



CELEBRATING NEW SEASONS

By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

Spring is in the air, which means summer is not far away. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say "it's about time!" Time to get the lawn equipment out, sharpen the blades, change the oil, and see what starts or won't start. For many of you, spring means planting your favorite flowers and working in the yard after the long winter. If your work involves digging, be reminded that electric, gas, cable, or other utility lines may be lurking beneath the surface. Before you dig that hole or cut that trench, call 8-1-1 to request that these lines be marked. This is a free service that is easy to use and will help keep you safe.

Earlier this year, we said farewell to one of our longest serving employees. Jeanne Opperman retired after 48 years

of dedicated service to our members. Jeanne represented the heart and soul of who we are as a cooperative and she will be sorely missed. She was the person who could get things done and always bring a smile to your face. I know she will enjoy retirement, but I hope that she will come back to see us from time to time and bring some ice cream (hint hint!).

Speaking of commitment and dedication, Mackenzie Yarbrough has completed the four-year apprenticeship program to become our newest journeyman lineman. We are very proud of Mack's accomplishment and the valued service he provides to our members each and every day (and sometimes long into the night). He has recently received a promotion to crew leader and we look forward to him taking on new responsibilities. Mack is part of a group of new employees that



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represents the future of our cooperative, and I am pleased to say that our future is in very good hands.

In honor of Memorial Day, I want to thank all of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Your sacrifice to our nation came with a price, but it is because of your sacrifice that we remain a free nation with an abundance of opportunities. May God bless each of you.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Call Diggers Hotline at 811 at least three working days before you start digging. It's a free, one-stop source for locating underground utilities.



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 February 28, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the January 31, 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 Governance Committee reviewed service rules for transformer neutral isolation and an interruptible rate rider.
- The board was presented information on the allocation and retirement options for capital credits.
- The board selected the voting delegate and alternate voting delegate for the NRECA Director Election to be held at the WECA Education and Lobby Days in Madison on March 26, 2019.
- The board approved the sale of a used bucket truck to North Central Technical College to be used in their linemen training program.
- Due to a change in the manufacturer, the board ap-

proved a new pricing schedule for meter pedestals as presented.

- The board approved David Loken Sr. as the new Member Advisory Group (MAG) member due to the vacancy in Sub-District 2(b).
- The board approved attendees for the 2019 WPS Energy Forums to be held in Wausau and De Pere on April 2, and April 3, 2019.
- The board discussed ideas related to the future direction of WECA to be presented at the WECA strategic planning meeting in April.

Operations and Engineering – Hazard recognition inspections are completed. Push Inc. started pole replacements off the Wittenberg Substation. Progress is slow due to cold and snow.

Accounting and Finance – Reviewed the reports submitted. Annual financial audit has been completed by Clifton-LarsonAllen.

Member Services – Solar system installations have been on the increase with 40 members currently with installed systems. Work has begun on preparing the Commitment to Community annual report to be submitted to the Public Service Commission.

President and CEO – The purchase of Mid-Wisconsin DBS is now complete with CWEC owning 50 percent and Adams-Columbia EC owning 50 percent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.



THANK YOU

For 48 wonderful years, Jeanne

The year was 1971, gas only cost 40 cents a gallon, Malibu Barbie was priced at \$1.94, and Jiffy Peanut Butter was a whopping 59 cents. In 1971 Disney World opened, Apollo 14 landed on the moon, and Jeanne (Wrolstad) Opperman started working at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. It isn't every day a company is lucky enough to say that they have an employee who has worked for them their entire career. CWEC is one of those.



Jeanne graduated from Iola-Scandinavia High School. It was there that she found her love of business and secretarial work. Right out of high school she was offered a job at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. She really liked that it was close to home and doing exactly what she loved, so her journey began. Jeanne started her career at CWEC as a front office receptionist. There she handled many things like mail, line material monthly inventory, and merchandise billing. As the years went by, she worked in many aspects of the company, such as filing insurance claims, writing for *REC News*, and working on contracts for products, to name a few. Through hard work and dedication to the company, she was promoted to secretary to the CEO.

When asked what Jeanne's favorite part of her job was she couldn't pinpoint just one favorite within the 48 years of experience. "I really like that there is something new every day," she explains. She also enjoyed creating the packets for board meetings, getting all the parts together and seeing the final product.

Jeanne will miss many things from the co-op, but the biggest is the friends she made while working here. Her coworkers are like family to her. When she thinks back to her favorite memories working here she has trouble picking one. "No one memory—just lots of memories of the people who I was fortunate enough to work with," she explained. She got so close to her coworkers that "we can finish each other's sentences," she says. She also got to know many CWEC members through the years.

As Jeanne steps into retirement she has a few exciting

things planned. She is excited to be able to spend more time with her family, especially her grandkids. She is looking forward to being able to attend more of their school events and activities. Jeanne is also planning to join the fitness center and reap the benefits of having her days free. As summer comes she says she can be found soaking up the sun in her pool. Jeanne plans on taking retirement to reconnect with her old friends who she has not had a lot of contact with through the years. She would also like to put her newfound free time

"Jeanne has been an indispensable part of our staff for five decades."

—Mike Wade,

towards volunteering for various community events. Jeanne's kind and funny personality touched so many people during her time at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. She is truly a one-of-a-kind individual. Jeanne will never be replaced.

"Jeanne has been an indispensable part of our staff for five decades. Since my arrival at CWEC, she has kept me and our Board of Directors on track and organized. Jeanne is the institutional knowledge that you hate to see leave an organization. We will miss her greatly, but wish her the very best in retirement" says President and CEO Mike Wade.

Thank you, Jeanne, for 48 wonderful years of dedication to the cooperative. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative would like to wish Jeanne well as she starts this new chapter of her life. Enjoy your well-earned retirement!



2019 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2020 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.

Contest will run from April 1, 2019 until August 26, 2019; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

Photo Contest Entry Options:

- Email: Brenda Mazemke
brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com.
- Mail: P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)
- Drop Off: Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Office – 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website, www.cwecoop.com.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

\$5 bill credit
coming in June

If you recall, when you first became a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, a \$5 membership was required from you. The board of directors recently decided that collecting this membership fee is no longer a relevant practice in today's world. In June, you will see a \$5 credit on your bill reflecting the refund of your membership fee. This does not mean you are no longer a member! As long as you are receiving service from CWEC you remain a member and will still receive patronage capital allocations and refunds.



Richard Ostrowski, from Ostrowski Farms, accepted an energy conservation reward check from Brenda Mazemke, manager of member relations at CWEC.

CWEC ASSISTS OSTROWSKI FARMS LIGHTING UPGRADE

Through our Energy Conservation Reward Program we were able to help Ostrowski Farms with some LED lighting upgrades. These upgrades will help make their farm lighting more efficient and will help save them money on their electric bill.

"We are pleased to assist Ostrowski Farms in making these needed upgrades to their farm," said CWEC Manager of Member Relations Brenda Mazemke. "We are proud to see one of our members carry on a family business. We wish them continued success."

If you would like to learn more about our Energy Conservation Rewards Program and how we may be able to help you, go to our website at www.cwecoop.com or call our office at 1-800-377-2932.



EMPLOYEE COMPLETES APPRENTICESHIP, EARNS JOURNEY STATUS

CWEC employee Mackenzie (Mack) Yarbrough recently graduated from a four-year indentured lineworker apprentice program offered through Chipewewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire. Mack celebrated with 64 new apprentices who completed the Wisconsin lineworker or meter technician apprenticeship programs.

The Electrical Lineman Apprenticeship Program consists of four years of not less than 8,000 hours in which a minimum of 640 hours is spent in paid-related instruction. As an apprentice, Yarbrough completed the training to achieve his status as a journey electric lineworker.

“We are proud to see Mack complete his apprenticeship,” said Kevin Kurtzweil, Central Wisconsin vice president of operations. “The training and knowledge he has received since joining our co-op will help him perform highly skilled work on our high-voltage electric distribution system.”

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative provides electricity to approximately 7,100 members in Central Wisconsin. We service parts of Portage, Waupaca, Marathon, and Shawano counties.

Congratulations, Mack!



Mack and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoyed a wonderful graduation ceremony held at the Joint Line Superintendent Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY

Annual Potato Pancake Feast and Fund Raiser

Sunday, May 5
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Adults \$10; Children ages 6–12 \$4, Children ages 5 & under free. Tilleda Community Center, Tilleda. Sponsored by the Tilleda Advancement Association. For more information call 715-787-4241

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12



Walls of Wittenberg Presents: Spring Art Show "Artists' Free Play: VII"

April 27–May 12, Saturday and Sunday only
11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free. WOWSPACE: 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more

information and contest details call 715-253-3525 or go to www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

Iola Lioness Club's Annual Citywide Rummage Sale

May 9–11

Maps available in town the day of the sale or at www.ischamber.com after May 8. Sponsored by the Iola Lioness Club, Iola. For more information call 715-445-5450.

Iola Lions Pre-City Wide Rummage Sale Brat Fry

Friday, May 10

10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods. Proceeds will go to the Iola-Scandinavia Fireworks fund. Iola.



Embarrass River Lions Wild Game Feast

Saturday, May 11
4–7 p.m.

All you can eat, numerous raffles. Morris Town Hall, W15320 Berg Road, Tigerton. For more information call 715-535-2775.

Rosholt American Legion/Auxiliary Memorial Day Services

Sunday, May 26
11 a.m. Chicken dinner to follow. Rosholt. For more information call Christine at 715-592-4648.

Memorial Day Observed
Monday, May 27
CWEC office will be closed.

American Legion Sheveland – Taylor Post 14 Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27
Iola.



Tigerton Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 27

11:30 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial

Iola Lions Brat Fry



Friday, May 31

10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber Fireworks fund. Iola Sentry Foods, Iola.

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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Brenda Mazemke, Editor



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

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