



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## CWEC ADOPTS STRATEGIC GOALS TO SECURE CONTINUED SUCCESS

Best wishes for the New Year! I want to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your family

for a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2020. We look forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members in the New Year.

The board of directors has recently approved strategic goals which we will be working on over the next three years. These goals are as follows:

*Strategic Goal #1: Continue the focus on the “Culture of Safety” to improve the safety of employees, members, and the general public.*

*Strategic Goal #2: Review financial guidelines related to equity management and capital credit retirement and examine possible rate options for future development.*

*Strategic Goal #3: Continue to address cyber security, maximizing the use of existing technology resources, and investing in new technology as appropriate to include a new AMI system.*

*Strategic Goal #4: Analyze and develop*

*programs for electric vehicles, distributed generation, energy efficiency, and load management that are beneficial for the cooperative.*

*Strategic Goal #5: Develop an emergency preparedness plan addressing appropriate emergency procedures for all aspects of cooperative operations.*

*Strategic Goal #6: Develop a human resource plan to include succession planning and employee education to ensure optimal workforce performance on a continuing basis.*

These strategic goals cover a wide spectrum of what we do as an electric cooperative. Safety is at the heart of our organization, and we will be extending electrical safety training to law enforcement and first responders in our area. We are a financially healthy cooperative, but we want to examine our electric rates and capital credit retirement practice to ensure they are fair to all members. We use a wide array of technology to serve our needs, but as the technology becomes obsolete, we must look for technology options that improve the service we provide our members. We purchased our

first electric vehicle in 2019 and we will be educating our membership on this new technology and what it means for our cooperative. The 2019 summer storm taught us that we can never be too prepared for a natural disaster, and we will be updating information in our emergency response plan. As we see employee retirements in our organization, we will continue to prepare the next generation of employees to continue the goal of exceeding our members' expectations.

The year 2019 has come and gone, but the cooperative was fortunate to have been able to serve its members in such a meaningful way during the year. We will continue to focus our efforts on the needs of our membership in the New Year, and we hope that each of you meets with success and prosperity. We look forward to serving you. Happy New Year!

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Before taking down outside holiday decorations, look up for power lines. Keep yourself and equipment far away.

## 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 October 31, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 26, 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 discussed Joint Tenancy vs. Tenancy in Common in regard to joint memberships of non-spouses. Further discussion will take place at the November meeting.
- The board approved the Strategic Goals and Action Items with assignments and targeted completion dates for the years 2020–2022.
- The board approved changing our current “Service Availability Charge” fee description on the monthly electric bills to “Basic Charge” to help avoid confusion.
- Discussion was held regarding the invitation to join Cooperative Network. Further information on Cooperative Network was requested.
- The board reviewed the Nominations Committee noting a vacancy in sub-district 1(b). The board will finalize the selection of the committee at the November board meeting.
- The board approved the 2020 CWEC Annual Meeting to be held on

Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School.

- The board approved the Resolution for the Forfeiture of Unclaimed Capital Credits for 2015 and 2016 in the amount of \$6,100.24.
- The board discussed the two candidates vying for the Federated Youth Foundation board of directors. Director Onesti, the voting delegate for the Federated Youth Foundation Meeting, will place that vote on November 5.
- Ms. Mazemke gave a presentation on the pros and cons of using our own energy rewards program or using the state-run Focus on Energy program. Because of the close connection with our members, it was agreed upon to continue utilizing our own program.

Operations and Engineering – Kevin Kurtzweil reported we are continuing to do our own underground locates but are close to finalizing a contract with VannGuard. Zielies is finishing up their vegetation management work for this season.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower reported on how the positive pay program works. FEMA will be here next week for a meeting to discuss assistance for storm restoration.

Member Services – Brenda Mazemke reported the Toys-For-Tots campaign is in full swing. Bert Lehman gave a presentation on the new 2019 Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle.

President and CEO – Mr. Wade reported Mackenzie Yarbrough has returned from the Guatemala Restoration Project. He will give a presentation to the board at the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

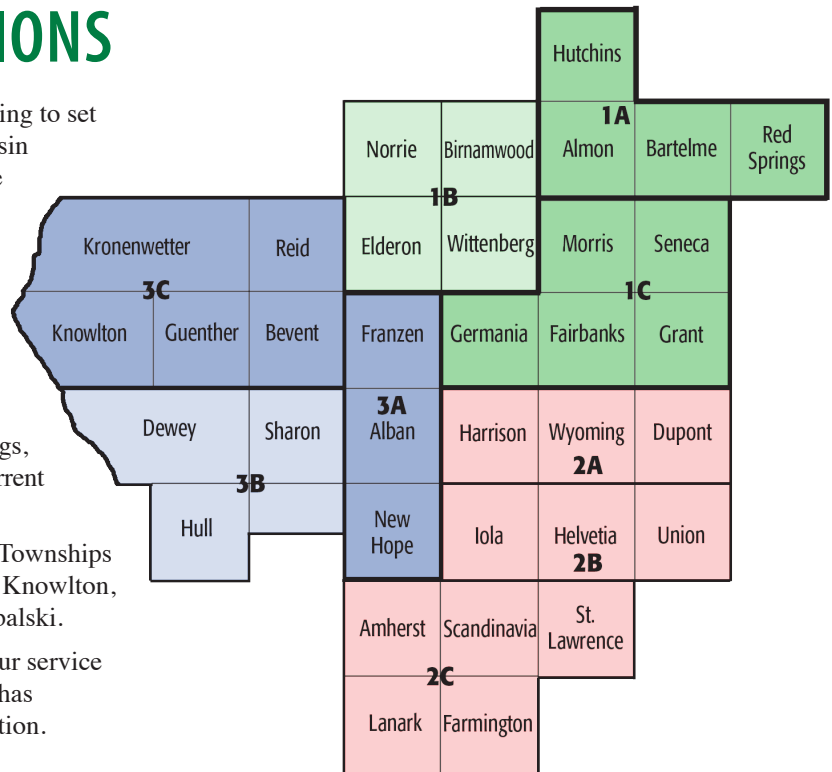
# 2020 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts and the Director at Large position up for election this year. Terms for District 1 and District 3 are three-year terms. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our Nominations Committee by Saturday, January 18. Members of the 2020 Nominations Committee are listed on page 17.

**District 1** – Consists of sub districts 1A & 1C – Townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, Red Springs, Morris, Seneca, Fairbanks, Germana, and Grant. Current director is Tom Smith.

**District 3** – Consists of sub districts 3A & 3C – Townships of Franzen, Alban, New Hope, Kronenwetter, Reid, Knowlton, Guenther, and Bevent. Current director is Sue Rombalski.

**Director at Large** – Can be from anywhere in our service territory. Ron Onesti, the current Director at Large, has reached his term limit for the Director at Large position.



## Qualifications to Serve on the Board of Directors

(As they appear in Article IV, Section 5 of the cooperative's bylaws)

To become and remain a Director, a person must comply with the following qualifications:

- be an individual who is a member served by the Cooperative at his or her residence, who is a bona fide domiciliary of the district which the individual is to represent, and who has been a bona fide domiciliary of that district for at least the one year immediately before his or her nomination;
- have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
- while a Director and during the one year immediately before becoming a Director, not be, be employed by, control, own more than ten percent of, serve as a director or officer of, or receive more than ten percent of annual gross income from
  - an individual or entity that competes with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate,
  - an individual or entity that provides a good or service similar to a good or service provided by the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, within the same geographic area as the Cooperative, Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate, or
  - an individual or entity that directly or indirectly advances the individual or entity's pecuniary interest by engaging in business dealings with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate,
 if such interest or relationship would likely impair the individual's ability to serve the best interest of the Co-

operative. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to disqualify any member from serving as a director who provides electric energy by means of distributed generation facilities that are interconnected with Cooperative facilities.

- while a Director and during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate;
- while a Director, not be a relative of a Director or Employee of the Cooperative or of a Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate except as may be reasonably authorized by the Board as set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board;
- not have been previously removed as a Director by the Board or the members in accordance with these Bylaws, or shall not have resigned as a Director while a proceeding to remove him or her was pending;
- while a Director not be, and at any time during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not have been a party in any stage of mediation, arbitration, lawsuit, or other legal action against or by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;
- while a Director and during the five years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or first degree misdemeanor;
- except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least two-thirds of all Board Meetings during each year of the Director's term of office; and
- any other reasonable qualifications set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board.

## 2020 Nominations Committee

Elton Strassburg, Dist. 1A W14986 Ctr. Road D Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-4425	Mike Schultz, Dist. 2A N11552 Helgeson Road Iola, WI 54945 715-370-1378	Renee Groshek, Dist. 3A 1744 Sunset Lake Road Amherst Jct., WI 54407 715-677-3064
Jeremy Resch, Dist. 1B 183801 Divide Road Eland, WI 54427 715-454-6625	Dale Bestul, Dist. 2B P.O. Box 94 Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2576	Anthony Danczyk, Dist. 3B 3595 N. Sunset Drive Stevens Point, WI 54481 715-344-7154
Gerald Erdmann, Dist. 1C W15416 Fairmorr Road Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2094	Bryan Fuhs, Dist. 2C E595 Nottleson Road Scandinavia, WI 54977 715-467-3262	Ron Cherek, Dist. 3C 5458 Cty Road C/J Rosholt, WI 54473 715-344-3804

## DIRECTOR NOMINATION BY PETITION

In addition to becoming a director candidate through selection by the Nominations Committee, members may become a director candidate by petition. Nominating petitions must be obtained from the cooperative and returned to the secretary-treasurer at least fifty (50) days prior to the day of the annual meeting (April 21, 2020).

A nominating petition must contain the signatures from a minimum of 20 members, along with their address and the date signed. No member may sign more than one nominating petition for a particular director position.

To nominate a candidate for a director of a district, only members residing within such district may sign a petition. Members from any district may sign a petition to nominate a candidate for the at-large director.

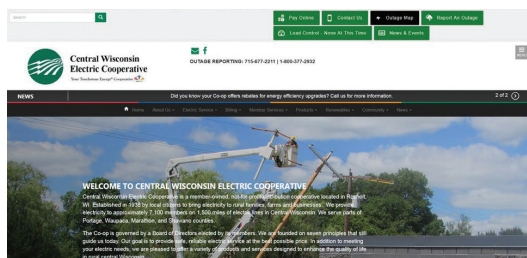
For more information call CWEC at 715-677-2211.

## THE CHANGE TO 'BASIC CHARGE'

Beginning with the January 2020 electric bill, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will change the Service Availability fee terminology to Basic Charge. Even though the name of the fee is changing, the way the fee is calculated will remain the same.

The Basic Charge is a fixed daily charge that every CWEC member pays to help cover the basic cost of bringing electricity to his or her location. All co-op members benefit from having electrical power available when they need it; a Basic Charge ensures that every member pays a fair portion of the co-op's fixed costs.

Account No.		Service Location		Map Location		Service From		To	Days	
30102		N414 ELECTRIC WAY		5M0701		12/01/2016		01/01/2017	31	
Meter Number		Pres Read	Prev Read	Mult	KWH Used	Read Type	Rate Schedule / Reference			
23208		75811	74901	1	910		A/RESIDENTIAL			
Activity Since Last Bill			\$ Amount		Current Bill Information				\$ Amount	
Previous Balance			112.00		POWER SUPPLY A				910 KWH @ \$0.0837	
Payment			-112.00		DISTRIBUTION A				910 KWH @ \$0.0534	
Balance Transfer			0.00		POWER COST ADJUSTMENT				910 KWH @ \$0.0047	
Other Adjustments			0.00		BASIC CHARGE				31 days @ \$1.0850	
					PUBLIC BENEFIT TAX				1.67	
					OPERATION ROUND UP				0.21	
					TOTAL CURRENT BALANCE DUE 02/04/17				156.00	
KWH USAGE HISTORY										
DEC 2015	901	JUN 2016	624	BALANCE PRIOR TO THIS BILLING						
JAN 2016	911	JUL 2016	793							
FEB 2016	879	AUG 2016	719							
MAR 2016	813	SEP 2016	651							
APR 2016	663	OCT 2016	632							
MAY 2016	548	NOV 2016	612							
		DEC 2016	910							
Comparison			This Year	Last Year						
KWH USAGE			910	901						
DAYS OF SERVICE			31	31						
Mailing Date		01/13/2017 <th colspan="2">Net Due</th> <td colspan="4">156.00</td>		Net Due		156.00				
Due Date		02/04/2017 <td colspan="6"></td>								
\$156.00 WILL BE DRAFTED ON 02/03/2017									DO NOT PAY	



## CWEC UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEBSITE

If you have visited Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's website recently you will have noticed it has a new and updated look.

The influx of computers, iPads, and iPhones into everyday life for most people has moved society to become more reliant on them to find the information they need. The redesigned CWEC website will help members find the information they are looking for more easily on their electronic devices.

You can visit the website by going to [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com). Once you get there, you can find answers to your questions about your electric service, paying your bill, Load Management, electricity outages, capital credits, the latest CWEC news, scholarship opportunities, and the many programs and services we offer.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

Have your projects around the house included any energy-saving home-improvement measures? Perhaps you've updated your appliances to new, energy efficient models or insulated your home.

If so, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate. Items must have been purchased and installed in 2019 to qualify.

Don't delay—submit a copy of your receipt with the Energy Star label after the equipment has been purchased and installed to ensure rebate.







# CLEARING THE WAY FOR SAFETY

## CWEC Defines 2020 Vegetation Management Program

Have you ever noticed bucket trucks or machines clearing brush by the power lines? They do the important job of helping keep the lights on long before a storm rolls in. In the battle against power outages, Vegetation Management is the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's most effective weapon.

We often receive questions about how the co-op handles the removal of brush. Below we've provided answers to the most asked questions, in an effort to explain CWEC's Vegetation Management program.



### What is a Vegetation Management Program?

Our Vegetation Management Program is the process we use to clear trees/vegetation using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers to keep our rights-of-way clear.

**What are rights-of-way?** A right-of-way is a corridor or pathway of land that CWEC's electric lines follow. These rights-of-way provide CWEC an operational safety zone between the wires and trees, buildings, or other objects. When they are kept clear they also provide safe access for line crews to maintain, repair, or improve the lines and poles. CWEC uses a Vegetation Management Program to keep the rights-of-way clear of undesirable vegetation.

**Why do we clear rights-of-way?** We clear rights-of-way to maintain reliability and shorten the length of outages, and to provide for public safety and the safety of the workers who need to work on the utility lines.

**Who does the clearing?** Tree contractors that work on CWEC's electric distribution system are qualified and insured to do this work.

**What is the Hazard Tree Program?** CWEC has a Hazard Tree Program that identifies

trees outside of the 30-foot right-of-way (15 feet on either side of the line) and removes them if they are deemed a threat to fall on power lines.

### Where is Vegetation Management Happening in my area?

2020 CWEC Vegetation Management operations are happening on circuits in the following townships: Almon F2 (Almon & Morris), Almon F3 (Almon & Hutchins), Dewey F1 (Kronenwetter, Knowlton & Guenther) and Witt F1 (Birnawood & Wittenberg). Also, herbicide treatment sites for 2020 will include Sannes F1 (Amherst, Farmington, Scandinavia), Sannes F2 (Scandinavia & Iola), Dewey F2 (Dewey & Hull) and Iola F1 (Iola, Harrison & Wyoming).

### What is an Integrated Vegetation Management Program?

Two years after cutting and trimming, a contractor will survey for possible selective herbicide application. Not all areas that are cut are appropriate for herbicide application. CWEC uses herbicides to control the amount of brush that sprouts from hardwood species that were cut. Once a single stem has been cut, it may sprout into as many as 15 new stems that grow rapidly. The selective herbicide application targets only these species.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

### Closed for Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25, 2019

### Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1

CWEC wishes you all the best in the New Year!



### Rosholt Blizzard Busters

#### 30th Annual Fisheree

Saturday, January 11

10 a.m.–4 p.m., Lake Helen, Rosholt. Fish prizes for kids and adults, bike raffle for kids, door prizes, raffle drawing, food and beverages in heated shelter. No charge to enter the fisheree. For more information call Nancy at 715-677-3235.

### Taste of Tigerton

#### 11th Annual Soup Cookoff

Saturday, January 25

Serving 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Soup, chili, stew, and cookie contest divisions—contest entries must be brought in by 10 a.m.; judging starts at 10:30 a.m. Held at the Tigerton Community Center, 221 Birch St., Tigerton. For more information call 715-535-2110.

### Walls of Wittenberg Quilt Show – "Art of the Quilter VI: Keep Me In Stitches"

January 18–February 2,



Saturdays and Sundays only

11 a.m.–3 p.m. Each weekend will have ongoing demonstrations of a variety of quilting techniques. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit [www.wallsofwittenberg.com](http://www.wallsofwittenberg.com).

To submit your community events email [bert.lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:bert.lehman@cwecoop.com) or call Bert at 715-677-2220

### Mike Wade, President & CEO


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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