



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## 2019 WORK PLANS UNDERWAY

As we welcome the new year, the cooperative is looking forward to meeting new challenges and overcoming the obstacles that lie ahead. The board of directors approved our capital and operating budgets at their December board meeting, and staff has begun the process of preparing to implement the new budget. Our focus will be to make improvements that allow us to better serve our membership and provide the safe and reliable energy our members expect and deserve.

Our annual pole inspection program has identified pole replacements that are needed in the Wittenberg area. Although the pole rejection rate is low at 2.6 percent, we will have crews working in the area to replace poles that have served a useful life. Our pole inspection and replacement program is one of the ways we keep our system maintained and functioning properly.

In 2019, we will be clearing approximately 128 miles of electric distribution and service right-of-way so that our line crews are able to access our power lines during outage restoration and when maintenance is required. Keeping our rights-of-way clear also helps reduce outages caused by windstorms and inclement weather. Our vegetation focus this year will be in the northern and western parts of our service area.

The cooperative ended 2018 with a very successful Toys for Tots campaign. We collected toys from all across our service area and helped provide an amazing Christmas to over 1,000 children in central Wisconsin. What a wonderful program this is, and I am always overwhelmed by the generous donations of our members and neighbors. Many thanks to all of you who participated in this program. We look forward to continuing to be a Toys for Tots sponsor for years to come.

I encourage all of our members to be



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courteous and respectful to our line crews and contractors as they work in our system in 2019. If you have any questions about the work being done, do not hesitate to contact our office to get answers. We remain dedicated to working on programs and services that offer the best value to the membership. Together, we can meet the challenges that lie before us and I look forward to a bright year ahead.

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

**TIP OF THE MONTH**



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If children are present install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock.

MY CO-OP

## 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 a.m. on November 29, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance 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. The board reviewed and discussed proposed changes to the Bylaw Amendment – Director Tenure and Election.
- c. The board approved Mike Schultz to fill the subdistrict 2(a) vacancy on the Nominations Committee.
- d. The board approved Rosemary Dobbe to fill the vacancy in subdistrict 2(b) on the Member Advisory Group (MAG).
- e. A presentation was given to the board by the Operations Department on the results of the 2018 pole inspections.

- f. The board was reminded about the January renewal of the 2019 ACRE membership drive.
- g. The CEO presented information on the outside vendors and contractors that were used by CWEC in 2018.
- h. The board approved the nomination of Director Lee Lehrer to represent CWEC on the WECA Strategic Planning Committee and Director Tom Smith as the alternate.
- i. The board reviewed the 2017 IRS Form 990.
- j. The board reviewed the department goals for 2019 as well as 2018 accomplishments.

**Operations and Engineering** – Discussed the completion of the Groenier substation upgrade and the demolition of the Tigerton tower scheduled for mid-January.

**Accounting and Finance** – Discussed the NISC User's Group meeting and procedure for unclaimed capital credit member notification.

**Member Services** – Discussed the success of the Hats, Mittens and Scarves campaign at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. Toys for Tots campaign in full swing.

**President and CEO** – Discussed the need for emergency contact numbers for all directors available to everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



# IOLA LIVING ASSISTANCE RECEIVES FUNDING

Courtesy of the *Waupaca County Post*

Iola Living Assistance (ILA) has received a \$200,000 no-interest loan, through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program that provides funding for rural projects, through local utilities such as the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC).

USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas.

The recipients repay the lending utility directly and the utility is responsible for repayment to USDA.

“One of the founding seven principles that guide CWEC is Concern for Community,” said Mike Wade, president & CEO of CWEC. “In addition to being the supplier of electricity, the co-op strives to be a strong community partner throughout its service area. In particular, it is committed to enhancing the economic well-being of area communities. Citing a need for this project, the co-op’s board of directors approved pursuing an economic development loan through USDA’s economic development program.”

The funding will benefit ILA’s most recent project, The Willows, a 21,245-square-foot assisted living community that will feature 24 apartments,



Mike Wade, President & CEO CWEC, center right, presented a check to Iola Living Assistance board members in the amount of \$200,000. Pictured with Wade are, from left to right, Elizabeth Kuhr, Doug Kulinski, Mike Mazemke, Mark Doll, Lila Malvik-Shower, and Mike Koles.

including an eight-bed secured Memory Care Unit, which is currently under construction.

“The Willows facility will create an estimated 20 new jobs,” said Wade. “Secondly, the projected revenue from The Willows will subsidize the operation of the Iola Living Assistance skilled nursing facility. It will be an excellent addition to continuum of care facilities offered by Iola Living Assistance. Adding this facility will give those in need an opportunity to find a living arrangement that fits their level of need locally.”

He went on to say that CWEC board of directors and management believe its

main benefit lies in enhancing the economic viability of the surrounding area.

Nicole Barrett, CEO/administrator for ILA, feels that it is wonderful to see so many people working together to complete this project.

“The USDA Economic Development loan will be used to purchase all of the furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new facility,” said Barrett. “It was very important to receive this USDA loan because it allowed us to finance the FFE on a separate, very low-interest loan.”

Currently, construction is right on track and the building is set to open in the spring of 2019.

## 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](http://www.cwecoop.com) or give us a call.

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILLS?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative’s Commitment to Community Program is designed to help households with their energy costs, including electric bills. For many Wisconsin households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family budget. To better serve our members, CWEC is joining the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus (HE+) program. This program is funded through public benefits and federal dollars to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy assistance and weatherization. Members may be eligible for energy assistance if they meet the HE+ program guidelines. Members should contact their local agency to determine eligibility.

County	Agency	Telephone Number
Marathon	Energy Services, Inc.	715-842-3111
Portage	Energy Services, Inc.	715-344-5999
Shawano	Dept. of Human Services	715-526-4740
Waupaca	Energy Services, Inc.	715-258-6820



## TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE HELPS AREA KIDS

Christmas was made a little brighter for more than 1,000 area kids thanks to the generosity of many of you and with the help from the local businesses and organizations. Each year, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative partners with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to coordinate a Toys for Tots campaign. The toys were given to children in the Tigerton, Bowler, Wittenberg, Birnamwood, Rosholt, Manawa, Iola, and Scandinavia areas. In addition, this year we helped children through area churches, food pantries, Embarrass River Lions Christmas Party, Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Waupaca County Health and Human Services. We would like to thank all of those who made this year's program a huge success and helped put a smile on a child's face for Christmas. Thank you to all of the area coordinators and the collection sites.





# WHY CWEC REPLACES POLES

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout CWEC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we have a pole testing program to assess the structural integrity of all poles in service on a 10-year cycle. The program is based on technology that allows pole integrity to be assessed through sounding and boring the pole. CWEC has over 20,000 poles on our system, and approximately 45 were installed/replaced last year. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last 30–40 years and costs approximately \$2,200 to install.



Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for reasons other than decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, upgrades, and car crashes are also potential causes for immediate replacement.

Here's a breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

- When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by framing the new pole with cross arms and then fitting it with insulators and ground wires—all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity.
- Then they dig a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 10 percent of the new pole's height plus two feet.
- Finally, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job. This work is done energized so members don't experience a power outage.

CWEC will be contracting out pole replacements once again and has chosen PUSH, Inc. out of Rice Lake. CWEC inspected 1,925 poles in 2018. Fifty poles were classified as rejected and will be replaced this spring.

So, if you see trucks with the logo at right attached, they are replacing poles.



So, the next time you come across a CWEC crew or contractor crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

### 4th Annual Iola Snow Bully Fat Bike Race

**Friday, February 1**  
6 p.m., under the lights at the Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information Contact Scott Cole at 715-340-3683.

### 58th Annual Iola Winter Carnival

- 8 a.m.–noon, Ice sculpting at the Iola-Scandinavia High School.
- 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m., free children's ice fishing contest on Lake Iola (ages 16 and under).
- 1–6 p.m., Norwegian Lutefisk Supper and Indoor Craft Sale. Includes lutefisk, lefse, Norwegian meatballs and all the

- trimmings, plus a craft show, held at the Iola-Scandinavia High School.
- 1 p.m., Skijoring at the Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information contact Jerry Thompson at 715-824-2014.
- 6 p.m., Twilight Snowshoe Race at the Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information contact Jeff Crumbaugh at 715-701-0360.

### Sunday, February 3 Central Ski Jumping Championships at the Iola Winter Sports Club, noon.

For more information about the outside events go to [www.iolawintersportsclub.org](http://www.iolawintersportsclub.org) or call 715-445-3411.



### 3rd Annual Tree Lake Association Fisheree

**Saturday, February 16**  
9 a.m.–4 p.m. No charge for fishing. Cash prizes for first, second, and third in the fish categories. Live music from 1–4 p.m., 50/50 raffle plus many other tickets for prizes. Raffle tickets are three for \$5, with first place \$500 cash, second place a Verilar FLX 12 fish locator, third place a gas ice auger, and several other prizes. Two kid's baskets; kids sign up free to win. Food and beverages will be served. Set up will be at the boat landing off Cty. Hwy A. For more information contact Jan Kraetsch at 715-581-1965 or email her at [jankraetsch@gmail.com](mailto:jankraetsch@gmail.com).

If you would like to donate a prize contact Jan.





**St. Adalbert Parish Fish Fry**  
**Every Friday, March 1 through April 12**  
4–7:30 p.m. Includes choice of potato, coleslaw, bread, and one dessert. Coffee and milk included in the dining room. For take-out orders call 715-677-4519. Domestic and craft beers and flavored malt beverages available. Large weekly raffle. For more information go to [www.rosholtcatholic.org](http://www.rosholtcatholic.org). Rosholt.

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

### Mike Wade, President & CEO


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### Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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