



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

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 2019. We look forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members in the New Year. We enter 2019 with the continued goal of being your local trusted energy provider and to go beyond the traditional utility role to not only meet your needs, but exceed your expectations.

2019 will no doubt be filled with challenges and opportunities. To help us stay ahead of the curve, our board of directors and staff will conduct a strategic planning session to help us set priorities and focus our energy and resources on what is most important. We typically conduct strategic planning on a three-to-five-year basis and are looking forward to a productive session in 2019.


Our 2019 annual meeting will be

held in April at the Iola-Scandinavia High School auditorium. While this is months away, it has been awhile since our annual meeting was held in Iola. We look forward to holding the meeting in Iola and re-connecting with members in the area. As we did in 2018, the annual meeting will be held on a weekday evening. More information on the meeting will be provided in future editions of this magazine.

Our 2019 budget consists of improvements to the technology we use and a review of our business software procedures and practices. In addition, you will see our crews and contractors in the field replacing poles, clearing rights-of-way, and inspecting our electric distribution facilities. As always, safety will be a priority as we develop our annual safety improvement plan and a training program for the first responders in our area who respond to accidents involving downed utility lines.



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2018 has come and gone, but the cooperative is fortunate to be 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



Remember to inspect your fire extinguishers every year to make sure they are properly charged, stored, and undamaged.

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 October 25, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 27, 2018 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 approved revisions to Policy 303-Delegation of Authority from the board to the CEO.
- The board accepted the list of 2019 Nominations Committee members and set the meeting date for Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 9 a.m. in the board room.
- The board selected the date of Tuesday, April 23, 2019, for the CWEC Annual Meeting to be held at the Iola/Scandinavia High School.

- Information was presented to the board by the CEO with sample rules for the installation and operation of neutral isolation transformers.
- The board accepted to ratify the buyout offer made to purchase Mid-Wisconsin DBS, LLC jointly with Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative.
- The board approved the Resolution of Unclaimed Capital Credits as presented.
- Staff presented a 10-year financial forecast for the period 2019–2028.

Operations and Engineering – Ram Utilities had completed 1600 pole inspections. The Rosholt/Groenier switching had been completed.

Accounting and Finance – The new E-Bill format was presented to the board.

Member Services – The planning and preparing for the Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast was in place for the upcoming weekend.

President and CEO – Updates on the Federated Youth Foundation Board meeting were presented. The results of the Member Satisfaction Survey were complete.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

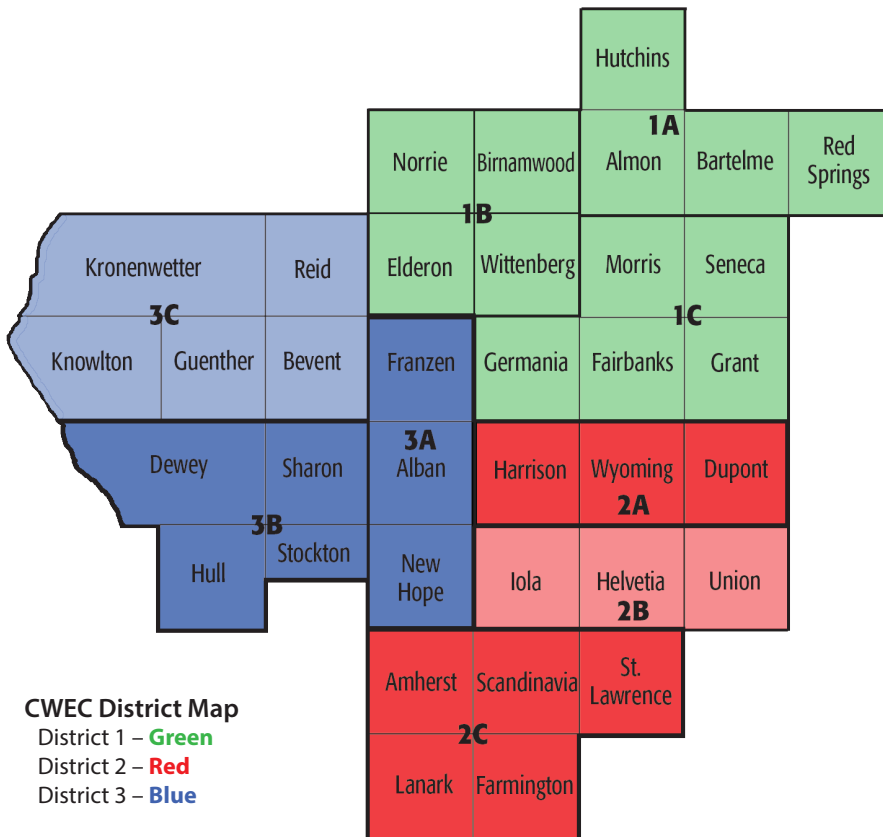


2019 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of candidates for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. Two districts are up for election this year. Terms for District 2 and District 3 are three-year terms. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Wednesday, January 16.

District 2 – Consists of sub districts 2A & 2C – Townships of Harrison, Wyoming, Dupont, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. Current director is Lee Lehrner.

District 3 – Consists of sub districts 3A & 3B – Townships of Franzen, Alban, New Hope, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Sharon, Stockton, and Hull. Current director is Elaine Eckendorf.



2019 Nominations Committee

Elton Strassburg, District 1A
 W14986 Cty. Road D
 Bowler, WI 54416
 715-793-4425

Ron Robinson, District 1B
 2395 Cty. Road D
 Eland, WI 54427
 715-454-6322

Gerald Erdmann, District 1C
 W15416 Fairmorr Road
 Tigerton, WI 54486
 715-535-2094

Mike Schultz, District 2A
 N11552 Helgeson Road
 Iola, WI 54945
 715-370-1378

Dale Bestul, District 2B
 P. O. Box 94
 Iola, WI 54945
 715-445-2576

Bryan Fuhs, District 2C
 E595 Nottleson Road
 Scandinavia, WI 54977
 715-467-3262

Renee Groshek, District 3A
 1744 Sunset Lake Road
 Amherst Jct., WI 54407
 715-677-3064

Anthony Danczyk, District 3B
 3595 N. Sunset Drive
 Stevens Point, WI 54481
 715-344-7154

Ron Cherek, District 3C
 5458 Cty. Road C/J
 Rosholt, WI 54473
 715-344-3804

Nominations Committee meeting will be on Saturday, January 19, 2019, at 9 a.m. to review and select board member candidates. The meeting will be at our office located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt.



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? 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?

2019 CWEC Vegetation Management operations are happening on – Tigerton Circuit 1 (Northeast of Tigerton), Groenier Circuit 2 (East of Shantytown), Groenier Circuit 3 (South of Shantytown), and Almon Circuit 1 (Stockbridge Area).

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.

Clearing the Way for Safety Have you ever noticed the 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.

Below we’ve provided answers to the questions we get most often in an effort to explain Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative’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

YOU’RE INVITED

To improve communication among our members, the board of directors, and employees, and to assist in obtaining member input, your cooperative formed a Member Advisory Group (MAG) approximately a year ago. This group of 18 CWEC members has given valuable input on a variety of topics.

If you’re a member in good standing and are interested in helping guide your cooperative, we’d love to have you be a part of this group.

As a MAG member you will be asked to seek information and opinions from your fellow district members, serve to facilitate communications between the cooperative and its members, and make suggestions and recommendations to the board of directors and staff.

MAG members are appointed by the co-op’s board of directors to serve a three-year term. Meetings are held two or three times a year. MAG members are encouraged to bring a guest (spouse, friend, or neighbor) with them to the meetings. While no compensation is paid,

members are reimbursed for mileage.

If you’re interested in becoming a Member Advisory Group member, please complete the form below and return it to the address listed. If you have any questions, please call Brenda at 800-377-2932 or email brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com.

Yes, I’m interested in becoming a Member Advisory Group member

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

I’d like to be member because: _____

Return to: **Central WI Electric Co-op, Attn: Member Advisory Group
P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473**



CWEC OFFERS BUSINESS LOANS

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op has funds available to assist in the financing of new or expanding businesses that create or retain jobs. Partnering with USDA, the co-op offers low-rate loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to qualifying applicants. The co-op's loan fund is designed to complement local lender financing programs including conventional, SBA, CDBG, and WHEDA. For more information please call us at 715-677-2211. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider.

REBATE REMINDER

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 to see which items qualify for a rebate. Items must be purchased and installed in 2018 to qualify.

Don't delay—submit a copy of your receipt with the Energy Guide label as soon as the equipment is purchased and installed to ensure rebate.



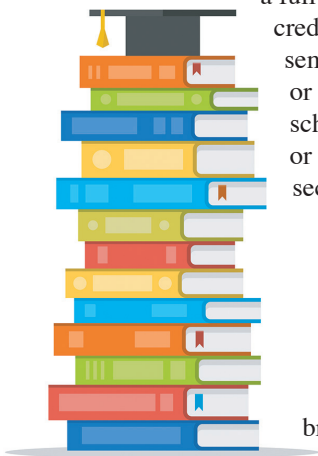
2018 CWEC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

You will soon be approaching the end of your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Congratulations! Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for second semester to receive your scholarship money. Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average and have been

a full-time student, 12-plus earned credits, during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. You can mail or email your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:

CWEC
Attn: Scholarship Program
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

Email:
brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

Closed for Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 24 &
Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Tuesday, January 1
Office Closed
CWEC wishes you all the best in the New Year!



Rosholt Blizzard Busters
29th Annual Fisheree
Saturday, January 12
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 10th Annual Soup and Cookie Contest
Saturday, January 19
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 1905 Old Village Hall, 215 Cedar Street. For more information call 715-535-2110.

Walls of Wittenberg Quilt Show: "The Art of the Quilter V-Stitches in Time"
January 19–February 3
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. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit www.wallsowittenberg.com.



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

Mike Wade, President & CEO

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715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932 • www.cwecoop.com

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Brenda Mazemke, Editor



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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