



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST WILL BE DRIVE-THRU EVENT

across the country bring to their members and communities. It is a time for our co-op to reflect on the principles we share with other cooperatives and the value that we provide. It is an honor and privilege to provide electric energy and community support to our members in central Wisconsin.

I want to extend a warm welcome to Mike Schultz as he begins his first term as a member of our Board of Directors. Mike has served for several years on our Nominations Committee and we appreciate his willingness to serve our organization as a board member. You will learn more about Mike in this month's *WECN* magazine. Welcome Mike.

Plan to visit us in October for our first drive-thru Member Appreciation Breakfast. Due to the pandemic, we will

have a drive-thru style breakfast which will allow you to pick up a breakfast to go. We will miss not being able to sit down and visit with you this year, but the safety and health of our membership is of utmost importance. The Board of Directors and employees of CWEC want to extend our thanks and appreciation for allowing us to provide electric service to you and to be an integral part of the communities in which we serve. The pancake and sausage breakfast will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 beginning at 8 a.m.

We are proud of our employees and the commitment they have for the communities in which they live. This month, we highlight Chris Tuszke and the role he plays in teaching students about hunter safety. We hope you enjoy this month's article about Chris and his dedication to our membership, both on and off the job. Thanks Chris.

October is also the month that the Board of Directors retires or returns to



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

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you a portion of your capital credits. Capital credits are the revenues that remain at the end of the year once all expenses are paid. These revenues or margins are then assigned to members based on the amount of energy consumed during the year. Annually, the board retires a portion of these capital credits and members will see a credit on their electric bill. Just another way that cooperatives add value back to their members. See you at the Member Appreciation Breakfast!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

—Source: www.energystar.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 July 30, 2020 at 8:04 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report 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 approved the Deferred Payment Agreement language with proposed changes as discussed. Distributed Generation will be reviewed at next month's meeting.
- The board approved the Resolution for the USDA REDLG loan for the Iola Car Show. The application for the loan was approved at the June board meeting.
- The board voted to approve the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) bylaw changes presented to allow holding the CFC regional meetings virtually this fall.
- Ms. Shower gave a presentation to the board on the cost structure for monthly invoices by the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC).
- Mr. Wade presented an outline of the orientation that will be given to the new director that will be elected at the August Annual Meeting.

- The board approved the CEO, Mike Wade to serve as the voting delegate for the 2020 Badger Power Cooperative upcoming annual meeting which will be held by teleconference with other participating co-op CEO's.
- The board approved and presented Director Onesti with a Resolution of Appreciation as he steps down from his role on the board after nine (9) years of service as a Director.
- The board approved the purchase of a bucket truck to replace unit #126. Truck will be built in 2020 and delivered in 2021.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported that a representative from ATC will be at the August meeting to discuss the recent power outages. The Bass Lake project has been completed. The Village of Tigerton street lights project has been completed. The RESAP inspection has been put on hold due to COVID-19.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower indicated she will be setting up equity management training with CFC representative Sarah Bullock for all directors in September.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported on the Operation Round Up Trust Board meeting held on July 16, 2020. Two board members reached their term limits and were recognized for their service. Replacements were named and will join the board at the October 2020 meeting. Ms. Mazemke discussed the distributed generation project she is working on and indicated it will be completed once the policy is approved by the board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.



Michael Schultz

MEET CWEC'S NEWEST BOARD DIRECTOR

When Michael Schultz was announced as the winner of the Director at Large election during Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) annual meeting Aug. 13, he said he was a little surprised by the outcome, but very happy.

Even though Schultz has lived in the town of Harrison since 2010, he said he wasn't sure he had a long enough standing in the area to win the election.

Schultz grew up in the Plymouth area, graduating from Plymouth High School and then attended Lakeshore Technical College. After receiving an engineering degree, he spent most of his working life as an engineer in the wood-working industry.

He and his wife are empty nesters, as their four children are grown.

Schultz said he doesn't like the term "semi-retired" because he is still involved in many area organizations, including serving as a first responder, as well as a crew member for Iola Ambulance Service. He is also a member of the Harrison Town Board, and the zoning administrator for the town of Harrison.

"My wife and I want to spend our empty-nester years giving back to the community and trying to get involved in those kinds of things," Schultz said.

That was one of the reasons Schultz decided to pursue becoming a board director at CWEC. The other reason was his engineering background.

Prior to being elected to the CWEC Board of Directors, Schultz had served on the co-op's Nominations Committee for two years.

Only a couple weeks after being elected to the Board of Directors, Schultz participated in his first Board of Directors meeting. He said the meeting went well,

and he was happy with how it went.

"Everybody made me feel very welcome," Schultz said. "There is a lot of stuff to learn, so I have a lot of things to learn, but that's good."

There is no shortage of materials to read, Schultz said.

"I've been reading and trying to go back a little bit to get some context on what people are talking about," he said. "And I'm asking questions. Everyone is more than willing to answer my questions."

Through his director position with CWEC, Schultz said he is looking forward to getting more involved in the community, and learn about utilities and distribution.

"I'm looking forward to this, looking forward to learning and meeting new people," Schultz said.

In his spare time, Schultz enjoys woodworking, hunting, and fishing.

Welcome to the board, Michael.

SIMPLE STEPS TO LOWER HEATING COSTS WHILE KEEPING YOU WARM

According to EnergySavers.gov, heating and cooling account for about 56 percent of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most homes. There are some simple steps, such as sealing air leaks to keep cold air out, that can help you save on your energy use and energy bills.

With colder weather approaching, now is the perfect time to become familiar with these tips for saving on heating costs:

- Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
- Weather stripping is relatively easy and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows.
- If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- Open curtains to the sun to help warm a room with radiant energy. Close them at night and on gloomy days to keep heat in.
- Lower the temperature setting when you leave the home and at night when you go to sleep. A programmable

thermostat can automatically make these adjustments for you.

- Replace your furnace filter monthly to save energy and improve heat circulation.
- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and if it is an older unit, install an inexpensive insulating blanket to prevent heat loss.
- If you have a fireplace, be sure to close the damper when it is not in use. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.

REBATES AVAILABLE

Did you know your cooperative offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades? If not, we're pleased to inform you we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades including Energy Star appliance purchases, insulation, new windows, heat pumps, alternative water heaters, LED lighting and much more.

For a detailed listing please visit www.cwecoop.com or give us a call.



THE TRADITION CONTINUES!



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

DRIVE-THRU MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 31, 2020

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Main Office in Rosholt, 10401 Lystul Road

To show appreciation to our members, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Breakfast. Members will be able to receive a pancake breakfast without having to get out of their vehicle. The breakfast will be TAKE & GO.

DOOR PRIZES:
10 – \$25 bill credits
1 – Electric grill



Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to our toy drive and we'll enter you in a special prize drawing.



Paper recycling available.



Bring canned food items to be donated to local food pantries and receive 1 LED light bulb for every 3 food items. (Up to 15 limit)



Halloween treat bag for kids.



TEACHING SAFETY ALONG WITH THE LOVE OF HUNTING

For the past six years, Chris Tuszke, a lineman at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), has been helping teach hunter safety courses at Iola Conservation Club in central Wisconsin.

The Iola Conservation Club hosts hunter safety courses two times each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Topics covered include all aspects of gun handling, how to properly load and unload guns, and gun identification. How to properly carry and walk with a gun, as well as how to properly climb a tree is also covered in the safety course.

Tuszke said he originally got involved in the hunter safety course after Lee Lehrer, a CWEC board member, asked him if he would be interested in helping teach the course.

“With my background in hunting and fishing that my dad introduced to me as a child, I thought it was a great idea to teach the kids,” Tuszke said.

He added that the hunter safety courses are open to all ages. According to Wisconsin law, all hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must complete hunter education certification in order to hunt.

“Even if you’re not interested in the hunter safety aspect of it (class), you can still participate and maybe learn and maybe get interested in the sport,” Tuszke said.

Tuszke, who has been with CWEC since 1992, uses his knowledge of climbing poles to teach hunters about the points of contact when climbing, the importance of being equipped with the proper harnesses, and knowing the safety protocols that go along with tree climbing.

“Tree climbing has been a very bad situation for the hunters in the past 10 years,” Tuszke said. “Everybody’s trying to get elevated off the ground and we’ve had numerous falls, severe falls by hunters, and we want to make corrections on that.”

Teaching future hunters proper procedures in order to avoid an accident is one of the main reasons Tuszke helps with the safety courses.

“My satisfaction comes from watching



the young individuals, the kids, pass it and be successful at it, and carry on the proper safety procedures that go along with it,” Tuszke said. “And they’ll pass that on to all the kids that they talk to.”

Tuszke has a vast amount of hunting knowledge to help him teach the safety courses. This experience includes bow and gun deer hunting, as well as pheasant, grouse, turkey, and bear hunting.

“Just about everything that the state of Wisconsin offers,” he said. “Anything that allows me to get out in the woods.”

Even though Wisconsin limits one bear tag to a hunter every 8–10 years, bear hunting is a favorite of Tuszke.

“The bear hunting I’ve done in the past and have brought new guys in who had never bear hunted before and had tremendous success,” Tuszke said. “Usually the opening weekend we fill our tags and we’ve had some great success with the bear hunting.”

Teaching hunter safety helps Tuszke share his love for hunting.

“As I talk to kids I encourage them to try different things and learn from the hunting I’ve done,” Tuszke said. “If I can share any of the stories and share the practices and successful techniques, I love to do that. And at the same time being safe getting off the ground for the tree stand part of it.”





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10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

www.cwecoop.com

Follow us on Twitter  
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

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community support.