



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## SETTING A COURSE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Thank you to everyone who attended our 81st annual meeting at the Iola-Scandinavia High School in Iola. We had a larger than normal turnout and as always, we enjoyed visiting with you and sharing the accomplishments of your cooperative from the previous year. 2018 was another successful year for the cooperative and we are pleased that so many of you came to the meeting. And thanks for your participation in this year's election for members to serve on our board of directors. Service as a director is a challenging, but extremely rewarding experience. Our success depends on engaged and committed members willing to serve on our board of directors and our member committees.

The proposed bylaw revisions introduced at the annual meeting were adopted. The revised bylaws clarify language in several areas and will be easier to read and understand. More time has been allotted for the director nomination process, and the nomination by petition

signature requirement has been reduced from 50 to 20 signatures. All changes are intended to make it easier for our members to seek to serve on our board of directors.

We are very proud of the services we provide to our local communities, but we are also proud when we can help our fellow electric cooperatives in need. In 2018, we helped restore power to Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative (ACEC) when they were hit by a massive storm, and ACEC has been quick to provide assistance when we have faced extensive storm damage to our system. Two of our line workers recently returned from assisting Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in Albert Lea, Minnesota, with damage that resulted from a spring ice storm. Thanks to John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough for their commitment to helping their fellow cooperatives. We lend a helping hand because we know they'll be there to help us should the need ever arise. But more importantly, it is the right thing to do.

This summer, the board of directors



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**  
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will hold strategic planning sessions with the management staff to develop a new strategic plan. This is a time at which we analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the cooperative and chart a course to meet the challenges that lay before us. Once we have completed the strategic planning process, we will develop strategic initiatives and action items before our fall budget cycle. I look forward to working with staff and our board to develop a new strategic plan.

Although I never thought the snow would melt, I hope you are spending time outdoors and are making your summer plans. Enjoy your summer fun because it will pass all too quickly. Be safe in your travels.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

A cord is not a chew toy. Pet proof your home by covering or enclosing electrical cords and taking steps to prevent other electrical hazards.

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 March 28, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the February 28, 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 board approved changes to 2.0 Terms and Conditions for Service which includes the addition of 2.3.5 Neutral Isolation.
- Discussion was held regarding retiring capital credits for deceased members. Next month's meeting will include a discussion of the methodology for discounting capital credits received early as well as other issues related to retiring capital credits of deceased members.
- The board agreed to continue investing in ATC as part of the second capital call of 2019.
- The board approved a one-year contract extension with Hilgenberg Realty expiring March 31, 2020, for the sale of the

Wittenberg spec building.

- The board approved donations and scholarships from the Federated Youth Foundation Fund and CoBank Sharing Success matching grants for 2019.
- The board approved the \$2.2M 2019–2022 work plan amendment as presented for system improvements to our electric distribution system.
- An information-only presentation was provided to the board on the use and placement of meter pedestals. This presentation will be provided to the Member Advisory Group (MAG) members at next week's meeting.

Operations and Engineering – Hazard recognition inspections are almost complete. Replacement LED lights have been ordered for the Village of Tigerton and Stockbridge.

Accounting and Finance – Reviewed the reports submitted. Cyber security training for all employees is in progress.

Member Services – The Annual Meeting Committee has been preparing everything for the April 23, 2019 Annual Meeting. Scholarship submission deadline is April 1, 2019.

President and CEO – We are in discussions with Clearspring Energy to provide load forecast assistance. Mackenzie Yarbrough has volunteered to assist in the Guatemala International Project in October 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.



# COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

## CWEC linemen lend a hand at a Minnesota co-op after April storm

The Midwest is no stranger to bad spring weather. Earlier this month, the Midwest was hit by a large winter storm causing extensive power outages. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was lucky; we were able to restore power to our members quickly. Some cooperatives weren't.

Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services in Albert Lea, Minnesota, sent out a request for additional linemen and equipment through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program on Thursday, April 11. The storm delivered high winds, snow, and ice to southern Minnesota. In the wake of the storm, nearly 500 poles were downed and about half of Freeborn-Mower's distribution system was without power.

**In the wake of the storm, nearly 500 poles were downed and about half... the system was without power.**

On Friday, April 12, two of CWEC's linemen, John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough,

along with a digger truck and pole trailer, set out to help our neighbors to the west. John and Mack were tasked with replacing the downed three-phase lines, alongside linemen from Bayfield Electric, Taylor Electric, and Price Electric Cooperatives, working 16-hour grueling days.

Over 120 linemen from 17 electric cooperatives, traveling from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, came to aid in power restoration to Freeborn-Mower members. Through hard work and long days, all power was restored to Freeborn-Mower members by Wednesday, April 17.



Above: Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's linemen John Bestul and Mackenzie Yarbrough, always ready to help their fellow co-op, with a smile on their face, even after several long days.

Below: Weight from ice-coated lines, combined with fierce winds, caused many of the poles to snap off at ground level.



## SAFETY IS KEY

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was awarded the 2018 Corporate Safety Award. On April 16, CWEC's Kevin Kurtzweil and Dennis Magee traveled to Wisconsin Dells to receive the award. The Corporate Safety Award honors businesses for an exemplary safety record and excellence in safety and health management. It is given to the best of the best safe businesses in the state.

"I'm very proud of our employees at CWEC. It takes a team effort to produce a safety culture in an organization," said CWEC VP of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil.

CWEC Kevin Kurtzweil and Dennis Magee receiving the 2018 Corporate Safety Award from Wisconsin Safety Council Associate Director Barbara Deans.



## CWEC CELEBRATES ITS 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Over 250 members filled the Iola-Scandinavia High School auditorium on Tuesday, April 23, for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative’s 81st annual meeting. CWEC repeated the weekday evening format adopted by chance last year, when heavy spring snow forced the cancellation of the scheduled Saturday morning meeting.

“The cooperative experienced no

lost-time accidents for a fifth consecutive year in 2018, and employees have traveled more than 800,000 accident-free vehicle miles,” Board Chairman Anthony Buss reported. “To enhance safety efforts and save money, Central Wisconsin partners with four other co-ops to share regulatory compliance and safety services,” he added.

President and CEO Mike Wade highlighted Central Wisconsin’s investment in the West Riverside Energy Center near Beloit. The expansion project is on an existing power plant site, and Central Wisconsin will own five megawatts of the overall 700-megawatt output. The Alliant Energy facility is expected to be the most efficient natural gas-fired power plant in Wisconsin when it comes on line in mid-2020.

Members approved the results of board election conducted by mail. David Wozniak, CPA, from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, announced the election results: Lee Lehrer and Elaine Eckendorf, unopposed, were returned to their seats for new three-year terms.

Board reorganization following the annual meeting left officers Anthony Buss, Jr. as chairman and Tom Smith as vice chairman, with Elaine Eckendorf elected as secretary/ treasurer.

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative would like to thank the following vendors for their generous door prize donations to the 2019 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.**

- AJ Construction of Wisconsin
- Altec Industries-WI
- American Transmission Company
- Bell Lumber & Pole Company
- Complete Office of Wisconsin
- Cooperative Response Center
- Damage Prevention Services
- Dependable Service Hydraulics LLC
- EIR Testing and Maintenance Company
- EO Johnson Business Technologies
- Gordy’s 66 Service & Towing
- NISC
- PUSH Incorporated
- RESCO
- The Benefit Works
- UniFirst Corporation





Join us in congratulating Gabe, Mack, and John! Gabe Pospyhalla changed jobs from journeyman lineworker to electrical technician. John Bestul moved up from journeyman lineworker to service foreman, and Mackenzie Yarbrough advanced from journeyman lineworker to operations crew leader.



## 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.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE

### Wittenberg Community Days

**Saturday, June 8 & Sunday, June 9**  
Saturday— Kids Again Inflatable Fun, 3–7 p.m.; music, 7–11 p.m. Huge fireworks show at dusk. Sunday – parade at noon. Washington Park, Wittenberg. For more information go to [www.wittenbergchamber.org](http://www.wittenbergchamber.org)

### Walls of Wittenberg Presents: "Emerging Talent VI"

**Saturday/Sunday, June 1–9**  
Reception on Sunday, June 9, following the Wittenberg Community Days parade. An exhibit of original art by Wittenberg-Birnamwood students grades K-12. Show opens 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. WOWSPACE 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit [www.wallofswittenberg.com](http://www.wallofswittenberg.com).

### Walls of Wittenberg, "Second Tuesday Concert Series"

**Tuesday, June 11**  
6–8 p.m. The Sloppy Joe Band.



WOW Art Park, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. Free concert and ice cream. Food provided for purchase. In case of rain concert held in WOWSPACE. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit [www.wallofswittenberg.com](http://www.wallofswittenberg.com).

### Flag Day



### 30th Annual Energy Fair

**Friday, June 21–Sunday, June 23**  
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m.–11 p.m., Sunday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Located at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association in Custer. 200+ exhibitors and workshops on sustainable living, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. Keynote speakers, Clean Transportation Show, green building demos, live music, local food, family friendly. Save with advanced tickets. Volunteers, members, and kids under 12 get in free. For more information, call 715-592-6595 or go to [www.TheEnergyFair.org](http://www.TheEnergyFair.org).

### Benefit Fish Fry for Tigerton Area Ambulance & First Responders

**Saturday, June 15**  
3–8 p.m. Meat raffle and other raffles. Advance ticket sales adults \$10 (\$12 at the door), children 10 and under \$5 (\$6 at the door). Sponsored by Embarrass River Lions-Town of Morris. Morris Town Hall, W15320 Berg Road, Tigerton. For more information call Larry, 715-535-2775, or David, 715-326-036.9

### Father's Day



### St. Ladislaus Church Picnic

**Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30**  
Music, food, and refreshments. Games, raffles, bingo 1 p.m. Sunday. Family-style chicken dinner Sunday 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Corner of Highways 153 and Y. For more information call 714-454-7171.

### 35th Annual Strawberry Fest



**Sunday, June 23**  
11 a.m.–4 p.m. Raffle tickets available \$2 each or three for \$5 –first place \$500 cash prize and many other prizes. Iola Historical Society, Iola. For more information call 715-445-IOLA (4652) or visit [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org).



### 2nd Annual Corn Roast Classic Golf Scramble

**Saturday, June 29**  
10 a.m., shotgun start, four-person teams, hole prizes, dinner after, raffles prizes. Glacier Wood Golf Course, Iola. Sponsored by Scandinavia Booster Club. Register team and dinner guests by June 21. For more information email [scandinaviaboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:scandinaviaboosterclub@gmail.com).

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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### Board of Directors

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