



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

HAVE A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY

Summer is here and I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and some fun summer activities. If you are spending time outdoors, be

reminded that you need to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and you may want to come indoors during the hottest part of the day. Because of the warm summer weather, watch your thermostat setting and be mindful of conserving electricity. This will help you keep your summer electric bills affordable.

In May, the board of directors and management staff concluded a two-day strategic planning session facilitated by our financial partner, Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). The plan we are developing will be used to set priorities and focus resources on goals designed to achieve our strategic objec-

tives. These objectives will help position our cooperative to stay focused on what's important for our members and the communities we serve. Once our board of directors has approved the strategic plan, we will share this information with you in future magazine editions.

Thanks to the Rural Health Initiative, Wittenberg Fire Department, and Kronenwetter Fire Department for your service to our members and to our communities. These organizations are recipients of this year's CoBank Sharing Success grants, and we are proud to help them as they help us. We have partnered with CoBank for several years with this program because it puts valuable financial resources back into our communities. You will find more information about this valuable grant program in this month's edition of the magazine.

Teaching our youth about the importance of safety around electric lines is



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

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one of the most important things we do. Annually, our linemen provide demonstrations to area schools to teach our children about high-voltage power lines. Special thanks to Mack, John, Quinn, Chris, and Jason for not only the work you to do provide electric energy to our members, but the work you do to keep our children safe.

Be safe as you celebrate our nation's independence on the Fourth of July. Enjoy the fireworks, parades, and barbecues, and remember the debt we owe to all of those who came before us to protect our freedom. Enjoy your summer.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep all electrical toys and appliances away from water. This means pools, bathtubs, sprinkler systems, sinks, etc.

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 April 25, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the March 28, 2019 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 Governance Committee reported on their discussions regarding collection, reconnect, and trip fees.
- c. The board reviewed information on discounting the early retirement of capital credits. A task force report from CFC was provided to assist with discounting method recommendations.
- d. The board reviewed a new loan request from the Economic Development Revolving Loan Program.
- e. Denise "Dee" Fox reported on CWEC's statistical safety data and the Safety Improvement Plan (SIP) she has implemented over the past nine months.
- f. Brenda Mazemke presented the results of the 2018 Member Survey, noting the scores and ratings to be very consistent with the 2015 survey results.
- g. The board approved the "corrected" investment for

American Transmission Company (ATC) as part of the second call of 2019.

- h. The board was pleased with the record attendance at the recent annual meeting. Ideas and suggestions for future meeting were discussed and noted.

Operations and Engineering – PUSH, Inc. is working on reject pole replacements. Zielies will be completing right-of-way clearance on Almon F1 and moving over to Tigerton F1. We will be contracting 4-Control out of Menomonie, WI, to do our herbicide treatment for vegetation management.

Accounting and Finance – We are working on refunding membership fees since we will no longer be assessing the \$5 membership fee. Employees are currently undergoing cyber security training. We are in the process of automating our remote disconnect meter procedures.

Member Services – Our 4th Annual Photo Contest is underway. The contest runs from April 1 until August 26. Operation Round Up approved a total of \$1,950 in donations and \$13,700 in scholarships at their April meeting. This brings the grand total donations and scholarships year-to-date to \$504,733.20.

President and CEO – Two of our linemen (John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough) have returned from assisting Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in Albert Lea, MN, during their ice and wind damage earlier this month. This is part of the ROPE mutual aid program. The Guatemala International Project is starting to take shape. Mackenzie Yarbrough has volunteered to be part of that project later this fall.

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.



COBANK SHARING SUCCESS GRANTS AWARDED

One of the most unique programs Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative participates in is the CoBank Sharing Success Grant Program. This annual opportunity is made possible by CWEC’s governing board of trustees, in partnership with CoBank—a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services, including CWEC.

CoBank established a \$3 million fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that co-ops play in communities across the country. CoBank states that partnering with its customers to support worthy causes they care about is a great way for CoBank to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

“Thanks to our board of directors and CoBank, the Sharing Success Grant enables CWEC to give back to the communities we serve,” Brenda Mazemke, CWEC manager of member relations, said. “CWEC is a proud participant in the CoBank ‘Sharing Success’ charitable contribution program because we feel this program is a great way for us to give back to the communities we serve.”

As a participating member of the CoBank “Sharing Success” charitable contribution program, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative makes up to three donations totaling \$1,000 each year to qualifying 501(c)3 organizations located within the communities that we serve and CoBank matches our donation to these organizations, totaling \$2,000 per organization.

CWEC’s CoBank “Sharing Success” recipients for 2019 are: The Kronenwetter Fire Department, the Wittenberg Fire Department, and Rural Health Initiative.



Kris Grod (l), fire chief, and Jason Budnik (r), deputy fire chief, accepted the donation from Sue Rombalski, CWEC director, on behalf of the Kronenwetter Fire Department. The money will be used to purchase new fire helmets.



Above: Rhonda Strebel, Rural Health Initiative executive director, said funds will be used for the “kitchen wellness” program, which helps farmers in Waupaca, Outagamie, and Shawano Counties.



Left: The Wittenberg Fire Department accepted the donation from Tony Buss, CWEC director. This donation will enable them to replace aging pagers.

LINEMAN TEACH LOCAL FOURTH-GRADERS IMPORTANT ELECTRICAL SAFETY LESSONS

Every year, linemen from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative visit grade schools throughout our service area to put on electrical safety demonstrations for the students. Demonstrations were held in the Tigerton, Bowler, Iola-Scandinavia, Rosholt, Birnamwood, and Wittenberg school districts. CWEC would like to thank both the staff and students for taking time out of their days to allow us to teach students a lesson on electrical safety.

The demonstration shows students firsthand the dangers that could occur if they aren't safe with electricity. The linemen showed students what could happen if kite strings, tree branches, and the human hand come in contact with a power line. They also taught the students what to do if they get into a car accident with a power pole. The demonstration shows the importance of handling electricity with care and respect.

“Our main focus is to teach children about the hazards that are around them every day,” operations crew leader Mack Yarbrough said. “Our demonstrations are meant to be fun but also a serious lesson the kids will remember.”



CWEC linemen, Jason Walter and Chris Tuszke, demonstrated to students in Wittenberg what happens when a tree branch comes in contact with an energized power line.



Iola-Scandinavia students learned from Mack Yarbrough and John Bestul, CWEC linemen, about the dangers associated with electricity and how to be safe when around electricity.



Quinn Zdroik and Chris Tuszke, CWEC linemen, explained to Rosholt students about the dangers associated with electricity and proper safety.



Using a hot dog, CWEC lineman John Bestul demonstrated to Tigerton fourth-graders what happens to your skin if you touch an energized wire.



Chris Tuszke and Quinn Zdroik, CWEC linemen, showed the Bowler students what happens when a metal rod comes in contact with an energized power line.



Kim and Darrell Javorek, Johnson Creek Dairy, accepted a check from Dennis Magee, CWEC operations manager, to help pay for energy efficient upgrades recently done on their farm.

CWEC HELPS JOHNSON CREEK DAIRY WITH ENERGY UPGRADES

We were able to help Johnson Creek Dairy with the cost to install new energy efficient variable-speed vacuum pumps on their farm through our Energy Conservation Rewards Program. Milking equipment uses a lot of energy on dairy farms; the new pumps will help cut their energy costs.

The farm has been in their two families since 1913. Johnson Creek Dairy milks 370 cows and crops 1,200 acres to provide feed for the cows. “We are very thankful to work with Central Wisconsin Electric,” Kim and Darrell Javorek said. “The people at CWEC have always been helpful and prompt when called on. The different programs have been beneficial to our farm.”

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 or give us a call.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY

Iola-Scandinavia Fireworks Celebration Wednesday, July 3

Kick off your 4th of July celebration in Iola. Softball and baseball games begin at 5 p.m. Food, refreshments, and music. Fireworks start at dusk. Rain date Friday, July 5. Taylor Field, Iola. For more information visit www.ischamber.com.

4th of July Tigerton Block Party Thursday, July 4

9 a.m.–7 p.m. Food, silent auction, music, refreshments, vendors. Fireworks at dusk by the High School Community Park, corner of Beech & Pine, Tigerton. For more information call Tigerton Mainstreet at 715-535-2110.

CWEC Office Closed

Thursday, July 4
Independence Day Holiday



Rosholt Fireworks

Thursday, July 4
Rosholt Fair Grounds. For more information visit www.rosholtvillage.com.

Walls of Wittenberg, “Second Tuesday Concert Series”

Tuesday, July 9
6–8 p.m. Quarry Road Bank Band. Local group playing a variety of music. WOW Art Park 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. Free concert and ice cream. Redeemer Lutheran Church will be providing food for purchase. In case of rain concert held in WOWSPACE. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit www.wallsowittenberg.com.

Hatch Lake Association Brat Fry

Wednesday, July 10
9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Iola SENTRY Foods, Iola.

Iola Car Show & Swap Meet

July 11-13
Midwest’s largest Old Car Show –great food and camping available. Iola. For more information call 715-445-4000 or visit www.iolaoldcarshow.com.

Art on the Track (Art & Craft Fair) Friday, July 12

Held at the Iola-Scandinavia track, behind the elementary school, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., Iola. For more information call Stacy Bestul at 715-445-2411 ext 1313 or email bestuls@iola.k12.wi.us.

Iola-Scandinavia Tastes and Tunes

July 19-20
Music and food specials at 15 venues in the Iola-Scandinavia area. Bakeries, restaurants, bars, Iola Historical Society, and I-S Fitness & Aquatic Center will have entertainment and prize opportunities. Sponsored by the Iola-Scandinavia

Chamber of Commerce, Iola. For more information visit www.ischamber.com and on Facebook.

30th Annual Thresheree Antique and Farm Tractor Pull Saturday, July 20



Antique tractor pull 11 a.m. Food and beverages, crafters, vendors, flea market, and much more. Free admission. Rosholt Fair Park, Rosholt. For more information call 715-869-7653.



52nd Annual Symco Thresheree & National Antique Tractor Pull July 26–28

Tractor pull Saturday, Parade at 11:30 on Sunday. Symco. For more information call Gary Knutz 920-757-6995 or go to www.symcoutc.com.

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

Mike Wade, President & CEO


10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932 • www.cwecoop.com

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Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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