



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

FROM HERE TO THERE

As we pause to celebrate the holiday season, it is time to reflect on our many accomplishments during the year. We have many things to be thankful for, and I am especially grateful to be associated with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. The cooperative plays a vital role in supporting our local communities and providing our members with safe and reliable electric energy. I hope you find our services beneficial and will continue to support us as we prepare ourselves for a new year.

Thanks to all of you who attended our Member Appreciation Breakfast in October. We had a large number of members attend despite the chilly morning. The directors, employees, and I enjoy talking with you and listening to your ideas on how to improve the coop-

erative. We added several new features to our breakfast this year to improve the value of the event. An arts and crafts fair with 21 vendors was added, and we allowed our members to bring personal documents to be disposed of in a secure manner. We will continue to look for ways to improve the Member Appreciation Breakfast to add the most value for our member-owners.

Also, thanks to our member committees who help the cooperative in so many ways. Our Operation Round-Up committee did a wonderful job of donating the proceeds from our Operation Round-Up program for scholarships and charitable needs in the community. The Member Advisory Group reviewed several of our programs and offered direction and advice on how to make these programs more effective. And the nominations committee sought candidates to serve on your board of directors. These committees are a vital part of our cooperative

business model, and we appreciate their commitment to carrying out their responsibilities.

I would also like to thank three of our linemen, John Bestul, Gabe Pospyhalla, and Mackenzie Yarbrough for traveling to Alger Delta Electric Cooperative in the upper peninsula of Michigan to help during a recent wind storm. Alger Delta is an electric cooperative similar in size to us, but the storm left them with 3,500 members out of power. We have experienced this type of storm and understand the effort that is required to restore service to everyone. Our linemen did a fantastic job of providing much-needed assistance, and we are proud of their commitment to assist a fellow cooperative.

From all of us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we are proud to be of service to you. We hope that you and your family are safe and warm during this holiday season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:55 a.m. on September 28, 2017. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 31, 2017 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety report were approved.

Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written, and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. Governance Committee is reviewing Chapter 7.0 Construction Policy of the Service Rules and Regulations.
- c. The board approved the fourth American Transmission Company (ATC) capital call of 2017.
- d. The board approved the 2017 capital credit retirement of \$129,804.70 which is 1.00 percent of all unretired capital credits through 2011 with a \$10 check minimum.
- e. The board selected Directors Onesti, Lehrer, and Buss to attend the WECA Annual Meeting in Stevens Point along with Director Eckendorf, who is on the WECA Board. Director Lehrer was selected WECA voting delegate and Director Onesti was selected Federated Youth Foundation voting delegate.
- f. The board selected its attendees for the 2018 NRE-

- CA/CFC/CoBank conferences and meetings.
- g. The board discussed a possible meeting of Badger Power Cooperative and requested a special meeting be called.
- h. The board reviewed and modified Policy 202 Directors Fees and Expenses.

Operations and Engineering – Year to date 119 total miles of vegetation management has been completed on all circuits. John Bestul and Chris Tuszke volunteered to work hurricane storm damage at Clay Electric Cooperative in Keystone Heights, Florida.

Accounting and Finance – Vice President Accounting and Finance Lila Shower was in Washington, D.C., along with six others representing Wisconsin electric co-ops to meet with legislators to discuss co-op issues.

Member Services – Water heater LMR inspections have been completed. CWEC photo calendars are at the printers and will be available for members at the October 28 CWEC Pancake Breakfast.

President and CEO Report – We continue to work on a five-year budget strategy in an effort to prepare for the future needs of the cooperative and its members.

Directors reported on the Job Training and Safety Meeting, Member Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting, NRECA Region 5 & 6 Meeting, and the Employee/Safety Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.



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. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative kicked off its annual Toys for Tots drive at their Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 28. The response was overwhelming; four Toys for Tots boxes were filled with toys—your generous donations were greatly appreciated.

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 ask you to help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a toy.

Last year we were able to provide toys to more than 700 area children. All indications are that the amount will increase this year. As you can image, it is a pretty daunting task to collect

that many toys. 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.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see the accompanying list. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, you can make a check to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, P.O. 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.

2017 Toy Collection Sites—Final Toy Pick-Up Friday, December 8, 2017

<p>BIRNAMWOOD Banner Bank 416 Main St. Biramwood, WI 54414 715-449-2556</p>	<p>BOWLER North Star Mohican Casino Resort W12180 County Road A Bowler, WI 54416 715-787-2529</p> <p>Bowler Schools 500 S. Almon Street Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-4101</p> <p>First National Bank 102 E. Railroad Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-5200</p>		<p>CLINTONVILLE Mills Fleet Farm 500 S Main Street Clintonville, WI 54929 715-823-6571</p>		
<p>IOLA Premier Community Bank 505 E State Street Iola, WI 54945 715-445-4700</p> <p>Bank First 148 N. Main Street Iola, WI 54945 715-445-3211</p> <p>The Iola Tax Place 105 Pine Crest Suite D Iola, WI 54945 715-445-4829</p> <p>Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School 450 E Division Street Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411</p> <p>Iola-Scandinavia High School 540 S Jackson Street Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411</p> <p>Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness & Aquatic Center 445 S Jackson Street Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411</p>			<p>TIGERTON Premier Community Bank 112 US HWY 45 Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-3300</p> <p>First National Bank 140 Cedar St. Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2291</p>		
<p>MANAWA Manawa Elementary School 800 Beech St. Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2524</p> <p>Little Wolf High School 515 E 4th St. Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2525</p> <p>Premier Community Bank 341 S Bridge St. Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2531</p>		<p>ROSHOLT Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op 10401 Lystul Rd. Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-2211</p> <p>Community First Bank 275 W. Grand Ave. Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4523</p> <p>Rosholt Elementary School 46 Randolph St. W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4543</p>	<p>Rosholt Middle School/High School 346 Randolph Street W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4543</p>	<p>WITTENBERG Associated Bank 501 S. Webb Street Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2127</p> <p>Wagner's Shell Food Mart 504 E. Grand Avenue Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-6231</p> <p>Banner Bank 202 S. Westgor Avenue Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2999</p> <p>Wittenberg Shell 413 N. Genesee Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2888</p>	
			<p>MARION Premier Community Bank 230 Mavis Rd. Marion, WI 54950 715-754-2535</p>	<p>SCANDINAVIA Silver Lake Lanes N6311 State Road 49 Scandinavia, WI 54977 715-467-2700</p>	<p>WAUPACA Mills Fleet Farm 2016 Farm Drive Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-3851</p>

CWEC Linemen Recount Florida Relief Efforts

Two workers return earlier than expected

By Miriam Nelson, editor of the *Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News*

Years of experience and a willingness to help are what Central Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative employees John Bestul and Chris Tuszke brought with them as they helped to restore power to Florida after the devastation caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma last month.

Tuszke has been with the company for 25 years and Bestul for eight.

With hurricane relief stickers on the trucks, the two Iola residents joined 25 other trucks from Wisconsin co-ops on September 11 to caravan to their base of operations in Silver Springs, Florida. The city is about the size of Appleton and about 25 miles west of Daytona Beach. They were provided hotel rooms and breakfast each morning before traveling another hour to get to the region needing help.

Florida definitely has different working conditions than what linemen face in the northwoods, the workers agreed.

They saw a crocodile on a landing and several snakes. They had to be mindful of the ants and biting insects, but the most disturbing creatures were the banana spiders with bodies larger than a softball.

Also at play was the extreme heat; the hottest day was 102 degrees, and the



CWEC linemen John Bestul, left, and Chris Tuszke traveled to Florida to help with restoration efforts following Hurricane Irma.

coolest was 98 degrees.

“It was important to stay hydrated,” Bestul said. “Some people would stop to thank us and drop off bottles of water.”

A statewide program, Restoration of Power in an Emergency (ROPE), helped coordinate the efforts of electrical co-ops assisting the Florida power companies.

“Our job was to get the substations up and running,” Tuszke said. “We would get the lines up off the ground and rehang them to help restore power.”

Tuszke and Bestul worked with Clay Electric Cooperative, the largest co-op in the nation with 185,000 members. Power was out at 75 percent of the co-op’s customers. Each substation serves from 20,000 to 30,000 people.

Bestul said he was impressed with the way everyone worked together.

Tuszke said he was amazed at how fast they were able to get power reconnected to so many people.

CWEC Line Manager Dennis Magee went to New Orleans to help with the

aftermath of Katrina in 2005, so he had a good idea what to expect when preparing Tuszke and Bestul for the operation.

“ROPE did a great job coordinating this effort,” Magee said, “from arranging the permits to get the trucks on the

“Some people would stop to thank us and drop off bottles of water.”

—John Bestul

road, arranging for accommodations and working with different state regulations.”

The plan was for Tuszke and Bestul to be gone for two weeks. They returned September 20, a week ahead of what they had planned.

“We’re very proud of Chris and John,” said Mark Forseth, vice president of member relations and economic development at CWEC. “Job well done!”





DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

CWEC Toys for Tots Drive Now through December 8

Donate a new, unwrapped toy. Toys are distributed to needy children in our area Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Rosholt. For more information call 715-677-2211.



Iola Lioness Santa Parade Saturday, December 2

Parade starts at 10 a.m. along Main Street, Iola. At the end of the parade route kids will meet Santa at the Iola Historical Society Complex. Enjoy cookies, snacks, and entertainment.

Walls of Wittenberg Wreath Sale December 3, 9, 10 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

You decorate or we decorate. Continue a family tradition or begin a new one. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

Glacier Ridge Antique Tractor Club's Annual Polonia Christmas Parade Friday, December 8, 6 p.m., Polonia. All entries welcome. Line up in Sacred Heart Church's parking lot around 5:30 p.m. For more details call Bob at 715-572-1548 or Helen at 715-592-6145.



Christmas Holiday
Office closed: Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25
Merry Christmas!



New Year's Holiday
Office closed: Monday, January 1, 2018
Happy New Year!

To submit your community events email brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.



It's time for our annual Christmas coloring contest. The contest is open to all kids ages 10 and under. The theme this year is Christmas Tree. Draw a picture of a Christmas Tree decorated and mail or bring it to:

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

Please make sure to have your name, age, and phone number on the back of your picture.

We will award three prizes in two age groups: 6 and under and 7 to 10. The prizes will be first, \$25; second, \$15, and third, \$10.

The contest is open to the children of members only.

Deadline for the pictures is Friday, December 8, so get started right away and good luck!

The drawings will be on display in the lobby at the CWEC office, so stop in and take a look at the beautiful pictures.

Give the Gift of Power!

Don't know what to give someone for Christmas? Why not give them the gift of power? Gift certificates are available at the CWEC office or online at www.cwecoop.com.



Holiday Wishes

From all of us at
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Our office will be closed on Friday,
December 22, and Monday, December 25.
Have a safe and joyous holiday season!



Mike Wade, President & CEO

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Central Wisconsin
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