



Tom Smith
Board Chairman

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



It was another active year for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative as all our employees worked to serve our members. Thankfully, we did not have any major storms that caused multi-day outages. The power outages that we did have, our linemen were able to restore power quickly and efficiently so there was limited inconvenience to our members.

Our linemen do more than restoring power when it goes out. They also work throughout the year maintaining the electric grid in the CWEC territory. This maintenance is integral to helping prevent outages from happening.

During the year, CWEC embarked on many projects to help ensure the integrity of the CWEC electric grid. Some of the projects included:

- Wrapped up the majority of the new meter installs for our new AMI System
- Completed annual inspections
 - » Pole inspections
 - » Underground inspections
 - » Substation inspections
 - » Hazard recognition inspections
 - » Oil circuit recloser maintenance
- Converted 6.88 miles of overhead lines to underground lines
- Converted 1.17 miles of single-phase overhead lines to 3-phase overhead lines
- Replaced 4.9 miles of old unjacketed underground cable
- Replaced 1.06 miles of old #6 Copper overhead wire
- Completed vegetation maintenance of 140 miles
- Started on the expansion/grounding for the Sannes Substation
- Replaced 31 rejected poles
- 57 new connections

In addition to the hard work of our employees, the success of the cooperative was also dependent on its members, volunteer

member committees, and board members. I thank each and everyone of them for their support and commitment to CWEC. 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 talents to help our cooperative stay healthy and strong.

One of the committees that consists of cooperative members is the Operation Round Up Committee. The committee reviews applications from area charitable organizations, individuals in need, and schools who are requesting funds. In 2024, the committee approved the disbursement of \$20,250 in Operation Round Up funds to worthy causes. The committee also approved \$24,400 to be distributed in the form of scholarships to area students attending secondary schools. Two area high school seniors were each awarded a \$1,000 CWEC Utility Worker Scholarship and two area school districts were awarded STEAM grant funds.

Other noteworthy items regarding the cooperative from throughout the year included:

- For the second year in a row, we sent two linemen to work on the Navajo Nation lighting project.
- Retirement of \$250,000 of capital credits.
- Our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center near Beloit continues to benefit CWEC members with lower electricity rates.
- Distributed more than 3,000 toys to almost 1,200 area children through CWEC's Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign.

As I conclude this year in review, I want to thank CWEC Board Director Lee Lehrer for his dedicated service to representing District 2. Lee has decided to retire from the board. On behalf of all of CWEC, I thank Lee for his many years of service and dedication to the cooperative.

We look forward to 2025, and will strive to continue to provide our members safe and reliable energy. I look forward to seeing you at our 87th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m.