



# OPERATION ROUND UP HELPS OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Lila Shower,  
President & CEO

August is upon us and summer is in full swing. I hope you are all enjoying the weather and fun summer festivities as much as I am.

Summer is a very active time for our members, and at the co-op we are in full work mode. It is the time when the cooperative gets much of its construction and inspection work completed. Our line crews and contractors are busy extending new electric service to our members and performing needed maintenance work. Our vegetation management contractor is clearing around our overhead facilities so that we can access the lines during storms and bad weather. In many cases, our line crews and contractors are working along town and county roads. If you see our crews working along the roadside, remember their safety and slow down or move over.

One of the founding principles of your electric co-op is neighbors helping neighbors. Our cooperative is in touch with the communities we serve. Our directors and employees live in these communities. That's why we work hard to achieve a better quality of life for our member-owners. In that spirit Operation Round Up was launched.

In this month's magazine you will see photos of scholarship recipients for 2024. These scholarships are funded from our Operation Round Up program.

Operation Round Up is a program designed to raise funds for charitable organizations, individuals in need, and educational purposes. As the name suggests, each month's electric bills for participating co-op members are rounded up to the nearest dollar. On average the annual donation is around \$6. One hundred percent of the money is given to local concerns with no funds used for electric bills, administrative costs, or political purposes. A simple application to the independent board overseeing the Operation Round Up program is all that is needed to apply for funds. Collectively and for just pennies a month we can make a difference in our communities!

Our membership has been very generous towards Operation Round Up. We have 7,006 members at CWEC and we have 6,097 signed up for Operation Round Up. That is 87% of our membership that rounds up their electric bills to help with this program. Round Up was started in 2004 and the first year we received \$10,500 from this program to give back to our members. Fast forward to 2023, we gave donations of \$15,800 to charitable organizations and individuals in need, and \$24,375 in scholarships.

Since the inception of this program, we have been able to give a total of \$680,064 back to our communities. I cannot thank each of you enough for your participation in this invaluable program. If you are not participating in Operation Round Up, please consider joining the program; it truly makes a difference.

Thanks, and have a great month!

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 8:02 a.m. on May 30, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 29, 2024, meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- b. Two linemen gave a presentation of their work on the Navajo Nation Lighting Project.
- c. Rob Richard, Vice President of Governmental Relations and External Affairs for WECA, gave a brief recap of the legislative session and reviewed the new legislative maps.
- d. The Member Appreciation Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the Rosholt Headquarters Shop.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil gave an update on the HVAC systems. The software still needs to be tied into the units. Outages were reported on May 21 and 24, 2024. Two linemen went to Washington Island to help restore power after a tornado was reported.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The annual workers compensation audit was completed and submitted. Eaton completed the 4-meter configurations. The meters were programmed and configured correctly. There were 60 disconnects in May.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke gave an update on the Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electrical Grid Grants. They have been approved by the Public Service Commission and have been forwarded to the Department of Energy for final review. Safe Electricity demonstrations took place at several area schools.

President and CEO – Lila Shower, CEO, reported on her submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# CONGRATULATIONS

## TO OUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Claire Barden



Kaydence Burclaw



Gracie Casper



Jayden Chaney



Macey Check



Jensen Cooley



Isabella Dahlstrom



Presley Firkus



Jessica Gardner



Kalee Gilmeister



Laura Gilmeister



Adison Glodowski



Maci Heschke

With donations from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's members through the Operation Round Up program, \$24,400 has been awarded to students pursuing a post-high school education. Of that total, \$19,000 was approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, to be awarded to first-time scholarship applicants who will be attending a technical college or university. The 38 students who will be receiving a \$500 scholarship are listed below. CWEC also awarded \$200 Operation Round Up scholarships to 27 repeat scholarship applicants.

**We thank our members who participate in the Operation Round Up program.**

**Claire Barden**, Rosholt, Northcentral Technical College, Architectural Design

**Madelyn Borgen**, Scandinavia, St. Norbert College, Psychology (Photo not available)

**Kaydence Burclaw**, Rosholt, UW-Eau Claire, Biochemistry

**Gracie Casper**, Rosholt, UW-Stevens Point, Dietetics

**Jayden Chaney**, Eland, UW-La Crosse, Biology

**Macey Check**, Rosholt, UW-Stevens Point, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education

**Jensen Cooley**, Rosholt, Carroll University, Criminal Justice & Sociology

**Isabella Dahlstrom**, Tigerton, UW-Eau Claire, Psychology

**Presley Firkus**, Iola, Winona State University, Nursing

**Jessica Gardner**, Bowler, Concordia University, Early Childhood & Elementary Education

**Kalee Gilmeister**, Eland, Northcentral Technical College, Electrical Distribution

**Laura Gilmeister**, Eland, UW-River Falls, Agricultural Studies

**Adison Glodowski**, Rosholt, Black Hawk College, Agribusiness Management

**Maci Heschke**, Iola, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Diagnostic Medical Sonography

**Myah Heschke**, Iola, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Echocardiography

**Gavin Klose**, Bowler, UW-Green Bay, Pre-Optometry (Photo not available)

**Karter Kolpack**, Bowler, Michigan State University, Packaging Science

**Hailey Kostuch**, Rosholt, UW-Stevens Point, Nursing

**Jackson Krohn**, Marion, UW-Oshkosh, Undecided

**Sydney Krueger**, Stevens Point, Northcentral Technical College, Vet Tech

**Bridget Lemanczyk**, Rosholt, UW-Green Bay, Nursing

**Jared Miller**, Rosholt, UW-Whitewater, Business Administration

**Bo Niewiadomski**, Rosholt, UW-Eau Claire, Health Science-Exercise Science

**Charlie Nowinsky**, Eland, Ohio University, Business Administration

**Allison Pecha**, Mosinee, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Pre-Medical

**Pierson Potrykus**, Eland, Fox Valley Technical College, Construction Management

**Alexis Roe**, Marion, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Dairy Science

**Juniper Rydberg**, Stevens Point, UW-Stout, Family and Consumer Science Education

**Mark Edward Schoeberle**, Green Bay, UW-Green Bay, Computer Science (Photo not available)

**Ally Seefeldt**, Tigerton, UW-Green Bay, Education (Photo not available)

**Joseph Seegmiller**, Wittenberg, UW-Green Bay, Nurse Anesthetist (Photo not available)

**Alexander Shelley**, Iola, UW-Stout, Manufacturing Engineering & Mechanical Engineering

**Payton Skortz**, Hatley, UW-Stevens Point, Wildlife Ecology and Management & Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

**Elizabeth Steuck**, Tigerton, Bellin College, Surgical Assisting Program

**Isabella Agnes Stevens**, Bowler, UW-Green Bay, Psychology

**Nick Trzebiatowski**, Custer, Ripon College, Computer Science (Photo not available)

**Hope Uttecht**, Wittenberg, Northcentral Technical College, X-Ray Technician (Photo not available)

**Emma Wojtalewicz**, Rosholt, Northcentral Technical College, Nursing





Myah Heschke



Karter Kolpack



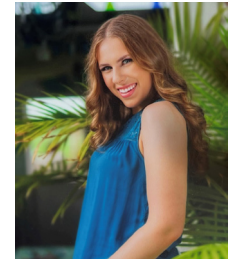
Hailey Kostuch



Jackson Krohn



Sydney Krueger



Bridget Lemanczyk



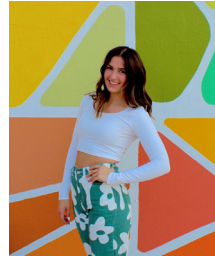
Jared Miller



Bo Niewiadomski



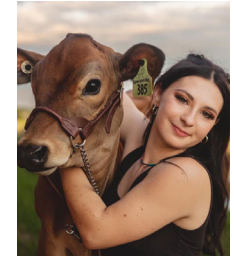
Charlie Nowinsky



Allison Pecha



Pierson Potrykus



Alexis Roe



Juniper Rydberg



Alexander Shelley



Payton Skortz



Elizabeth Steuck



Isabella Agnes Stevens



Emma Wojtalewicz

## GILMEISTER, MELUM AWARDED UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIPS

**K**alee Gilmeister, of Eland, and Carter Melum, of Iola, have each been named recipients of the 2024 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. Each will receive \$1,000 for their studies.

CWEC established the scholarship to help address a forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility.

### Kalee Gilmeister

Gilmeister, a 2024 graduate of D.C. Everest High School, said she decided to pursue a career as an electric utility worker because she wanted to pursue a career in the trades, and to do something



that helps other people.

"I feel like it's going to be something that I honestly will really enjoy," Gilmeister said.

Because Gilmeister's mom works for a plumbing, heating, and electrical company, Gilmeister said electricity is something that has interested her. This had her thinking about becoming an electrician. But after speaking with the career coach at D.C. Everest, Gilmeister said he encouraged her to consider the Electrical Distribution program at North-central Technical College (NTC).

After visiting NTC in February to learn more about the program, Gilmeister decided that was the path she wanted to take.

"He (instructor) let me try out some of the things and get my hands on some of it," Gilmeister said. "I just really enjoyed the teachers, the learning environment, some of the things that he taught. I just found it all really interesting and

something that I could see myself learning more about."

Gilmeister said she understands that she will be entering a male-dominated career, and will have to prove that she has the skills and knowledge to do the job. She added that in the future, she would be alright with being a role model for young girls.

"Showing that women can do stuff and you don't have to be afraid if you're a little different," Gilmeister said. "How many women are now welders? Times can change. If you love something, and it's your passion, go for it."

Spending time outdoors and having hands-on work experiences are a couple of things that attracted Gilmeister to pursue an electric utility worker career.

"I'm not the type of person who likes to sit at a desk all the time," she said. "Having that hands-on thing. And trying something that most people don't really do is something that I think sets me out

and will be something that will carry me on for a long way.”

Gilmeister has been accepted to the Electrical Distribution program at NTC in Wausau, but is on the waiting list to start the program.

Receiving the CWEC Utility Worker Scholarship is something Gilmeister said she is thankful for.

“It’s just absolutely amazing to me that I was able to receive it,” she said. “It will allow me to pay off my debt sooner and have a more fulfilling life. Hopefully even give back to other people who need help.”

### Carter Melum

Melum, a 2024 graduate of Iola-Scandinavia High School, said he started thinking about becoming an electric utility worker when he was in middle school.



“Before that I always wanted to be a dentist because it’s still helping people out, but the more I went on with schoolwork, the less I got interested in going to a four-year college,” Melum said. “But I knew I still had to go on to school to

make something of myself. And doing this is definitely doing that.”

Finding a career that helps people is important to Melum, who said he has always been interested in electricity, and also enjoys being in the outdoors.

“Being a lineman fits all those. It checks all those boxes,” Melum said.

To help reaffirm his decision to pursue a career as an electric utility worker, Melum said he spoke with two retired electric utility workers who had worked at CWEC, as well as current CWEC lineman Alex Lutz.

“All of them had nothing bad to say about working for the co-op and being a lineman,” Melum said.

Melum is currently enrolled in the Electrical Power Distribution program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) in Green Bay. The program lasts nine months, and Melum is scheduled to graduate in March of 2025.

Being named a scholarship recipient was very important for his career pursuit, Melum said.

“Without it (scholarship), I would have less opportunity,” Melum said. “For all I know, I may not have even been attending this school without it. It definitely helps a lot.”



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

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

[www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com)

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**Lila Shower, President & CEO**

**Bert Lehman, Editor**

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#### District 1

Ron Onesti  
715-551-9257

Tom Smith  
Chairman  
715-701-2051

#### District 2

Lee Lehrer  
920-851-4545 – cell  
715-677-3850 – home

Lou Oppor  
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Michael Schultz  
715-370-1378

#### District 3

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715-701-2053 - cell  
715-341-4571 - home

Allen Zander  
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715-630-8239

### Our Mission

We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.



## DID YOU RECEIVE A CALL AND MESSAGE FROM CWEC?

With Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative discontinuing its load management program for water heaters, we are in the process of contacting members who were part of the program.

The purpose of the contact is to schedule an appointment to remove the load management receivers from their water heaters. If

you receive a message from CWEC regarding the removal of a load management receiver, please return the message so we can get your appointment scheduled. Only members who have load management receivers will be contacted. If you have any questions, please call 715-677-2213.



The CWEC Member  
Appreciation Breakfast  
will be held **Saturday, Oct. 26**