



**Tom Smith**  
Board Chairman

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

I am pleased to announce that Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will return to an in-person format for its 84th annual meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. It was always our goal to return to an in-person format for our annual meeting, and I look forward to seeing many of our members there.

Thank you to all of our customer-members for your support of CWEC in 2021. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as chairman of the board, and to support the communities of Central Wisconsin. In 2021, it was a year of change, challenges, and successes.

We had three long-standing directors—Anthony Buss Jr., Leonard Oppor, and Elaine Eckendorf—retire from the CWEC board. On behalf of all of CWEC, I thank Anthony, Leonard, and Elaine for their many years of service and dedication to the co-op.

At our director election in April 2021, we welcomed Ron Onesti and Lou Oppor as new additions to our board of directors. Ron previously served as the at-large director, while Lou is serving as a director for the first time. In 2022, we will be electing a new director to fill the seat left vacant by Elaine's retirement. I wish each of the new

directors my best and I know they will do a great job on behalf of our membership.

CWEC experienced two thunderstorms in July and a wind storm in December that knocked down trees and broke power poles because of high winds. Power was restored as quickly and as safely as possible in each instance. With the extensive damage after the July 28 storm, CWEC sent out a request for assistance through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Clark Electric Cooperative, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, and Taylor Electric Cooperative each sent a crew to help restore power. In addition, two CWEC contractors also sent crews to help.

I'm pleased to report that we once again experienced zero lost-time accidents in 2021. This does not happen by chance and is evidence of the importance our employees place on safety. I thank our employees for doing their jobs safely and responsibly for the benefit of our consumer-members.

Financially, the co-op is well prepared for the future. We returned \$454,542 in capital credits back to the membership in 2021. Capital credits represent each member's equity in the cooperative. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative for you.

In 2021, our investment in the West



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Riverside Energy Center helped reduce power costs to our members each month. Since West Riverside went into commercial operation in May 2020, CWEC has received over \$1.3 million in savings. A majority of these savings have been passed on to CWEC members directly each month, as we have been able to keep the power cost adjustment each month at zero or below.

I thank the Operations Round Up Trust Board, the Member Advisory Group, and the Nominations Committee for the outstanding assistance you provided to the cooperative in 2021. The strength of any cooperative is its membership and we are fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talent to help keep our cooperative healthy and strong.

I appreciate the work of all of the employees at CWEC, and as we look forward to the future, we will continue to set the bar for others to follow. It is also a pleasure to work with all the other Directors. As a board, we bring all different levels of expertise and knowledge to the table and I thank them for that. We look forward to what 2022 has to offer, and continuing to provide our members safe and reliable energy. And I look forward to seeing you at our 84th annual meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m.