



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, CRAFTS, AND SO MUCH MORE TO SEE OCTOBER 27

With summer behind us, it has been an interesting year so far at your cooperative. Our energy sales have been exceptional due to a cold and snowy April and the hot summer months. The rain and wind storms that wreaked havoc in central and southern Wisconsin caused little damage to our system (knock on wood). We sent two of our linemen, John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough, to assist with the storm damage south of us at Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative. I appreciate John and Mack for volunteering to help another cooperative and their members as they worked to recover from the storm damage. I'm not sure what winter has in store for us, but if the first half of the year is any indication, things should be interesting.

Plan to visit us in October at our annual Member Appreciation Breakfast.


Our energy sales have been exceptional

The pancake and sausage breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 27, beginning at 8 a.m. The board of directors and employees of CWEC want to extend our thanks and appreciation for allowing us to provide electric service to you and to be an integral part of the communities in which we serve. Come by to learn more about your cooperative, visit with your fellow cooperative members, and do some Christmas shopping at our arts and crafts fair. And did I mention pancakes!

October is also the month that the board of directors retires or returns to you a portion of your capital credits. Capital credits are the revenues that remain at the end of the year once all expenses are paid. These revenues or margins are then assigned to members based on the amount of energy consumed during the year. Annually, the board retires a portion of these capital credits and members will see a credit on their electric bill. It's just another way that cooperatives add value



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back to their members.

National Cooperative Month is observed in October by more than 29,000 cooperatives nationwide. It is a time to celebrate the advantages of the cooperative business model and recognize the many benefits cooperatives bring to their members and communities. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is proud to be a part of the cooperative family, and we hope you will come to our Member Appreciation Breakfast on October 27 to allow us to show our gratitude for allowing us to serve you. See you then.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Do not run cords under rugs or furniture. They can become worn, overheat, and cause a fire.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:53 a.m. on July 26, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the June 28, 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 changes made to Board Policy 503 – Dispute Resolution.
- The board met Denise “Dee” Fox, the new compliance safety and training coordinator for the cooperative.
- The board approved the date for the fall evening meeting of the Member Advisory Group (MAG), to be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at the cooperative headquarters.
- The board approved Wednesday, October 17, 2018, for the Joint Committee Dinner Meeting which will include Nominations Committee, Operation Round Up Trust members, and Member Advisory Group (MAG).
- The board reviewed portions of our 2017 Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) results. The KRTA compares

our financial and operating ratios to other electric cooperatives in the United States and in Wisconsin.

- The board selected two director nominees and one alternate nominee for the Badger Power Cooperative Annual Meeting.

**Operations and Engineering** – The radio system continues to perform well. Twenty new connects and conversions have been staked so far this year, and line crews continue working on new connect/conversion terminations and maintenance items. Idle service inspections and retirements are in progress.

**Accounting and Finance** – Attendance at an informational seminar regarding rural broadband provided what is involved with starting a broadband project, including feasibility studies, financing options, partnering with others, and estimated costs of a project.

**Member Services** – Members will be notified of our change to the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Low Income Assistance Program by a bill stuffer in bills mailed in July. We will also update our website with the new information and post information on social media.

**President and CEO** – We are beginning to review the reporting and investigation process we employ when a safety incident or accident has occurred.

The board reviewed the written report of Economic Development Activity for May 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



# EMBARRASS RIVER ATV PARK AND CAMPGROUND

Nestled alongside the Embarrass River is a picturesque and action-packed park and campground. Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground is a gorgeous facility that has fun activities for the whole family.

In 1997, the village of Tigerton purchased a vacated space of land with the intention of making a campground and riding trail. Over the years, they have expanded and improved the trails and campsites. This has transformed the park and campground into the premier central Wisconsin riding and camping destination.

If riding ATVs, UTVs, and horses doesn't fit your needs, there's also a playground, volleyball court, basketball equipment, horse-shoe pits, and a river to fish and swim in.



Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground has something for everyone!

They have 48 campsites on their premise. Some of the campsites are tent only, some are RV only, and most have electricity hook-ups. They have campsites located within the

woods and alongside the river. The campground has clean drinking water access, an ATV wash, a trail that leads to a refueling station, numerous picnic locations, and a variety of fire pits.

The riding trail itself has a total of 20 miles with two intersecting paths. The orange trail circles the entire park, while the green trail navigates inside of the orange. The orange trail is a calmer ride, while the green trail boasts a rougher, rockier trip for more skilled riders.



The future of Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground is bright. They are currently expanding their campsites to include 22 new sites with water and electricity access. Furthermore, they are building a disc golf course and dirt bike trails. In the future, Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground will have even more activities to keep all guests happy.

Whether you are looking to ride your ATV through the mud, or just want to sit back with a fishing line in the water, Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground has got it all. For more information, visit their Facebook page at Embarrass River ATV Park and Campground, check their website at [www.tigertonwi.com/campground-atv-park](http://www.tigertonwi.com/campground-atv-park), visit in person at 1100 Quad Park Lane in Tigerton, or call 715-535-2169.

## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

# MEMBER APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Saturday,  
October 27  
8 – 11 a.m.**

Main Office in Rosholt, 10401 Lystul Road



**Craft & Gift Fair  
25+ local vendors**

*Come join the fun, as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a pancake breakfast as a way to show its appreciation to its members.*

**Door prizes • Petting Zoo • Costume Prizes • Hotline Demo • Paper Recycling  
Free Blood Pressure Screening provided by Rural Health Initiative staff  
Costume Contest Judging at 9:45 a.m. • Bike Drawings at 10 a.m.**



**Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to our toy drive and we'll enter you in a special prize drawing.**

### **NEW! Hat, Mittens, and Scarves Drive!**

Bring a new hat, scarf, or pair of mittens and your name will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a special prize! Limit five entries per family. Items will be distributed to schools in our service area.



## TEENS DISCOVER THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative had the pleasure of sponsoring six area high school students at the 2018 WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) held at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls campus. The Youth Leadership Congress is co-sponsored by UW-River Falls and Wisconsin's electric cooperatives. This year's teens were from four area high schools: Wyatt Kurszewski and Isabella Printz, Rosholt High School; Jordan Karch, Amherst High School; Ana Holder and Emily Wolfgram, Iola-Scandinavia High School; and Khirsanth Thuecks, Little Wolf (Manawa) High School.

Over 100 high school students from across Wisconsin were at this year's three-day event. The congress offers attendees the opportunity to enhance

their leadership skills and learn a little about cooperatives. Through a mix of workshop sessions, hands-on activities, and team-building exercises, students were exposed to a variety of real-life

*"I am really grateful that I was chosen to represent our cooperative. I learned so much and enjoyed getting to meet so many new people. I am glad my family is a part of a cooperative and that I now have a better understanding of how it works. This was an experience I will never forget."*

*Isabella Printz, Rosholt High School*

issues and given the opportunity to boost and explore their leadership potential. In addition, nationally recognized speakers motivated attendees and gave them skills and ideas to bring back to their communities and schools as strong leaders.

Craig Hillier returned with his high-energy "Breakthrough" program. At the banquet, students learned the finer points of formal dinner etiquette. Featured speaker Tesa Otto, motivational speaker and former Wisconsin Youth Representative, spoke about her experience attending YLC, serving on the YLC Board, and being the Wisconsin Youth Representative.



All dressed up for the Etiquette Dinner. Khirsanth Thuecks and Isabella Printz (front row), Jordan Karch and Emily Wolfgram (middle row l-r), and Wyatt Kurszewski and Ana Holder (back row).

Although the program is very educational, the focus is on having fun. It's an excellent way for students to make new friends from around the state and in the process make lasting memories.

The entire program is planned, and in many cases presented, by a Youth Board selected by their peers. The Youth Board plans the following year's congress.

*"I loved going to the Youth Congress because I learned so much about cooperatives and teamwork. I really liked getting to be around people my age and meeting new people. I specifically learned that cooperatives focus on the needs of the member. Thank you so much for sponsoring me and allowing me to go to the Youth Leadership Congress."*

*Jordan Karch, Amherst High School*

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN OCTOBER

### Our Saviors Lutheran Church Annual Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, October 3

11 a.m.–1 p.m., \$9 adult, \$3 children age 3–12, under 3 free. Hot and cold dishes, cookies and bars, coffee and lemonade. To-go containers available. Our Saviors Lutheran Church dining room. Iola. Sponsored by the Women of Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Proceeds will go to various charitable organizations. For more information call Pat at 715-445-2964.

### 12th Annual Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce Craft & Gift Fair

Saturday, October 6

Held in conjunction with Lost Arts and Taste of Norway at the Iola Historical Village, 210 Depot Street. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Iola. For vendor information call Mary at 715-445-4005. For more information go to [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com) or



on Facebook (Iola-Scandinavia Chamber/Hometown).

### 9th Annual Lost Arts and Taste of Norway

Saturday, October 6

Food, crafts, demonstrations, kids fun run, games, miniature ponies and goats, horse-drawn wagon rides, classic tractors, and tours of the Iola Historical Society. Iola Historical Village, 210 Depot Street. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Iola. For more information go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org).



### 69th Annual Potato Pancake Dinner

Sunday, October 7

Serving 9 a.m.–1 p.m., serving homemade pies. All you can eat, take-outs available. \$9 adults, \$4 ages 6–12, 5 and under free. Tilleda Community Center. Sponsored by Tilleda Peace Lutheran Church, Tilleda. For more information call 715-851-5520.

### Fall Community Bazaar

Saturday, October 13, 2018

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Holy Family-St. William Catholic Church – 202 N Ellms St. St. Paul Lutheran Church – 701 Home St. Redeemer Lutheran Church – W18205 College Ave. Alpha House – 701 S Webb St. Wittenberg.

### Hitterdahl Pancake Supper

Saturday, October 13

4–7 p.m. Featuring potato & buttermilk pancakes. Adults, \$7, kids ages 6–12, \$3, under age 5, free. Bake sale. N8808 Country Rd. J, Iola. For more information call 715-445-2387.

### St. Joseph Church Galloway Harvest Dinner

Sunday, October 14

9 a.m. Mass with Polka Music by Smokey Express, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. family-style dinner. Doors open at 8 a.m., Country



store & crafts, Cherry Bowl and raffles. Wittenberg. For more information call 715-454-6431.

### Lutefisk Supper and Norwegian Bake and Craft Sale

Saturday, October 20

Serving 12:30–6:30 p.m. Traditional Norwegian supper. Northland Lutheran Church, Northland. For more information call 715-445-2956.



### CWEC Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, October 27

Serving 8–11 a.m. Door prizes, craft and gift fair, costume contest prizes for the kids, exhibits, bounce house, petting zoo. Free blood pressure screening. Toys for Tots and hats, mittens & scarves for Kids Drive. Main office in Rosholt, 10401 Lystul Road. For more information or directions call 715-677-2211.

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



# MY INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

By Jacob D. Szaniawski



Internships are meant to prepare college students for the “real” world. Most internships involve the intern being the company’s proverbial whipping boy: running to get coffee, cleaning, and shadowing their employer. Every intern wants to obtain hands-on experience in their respective field; however, few and far in-between

actually get said experience. Thanks to Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, I was fortunate enough to apply my course work to an applicable working environment.

I was originally hired on in February of 2018 to work until the semester was over in May. After the first couple of months, I realized how much I was learning and how much I enjoyed my time at the cooperative, so I asked my supervisor, Brenda Mazemke, if I could potentially stay through the summer. Brenda had been the first employer to take a chance on me, and gave me the opportunity to showcase my writing and creative abilities to the world. Eventually, Brenda convinced our CEO, Mike Wade, to keep me throughout summer. The rest is history.

The majority of my day is taken up by writing. Some of the pieces I type ultimately get thrown into my scrap pile, while others end up flooding Brenda’s email. The general idea behind what I write is the same: an informative piece regarding electricity that our members will hopefully enjoy. Sometimes the topics deviate, such as the articles I had written for both Tim Kraft and Mark Forseth’s retirement. While their departure from the cooperative was sad for both parties, it resulted in my first article getting published. After writing a piece about Mark’s time here, it was featured in the *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News*. The feeling of seeing

something that I had written be featured in a magazine is one that I will never forget.

Brenda also gave me opportunities to work with people outside of our cooperative. In May, I was in charge of organizing our linemen’s trips to local elementary schools to give the safe electricity hotline demonstrations. The purpose of this activity was to teach students the dangers of electricity, and encourage them to always treat it with respect.



While at the cooperative, I was also able to hone in my design skills. I created multiple banners and posters, covering a variety of different subjects. I informed members on how to save money on their electric bill, how to be safe around electricity, and the different kinds of jobs and careers that electric cooperatives have to offer. In addition to design work, I also made edits to our cooperative’s website and member guide booklet.

Thinking of the future is intimidating, but I look forward to the challenge of joining the work force. My major is communication with emphasis in public relations. I love the marketing and advertising world, and much like writing, it is second nature to me. That being said, I’d like to find a job that incorporates both. Ideally, I would work in the public relations department for an NBA team. The NBA is a rapidly growing league and requires young adults who have their fingers on the pulse of social media and the youth in order to provide fresh and engaging content. After my experiences at the cooperative, I have not only become more qualified, but I have become more talented in my writing as well. When I apply for jobs after graduation, I have the utmost confidence that my time at the cooperative has prepared me for whatever comes next.

The cooperative welcomed me with open arms, and helped guide me towards being a more professional, responsible, and hardworking young adult. I have nothing but positive things to say about my time here; it is an experience that I would recommend to any college student.

## Mike Wade, President & CEO


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## Brenda Mazemke, Editor



## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

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