



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

PLENTY OF EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT YOUR CO-OP

Our 2020 cooperative calendar is finished and copies were made available at the Member Appreciation Breakfast held in October. If you weren't able to attend, please stop by our office and pick one up. As always, it was a tough choice to select the best photo to represent each month. Thank you for your continued participation to help us create a wonderful calendar for all of our members to enjoy.

In keeping with our cooperative principals, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$325,000. Capital credits represent each member's equity in the cooperative. They are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their purchases from the cooperative in previous years. 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.

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 the 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.

For those of you who visit our website, it has been redesigned with a more modern look and feel. We are also evaluating content to ensure we are providing you with useful information about our many programs and services. Many thanks to our newest employee, Bert Lehman, for dedicating the time to upgrade our website and make it more



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

useful for our members and the public.

We have begun work on a capital and expense budget for the new year of 2020. Our board of directors is presented with a fairly comprehensive list of goals at their November board meeting and a detailed budget at their December board meeting. The 2020 budget will include a large number of maintenance projects that help us improve reliability, but will also include some new items that will help us provide greater value to our members.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you, and be safe as you travel this holiday season.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Use Ground Fault Interrupters (GFI) for receptacles near water, outdoors, in garages, and in unfinished basements.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:59 a.m. on August 29, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the July 25, 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 the policy for Retirement of Capital Credits for Deceased Patrons. Further discussion will take place at next month's meeting.
- The board was presented with the 2014–2018 KRTA ratios from CFC, comparing where the cooperative falls within the United States and Wisconsin.
- Mike Wade presented an overview of the action items the management staff is working on for the strategic goals. The final three goals will be presented at next month's meeting, with a recap and finalization set for the October meeting.
- The board approved a revolving loan in the amount of \$20,000 for a business within the service area.
- The board reviewed the guidelines currently in place for disconnecting nonpayment members in the winter months.
- Kevin Kurtzweil gave a presentation to the board on the annual oil testing of our substation transformers.
- Kevin Kurtzweil presented on the different types and sizes of overhead conductor in use on our system, emphasizing the amount of solid copper overhead conductor currently in use

and the plan for replacement of it.

- The board approved Director Eckendorf to attend the Cooperative Governance Challenges workshop in Eau Claire on September 18, 2019.
- Mike Wade presented for discussion the daily fee we charge members to recover our fixed costs. Research will be done to see what other cooperatives are doing and this will be presented at a future meeting.

Operations and Engineering – Kevin Kurtzweil reported Ram Utilities completed 1,633 pole inspections off the Almon substation, with only 10 poles being rejected. The operations crew continues to clean up from the July storms.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower reviewed the financial reports submitted. Discussions are taking place with our telephone company to implement a change to the incoming recording line, allowing members to proceed with making payments right away, rather than hang up and dial another number.

Member Services – Brenda Mazemke reported the calendar photo contest has ended with 43 submissions coming in. The EV charging station installation is complete, with final hookup expected in the next week. Work is being done on the new website; we're hoping to roll that out in the very near future.

President and CEO – Mike Wade reported that staff has done a great job getting all the financial information together in a short period of time to submit to the FEMA and WDF aid assistance programs.

Chairman and Directors – Directors reported on the Energy Issues Summit, the WECA Legislative Committee meeting, the West Riverside Energy Center tour, the Badger Power annual meeting, and the monthly safety meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



CWEC SAYS GOOD-BYE TO INTERN MAGGIE WEISS

The end of August marked the end of Maggie Weiss' internship at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC). Her internship was scheduled to last one semester, but was extended through the summer.

"We had talked about extending it through the summer and we agreed that it would be a good amount of time for me to be able to continue to grow," Weiss said.

Weiss, who is a senior at UW-Stevens Point, said her seven months spent at CWEC provided her with immeasurable experience that will benefit her in the future.

"I feel as though I went from having very little experience to where now I could probably get a job just from the experience I had here," Weiss said.

While at CWEC Weiss provided content for the co-op's Facebook page, and assembled the co-op's newsletter. She also provided content for the CWEC pages in *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.

"I learned a lot about writing and how to hone my writing skills and my grammar skills," Weiss said. "And I learned how to write for publications instead of just writing for an essay, because they are very different. Also, taking a 500-word article and turning it into a 20-word Facebook post and getting your point across. I've also learned a lot about social media and how to engage people with social media."

Weiss said one of her favorite aspects of the internship was



writing business spotlight articles. This allowed her to get out of the office and meet business owners.

"Seeing my writing being published was pretty amazing because I've never been published before," Weiss said. "My articles ran in a few of the newspapers around here."

In addition to gaining immeasurable working experience, Weiss said her time at CWEC also solidified that she made the correct decision to switch from a political science and pre-law major to a public relations major.

PUBLIC NOTICE: UNCLAIMED PATRONAGE CAPITAL FUNDS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has unclaimed patronage capital funds for former members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Funds for these people have been unclaimed for three years. In accordance with cooperative bylaws, after 60 days from this publication, the unclaimed funds shall be forfeited from the cooperative to be used for educational loans, scholarships, or charitable purposes.

The listing of names is published on our website: www.cwecoop.com. On the main page under About Us select Capital Credits, where you will find a button, **2019 Member List of Unclaimed Patronage**. If you do not have access to our website online, you may request a listing by contacting our office during

regular business hours.

If you know the whereabouts of these former members, please ask either the individual member or the estate executor to contact us at 800-377-2932. When writing to us, please include information to verify the person is the same one we are trying to locate. A previous mailing address, service address, street, road, or fire number where service was received would be helpful.

Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday. If you prefer email, address your message to cwec@cwecoop.com

We respond to all inquiries; however, due to the large volume of inquiries please be patient as we do our best to serve you, our member.



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. When you are out shopping, don't forget about those children who are less fortunate than us. We ask you to help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a toy.

Donations can be dropped off at our office during normal business hours, or at a collection site near you. A complete list of collection sites will be published on our pages in the December issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* and our website at www.cwecoop.com. For more information you can call our office at 1-800-377-2932.



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3, 2019

Remember to move your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

THE WILLOWS:

A home away from home

Tucked away on the western edge of Iola, The Willows is a 24-unit community-based residential facility, including an eight-unit secured memory neighborhood and two hospice suites. The facility offers picturesque views of the woods and wildlife that surrounds it.

The facility has many amenities that makes The Willows feel like home. They offer licensed nurses and care providers 24 hours a day. The Willows also offers spacious private rooms that include private bathrooms. All the rooms have their own thermostat so residents can have full control of the temperature. The Willows provides in-house therapy and



The Willows is surrounded by forest and wildlife.

transportation. The facility has mechanical lifts.

Residents also have the opportunity to enjoy pet therapy. The Willows plans many activities and social events so residents won't be bored. They have a spa and beauty salon to keep residents feeling and looking great.

The Willows memory care neighborhood left no detail overlooked. The secure memory unit was planned with the help of dementia experts. The neighborhood is shaped in a circle.

There are no dead ends, which lets residents walk around the unit without having to stop for a dead end. The staff are all dementia trained. The common room overlooks a calming pond and fountain.

The community-based residential rooms are spacious. The rooms include a kitchenette, which includes cabinets and a sink. There is room for a personal refrigerator as well. The bathrooms are large, making bathing easy for any resident needs.

The Willows offers homey, quiet rooms to accommodate every resident's needs. The community-based residential facility offers comfort, many activities, and specially trained staff. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call 715-445-4487.



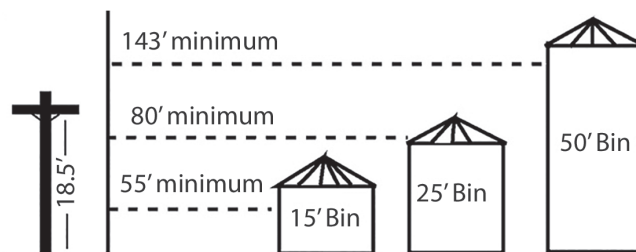
The Memory Care Neighborhood overlooks a calming pond.

HARVESTING SAFELY – KEEP GRAIN BINS CLEAR OF POWER LINES

At Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op safety is a top priority for all—our employees and our members.

Farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Safety regulations should always be considered when working around grain bins.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot mini-



imum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart above for further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so please remember to check these measurements regularly.

Before moving or building a grain bin, please contact the co-op so we may help you determine a safe clearance envelope between the bin and power lines.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

Toys for Tots Drive

Now through December 6

Drop site at the CWEC headquarters; items will be distributed to needy children in our service area.



For additional collection sites go to our website, www.cwecoop.com, click on the Toys for Tots tab under Services. Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Rosholt. For more information call 715-677-2211.

10th Annual Share-a-Tea

Saturday, November 2

2–4 p.m. \$25 donation to benefit students in need in the I-S School District, students \$15. Iola-Scandinavia High School Commons. Tickets available at the I-S Elementary or High School office or call Toya at 715-445-3556 or Ila at 715-445-3478.



Veterans Day

Sunday, November 10

Red Cross-Iola Lioness Blood Drive

Monday, November 11

12–5 p.m. Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness and Aquatic Center, Iola. Blood donors enjoy homemade cookies as well as fruit, veggies, and other snacks after they finish their donation. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit www.red-cross-blood-dot-org, or call 1-800-RED CROSS for more information and to make an appointment.

Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Thursday, November 21 and Friday, November 22

Office Closed
CWEC wishes you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!

6th Annual Holiday Craft and Soup Sale

Saturday, November 23

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bowler Area Historical Society, 104 E Main Street,

Bowler. Local craft vendors display and sell their work. Volunteers for the Historical Society serve homemade soups and bakery to eat on site, or to go. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society. For more information call Patricia at 715-793-4460.

Tigerton Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 23

9 a.m.–3 p.m. Tigerton Community Center, 221 Birch Street. Many vendors, food/refreshments, hourly door prizes drawn (must be present to win). Something for everyone!

Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6

7 p.m. Help us start the holiday season as we light our Community Christmas Tree in the Art Park. Refreshments and caroling fun for all! And it wouldn't be complete without



a visit from Mr. Santa Claus himself! WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go the website www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

Friday, December 6: 3–8 p.m.

Saturday, December 7: 9 a.m.–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 wreath to deck your halls. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go the website www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

Iola Lioness Santa Parade

Saturday, December 7

Parade starts at 11 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.

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



Happy Thanksgiving Day

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business will resume on Monday, December 2. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.



Mike Wade, President & CEO


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Brenda Mazemke, Editor



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Our Mission

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

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