

CWEC MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST CONTINUES TO GROW IN POPULARITY



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

More than 575 people flocked to the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 26, held at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt. It was one of the largest crowds for the annual event, and CWEC would like to thank everyone for their participation.

Plenty of activities for young and old were available. There were kids' games, a bounce house, goodie bags for kids, a petting zoo, hotline demonstrations, free blood-pressure screenings provided by Rural Health Initiative, paper document recycling, and a craft fair with 25 area craft vendors.

New this year was a parade of costumes that showcased all the children who participated in the costume contest.

The event is an opportunity for members to learn more about their co-op. This included CWEC displaying the 2019 Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle it recently purchased. The vehicle generated plenty of interest and questions from members.

In addition, CWEC kicked off its annual Toys for Tots drive and the hats, mittens, and scarves drive. The response was overwhelming with 169 hats, mittens, and scarves and 145 toys being donated at the event by members.

Even though we did not promote a

food drive for this event, our generous members donated more than 40 items, which were donated to an area food pantry.

A special thank you to Rural Health Initiative for providing blood pressure checks and the Rosholt FFA members who brought animals for the petting zoo.

Prize winners included: Renee Groshek, Verlyn Hanson, Renee Prutz, Steve Christian, Ron Cornwell, Mark Kolodziej, Mark Bebea Jr., Jodi Breitenfeldt, Darlene Nueske and Craig Roberts.

A girl's and boy's 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The winners were Riley Scharrer and Matthew Fenske.



To see more photos from the Member Appreciation Breakfast, visit www.cwecoop.com.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 8:06 a.m. on September 26, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 29, 2019 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 board reviewed information from our attorney regarding joint memberships held as tenancy in common vs. joint tenancy. Discussion will continue at the October meeting.
- The board reviewed an email received from Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative regarding Badger Power Cooperative. Discussion was held regarding the issue and our reply.
- Mike Wade gave an overview of the final three action items the management staff has been working on for the 2020–2022 strategic goals. October's meeting will recap all the strategic goals, action items, who will be responsible for them, and a due date for completion.
- The board approved retiring \$325,000 in capital credits. Members will see credits on their electric bill if the amount is less than \$100, then a refund check will be mailed.
- The board selected Directors Buss, Lehrer, and Onesti to attend the WECA Annual Meeting in Stevens Point on November 5–6, 2019. Director Buss was selected as the WECA voting delegate and Director

Onesti was selected as the voting delegate for the Federated Youth Foundation.

- The board reviewed the 2020 NRECA/CFC/CoBank conference schedule and selected which directors will attend each conference for the year. Voting and alternate delegates were also selected for the conferences where needed.
- The board agreed to continue investing in American Transmission Company (ATC) as part of the fourth capital call of 2019.
- Mike Wade presented the board with the results of the survey of other Wisconsin cooperatives and how they have named their fixed monthly fees. This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

Operations and Engineering – Kevin Kurtzweil reported his department is very busy with new connects. Since Damage Prevention Services is no longer doing locating for us, we have been doing them in-house, giving our crews experience in this area.

Accounting and Finance – Mike Wade reported that Lila Shower was attending the NISC-MIC Conference in St. Louis, where she was a presenter this year.

Member Services – Brenda Mazemke reported the cooperative calendars will be handed out at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. The Member Advisory Group (MAG) meeting was held last week with good attendance.

President and CEO – Mr. Wade reported on his submitted report.

Chairman and Directors – Directors reported on the NRECA regional meeting, the JT&S committee meeting, the Member Advisory Group meeting, and the WECA Cooperative Governance Challenges workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.



Yarbrough makes a difference in Guatemala

On September 30, Mack Yarbrough, operations crew leader for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, and 11 other volunteer linemen from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa embarked on a journey to Guatemala to help families in a rural village get electricity for the very first time. The trip was part of the Partners for a Brighter Tomorrow project.

"I thought it would be pretty cool as a milestone in my career," Yarbrough said about why he volunteered for the trip. Yarbrough said he was also fully aware that the work to bring electricity to the remote village of Salinas 7 Cerros would be challenging. Making the work tougher was the fact the linemen would not be able to use bucket trucks to get to the top of the poles.

"We have to climb every pole, drill holes, put all the hardware on, and then we have to put dollies on them to pull the wire through," Yarbrough said prior to the trip. "Then we'll have to go and tie it in. There is going to be a lot of climbing." The desire to help those in need made the decision to head to Guatemala an easy one for Yarbrough.

"It's going to be a lot of fun to go build lines over there, just in general, that's why I'm in this career because I enjoy that," Yarbrough said prior to the trip. "...It will be quite an experience. And I think it will be a humbling experience."

After returning home after roughly three weeks in Guatemala, Yarbrough confirmed that the experience was humbling.

"It makes you feel kind of guilty the way we live here compared to how they have it," Yarbrough said.

He added, "They (village residents) are very happy. They

are just so genuine, which was really nice to see."

He said residents happily invited the linemen into their homes to do the electric installation.

"Everyone was very good to us," Yarbrough said. "They don't have much, but anything that they did have I think they would have given us. But they helped us, and that's how I knew that they were very receptive to us."

Yarbrough added, "The goal of everybody (linemen) there was we were just hoping to make their (villagers) lives easier. They work all day just to survive. They have a hard road. We're pretty pampered here in America."

And when the light switches were turned on for the first time, Yarbrough said residents were all smiles and gave the linemen a thumbs up.

Yarbrough said seeing the residents get electricity for the first time was more satisfying than he thought it would be. "I was smiling probably more than them," Yarbrough said. "I'm just hoping to make their lives a little easier."

Yarbrough confirmed that there was a lot of climbing, and that all the linemen did their fair share of climbing and other work.

"It was all very evenly distributed," Yarbrough said. "We climbed every pole a couple of times. The work itself wasn't bad, but it was just the heat that made it a little harder."

As precautions against the sun and the heat, Yarbrough said plenty of sunscreen was used, as well as cooling towels, and the linemen kept an eye on each other.

The trip wasn't all work for the linemen. Through donations, the linemen were able to provide children in the village with shoes, as well as soccer balls. Water filtration systems were also donated to residents. The CWEC Board of Directors and employees donated \$500 toward the purchase of the water filtration systems, which cost around \$50 each.

"We're definitely making a big impact because they don't have clean drinking water," Yarbrough said. "I'm hoping this has a big impact on their health."

Looking back, Yarbrough said he is glad that he made the trip to Guatemala and he hopes someone else has this type of opportunity in the future.





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 its Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 26. The response was overwhelming: 145 toys filled Toys for Tots boxes—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 1,000 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 Co-op, 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.

2019 TOY COLLECTION SITES

Final Toy Pick-Up Friday, December 6, 2019

BIRNAMWOOD

Banner Bank
416 Main St.
Birnamwood, WI 54414
715-449-2556

BOWLER

Bowler Schools
500 S. Almon St.
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-4101

1st National Bank
102 E. Railroad
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-5200

CLINTONVILLE

Mills Fleet Farm
500 S Main St.
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-6571

ELDERON

Community First Bank
311 State Hwy. 49
Elderon, WI 54429
715-454-6264

IOLA

Premier Community Bank
505 E State St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-4700

Bank First
148 N. Main St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-3211

Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School
450 E Division St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2411

Iola-Scandinavia High School
540 S Jackson St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2211

Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness & Aquatic Center
445 S Jackson St.
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2411

The Iola Tax Place
105 Pine Crest Suite D
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-4829

MANAWA

Manawa Elementary School
800 Beech St.
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2524

Little Wolf High School
515 E 4th St.
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2525

Premier Community Bank
341 S Bridge St.
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2531

MARION

Premier Community Bank
230 Mavis Rd.
Marion, WI 54950
715-754-2535

ROSHOLT

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op
10401 Lystul Rd.
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211

Community First Bank
275 W. Grand Ave.
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4523

Rosholt Middle School/High School
346 Randolph St W
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4541

Rosholt Elementary School
346 Randolph St W
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4543

SCANDINAVIA

Silver Lake Lanes
N6311 State Road 49
Scandinavia, WI 54977
715-467-2700

TIGERTON

Premier Community Bank
112 US Hwy. 45
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-3300

1st National Bank
140 Cedar St.
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2291

WAUPACA

Mills Fleet Farm
2016 Farm Drive
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-3851

RE/MAX Lyons Real Estate
206 W Fulton St.
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-9565

WITTENBERG

Associated Bank
501 S. Webb St.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2127

Banner Bank
202 S. Westgor Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2999

Wagner's Shell Food Mart
504 E. Grand Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-6231

Wittenberg Shell
413 N. Genesee
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2888





HEY KIDS, Get out your colors!

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 Stockings.

Draw a picture of Christmas Stockings 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 \$25 for first place, \$15 for second, and \$10 for third.

The contest is open to the children of CWEC members only. Drawings must be done in crayon only.

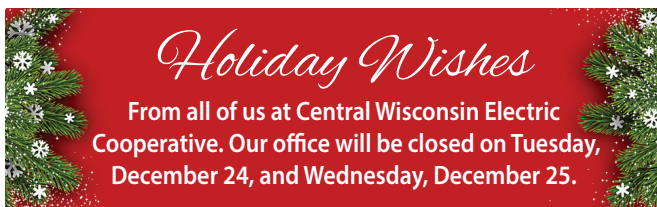
Deadline for the pictures is Monday, December 9, so get started right away and good luck!

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 Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY 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.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

CWEC Toys for Tots Drive

Now through December 6

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.



wreath to deck your halls. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

Iola Car Show Holiday Open House Wednesday, December 11

2–6 p.m., ICS Office, 160 N. Chet Krause Drive, Iola.

5th Annual Community Christmas Tree Decorating and Lighting

Friday, December 6

7 p.m. (new time). Help kick off the holiday season in the WOW Art Park where you can join in with the choir and fill the art park with Christmas carols. Refreshments will be available for all. 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 13, 6 p.m.

Polonia. All entries welcome; line up in Sacred Heart Church's parking lot around 5 p.m. For more details call Bob at 715-572-1548 or Helen at 715-592-4570.



Christmas Holiday

Office Closed: Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

Christmas Craft Sale

Friday, December 6, 3–8 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 9–3 p.m.

Start out your month with this fun craft and bake sale, guaranteed to get your Christmas shopping off to a good start! Find gifts for family and friends, baked goods to enjoy now or later, and a

New Year's Holiday



Office Closed: Wednesday, January 1, 2019
Happy New Year!



To submit your community events email bert.lehman@cwecoop.com

Mike Wade, President & CEO


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

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Bert Lehman, Editor



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our Mission

We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.

Board of Directors

Anthony Buss, Jr., Chairman, District 1 • Tom Smith, Vice Chairman, District 1 • Elaine Eckendorf, Secretary–Treasurer, District 3
Ron Onesti, District 1 (At Large) • Lee Lehrer, District 2 • Leonard Oppor, District 2 • Sue Rombalski, District 3