAD J

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) recently completed a project that replaced six miles of older and undersized overhead wire along County Road J near Tigerton with three-phase underground cable.

The completion of the project, which started in the summer of 2019, will allow CWEC to back feed the Iola and Tigerton substations in the event the transmission line loses power or equipment failures. Being able to back feed the substations allows power to be transmitted from a different substation to cover an outage area.

Burying three-phase cable should lessen the number of power outages in the area due to storm damage, but members should be aware that it will not eliminate power outages. The Tigerton substation still has a short portion of overhead conductor feeding the project's underground cable, so the conductor can still be a source for damage.

Those traveling along County Road J will notice more "green boxes" along the side of the road. These boxes are termination points. It is typical to see one of the green boxes at a minimum of every quarter mile to allow for future taps and new connections. They also allow for additional system grounding points.



CWEC is constantly reviewing its system grid in an effort to continually supply reliable power to residences and businesses. Each year, outdated underground cable and overhead conductor are replaced. The Country Road J project was part of that effort.

CWEC is currently replacing "old" undersized overhead conductor along Witt-Birn Townline Road and School House Road with a large three-phase underground cable to improve the back feed between the Almon and Wittenberg substations. This project should be completed by fall of 2022.

CO-OP RETIRES \$350,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS

One of the benefits of being a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is that members are eligible to receive capital credits, which represents your ownership in CWEC.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, CWEC, which is a not-for-profit electric cooperative, provides our members with "at cost" electric service. We do not exist to earn a profit.



When each year's finances are audited and closed out, the remaining profit or margins are allocated to the members based on the amount each member paid for electricity during the year in the form of capital credits.

These capital credits are used by the co-op to help build and maintain the CWEC electric system. When the co-op's finances permit, the board of directors approves a portion of the allocated capital credits to be retired, and paid back to you – the members.

This year, the board of directors approved the retirement of \$350,000 in capital credits. That amount will be divided as follows: 70% of the \$350,000 will be for members with capital credits from 1993 and prior years; 30% will be distributed to members with capital credits from 1994 through 2014. All members who have been on CWEC electric lines for six years or longer will receive retired capital credits.

Active members whose retired capital credits are less than \$100 will notice a credit on their November electric bill. Checks were mailed in October to active

Allocation vs. Retirement

An **allocation** is made annually for each member, based upon the amount of electricity you purchased the previous year. An allocation is your share of the amount of net margins CWEC sets aside into a separate account to be used as operating capital for reliability improvements and maintenance over a period of years. You typically receive notice of the amount allocated to your capital credit account on your April electric bill.

A **retirement** is the amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount retired is decided annually by the board of directors.

members whose retired capital credits amounted to more than \$100. Checks were also mailed to all offline members who received retired capital credits.

CWEC has returned more than \$5.2 million to its member-owners.

For more information about capital credits, or to resolve a capital credit account issue, please call our office at 715-677-2211, or send an email to cwec@cwecoop.com.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business will resume on Monday, November 30.

From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.



AREA KIDS NEED OUR HELP!

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than us, especially children. In our effort to accomplish the above, we are happy to once again partner with the U.S Marine Corps to help make area children's Christmas a little brighter through the Toys for Tots program. We know that this year will be challenging to collect toys for area children.

Last year we were able to provide toys to more than 1,000 area children. All indications are that the amount will increase this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you can image, it is a pretty daunting task to collect enough toys for that many children. This is where CWEC members can help. Help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys we collect are distributed locally.

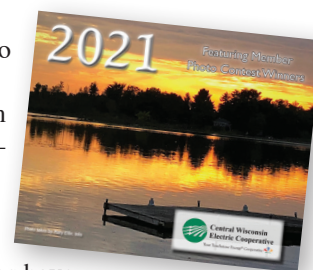
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative kicked off the annual Toys for Tots Drive at its Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 31.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see the list below. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, make a check to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op, PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. If you would like to make a donation online, go to <http://iola-wi.toysfortots.org>.

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas.

CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS REVEALED!

The 2020 Member Photo Contest capturing "Life in Rural Wisconsin" is now complete, and the 22 winning photos have been revealed! The selected photos will be featured in the 2021 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Calendar, which was first available at our Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Breakfast.



With more than 50 entries this year, the voting committee had their work cut out for them. CWEC graciously thanks all of the members who participated. Information for the 2021 contest will be available in February 2021. You can view all the winning photos at www.cwecoop.com.

Submitted photos that were chosen include:

- Mary Ellie, Iola – cover
- Jeanne Opperman, Northland – January
- Donn Lord, Tigerton – February
- Roxanne Mesyk, Waupaca – March
- Lily Mesyk, Waupaca – April
- Annette Schreiber, Bowler – May
- Julie Prey, Tigerton – June
- Sue Hintz, Tigerton – July
- Nikki Kulas, Iola – August
- Scott R. Maichle, Birnamwood – September
- Catelin Fischer, Ogdensburg – October
- Scott R. Maichle, Birnamwood – November
- Karley Poppe, Tigerton – December
- Tanya Tautges, Wittenberg – January 2022

HONORABLE MENTION

- Annette Schreiber, Bowler
- Karley Poppe, Tigerton
- Mary Ellie, Iola
- Linda Wierzba, Wittenberg
- Phyllis Delikowski, Wittenberg
- Roxanne Mesyk, Waupaca
- Steve Hanke, Wittenberg
- Tyler Tautges, Wittenberg

BIRNAMWOOD	IOLA	MANAWA	Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4541	10am-4pm toy drop-off 301 N Main Street Waupaca, WI 54981 715-942-2660
Banner Bank 416 Main St. Birnamwood, WI 54414 715-449-2556	Bank First 148 N. Main Iola, WI 54945 715-445-3211	Manawa Elementary School 800 Beech St. Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2524	Rosholt Elementary School 346 Randolph St W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4543	Cricket Wireless Waupaca 1020 W Fulton Street, Ste B Waupaca, WI 54981 715-942-9833
Dollar General 472 US-45 Birnamwood, WI 54414 715-449-6705	Premier Community Bank 505 E State Drive Iola, WI 54945 715-445-4700	Little Wolf High School 515 E 4th Street Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2525	SCANDINAVIA	Mills Fleet Farm 2016 Farm Drive Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-3851
BOWLER	Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School 450 E Division St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411	MARION	Silver Lake Lanes N6311 State Road 49 Scandinavia, WI 54977 715-467-2700	RE/MAX Lyons Real Estate 206 W Fulton St Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-9565
Bowler Schools 500 S. Almon St. Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-4101	Iola-Scandinavia High School 540 S Jackson St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2211	Dollar General 213 Industrial Drive Marion, WI 54950 715-793-0110	TIGERTON	Associated Bank 501 S. Webb St. Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2127
1st National Bank 102 E. Railroad Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-5200	Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness & Aquatic Center 445 S Jackson St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411	ROSHOLT	1st National Bank 140 Cedar St. Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2291	Banner Bank 202 S. Westgor Ave. Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2999
CLINTONVILLE	Iola-Village Library 180 S Main Iola, WI 54945 715-445-4330	Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative 10401 Lystul Rd Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-2211	Tigerton Community Center 221 Birch Street Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2262	Dollar General 309 N Genesse Street Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-449-6740
Mills Fleet Farm 500 S Main Street Clintonville, WI 54929 715-823-6571	ELDERON	Community First Bank 275 W. Grand Ave. Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4523	Tigerton BP 140 Cedar St. Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-3010	
Community First Bank 311 State Hwy 49 Elderon, WI 54429 715-454-6264		Dollar General 436 W Grand Avenue W. Rosholt, WI 54473 414-239-9449	WAUPACA	
		Rosholt Middle School/High School 346 Randolph St W	Danes Hall of Waupaca Drive-Thru ONLY – Sat., Dec 5	

MY CO-OP



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

You, as the members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, elect the directors that comprise the seven-person CWEC Board of Directors. Two directors are elected from each of the three districts that comprise the CWEC service area. The final director is a director-at-large who is elected by all CWEC members.

But what exactly are the duties and responsibilities of elected directors?

We posed that question to several of the directors on the CWEC Board of Directors. CWEC Board Chairman Anthony Buss Jr. said each director shares the same three duties—loyalty, obedience, and due care.

CWEC Secretary-Treasurer Elaine Eckendorf expanded on that.

“Loyalty to the cooperative, obedience to laws and safety requirements, and due care in serving the best interests of the cooperative,” Eckendorf said.

Those three duties help provide guidance for board members in setting strategic goals and the vision for the co-op, Buss Jr. said.

Vice-Chairman Tom Smith said each director is also responsible for decision-making and oversight.

“In doing these two functions, the board is responsible for hiring the chief operating officer, writing and reviewing policies, strategic planning, reviewing reports from our vice-presidents and member relations manager on a monthly basis, and reporting the condition of the cooperative to our members,” Smith said. “Other responsibilities including working with management to set the cooperative’s mission statement, approval of budgets, and decide how to distribute capital credits.”

Once the mission statement, bylaws, and policies are adopted by the board, Director Sue Rombalski said the board follows them to ensure CWEC “runs smoothly.”

One of the biggest responsibilities that the board has is managing the finances of the co-op, Director Lee Lehrer said.

To help the board with its financial oversight, the board hires an auditing firm each year to perform an annual audit.

Being a member of the CWEC Board of Directors involves more than just attending 12 monthly meetings. It requires a great deal of time staying up-to-date on the current happenings in the energy sector.

“Reading keeps me abreast of changes that are occurring in the electric utility sector,”

Buss Jr. said.

Smith said he spends around 15–20 hours per month reading in order to stay up-to-date.

Rombalski added that directors receive continuous information and updates from national and state organizations. They also stay connected via various magazines and other media. Reports from CWEC management are also available to review.

Eckendorf said an effective source of information is the annual Energy Issues Summit hosted by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).

“We have covered many energy topics, including strategic energy assessment, cybersecurity, electric vehicles, solar, and federal issues likely to reshape the energy landscape, and much more,” Eckendorf said.



Because the electric utility industry is complicated, and informed directors are able to make good decisions, Directors also attend a variety of seminars, conferences, and training sessions to stay up-to-date. These are held both in state and

around the country. Although, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travel to these events was limited this year.

“On average, I attend about 35 days of seminars and conferences per year,” Buss Jr. said.

Eckendorf added that CWEC board members need to earn a Credentialed Certification, a Board Leadership Certification, as well as maintain a Director Gold Certification through continuing education.

“On average, we usually attend two major events per year, plus a lot of events within our state and region,” Smith said.

He added, “Ongoing education is vitally important to help us understand the ever-changing environment in the electrical arena. Meeting and knowing other cooperative directors to share ideas are critical to serving our membership in the best ways possible. It is very rewarding when we get comments from happy members.”

Meeting with elected political officials is also part of the job of being a director.

“We lobby in Madison each year to talk with our state representatives,” Smith said. “We have a rotation basis in which we attend Washington D.C., as well as other conferences.”

Rombalski said all events attended by a CWEC Director must be approved by the Board of Directors.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Board of Directors

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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.