



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

As we enter the holiday season, it is time to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for. I am especially grateful to be associated with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative and the role it plays in supporting our local communities and providing our members with safe and reliable electric energy. The cooperative has had a productive year with zero lost-time accidents and we are expecting great things to happen in the new year.

Thanks to all of you who attended our Member Appreciation Breakfast in October. It was held on a beautiful fall day and the turnout exceeded our expectations. The smell of pancakes and sausage filled our shop as members from all across the service area entered our office. The event gave members the opportunity to dispose of unwanted confidential documents using our secure disposal service and shop with our many arts and crafts vendors. It was wonderful to visit with each of you and I look

forward to seeing you in April at the annual meeting.


Our Toys for Tots campaign is in full swing. Now is the perfect time to donate a toy at one of our local toy drop locations. These toys will find their way into the hands of a deserving child in the area. Your generous donations have put smiles on the faces of thousands of children since the program began. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

Across the nation, we are seeing fuel and natural gas prices on the rise. With temperatures falling, that means furnaces are running and we can expect to see our fuel bills increase. Be mindful of these price fluctuations as you warm your homes this winter. For any of our members who are facing financial challenges, remember there are avenues for energy assistance that may be available to you. Information on how to apply for energy assistance may be found in this month's edition of the *WECN* magazine.

As you enjoy the holiday season and prepare for the new year, remember these helpful safety tips. Check your holiday



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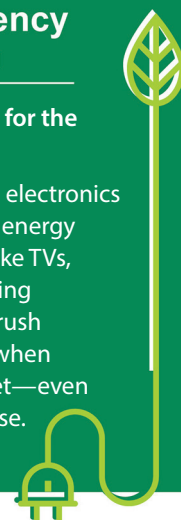
lights for frayed cords and loose connections, and always turn off holiday lights when you leave the house or go to bed. Test your smoke alarms and clean or replace your furnace filter as needed. The holidays are about family and friends and we all enjoy a little time off from work. But above all, remember to be responsible and play it safe.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles, and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

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



MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The September regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on September 30, 2021 at 8:04 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The Governance Committee did not meet this month. A meeting is planned for next month.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 202 - Director Fees and Expenses and made no recommendation for changes.
- The board approved the capital credit retirement for 2021 in the amount of \$350,000.
- The board approved the attendees and voting delegates for the WECA Annual Meeting scheduled for November 10-11, 2021

in Stevens Point, WI.

- The board approved the director attendees and voting delegates for the 2022 director conference schedule.
- Mr. Wade gave an informational presentation to the board on industry standard outage incidents.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported MJ Construction has completed the grounding at the Tigerton substation, and we are waiting on the contractor to complete the graveling and driveway. Chapman Metering has completed the CT meter testing at the Iola and Sannes substations. Zielies is back helping us with vegetation management after returning from helping with hurricane clean up down south.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower reported filing of paperwork has been completed from the July 2021 storm to the Marathon County Disaster Recovery Program.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke's report was reviewed by Mr. Wade.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.



The 2021 CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast returned to its traditional in-person sit-down breakfast. In addition to pancakes and sausage, attendees enjoyed cake.

## CWEC MEMBERS ENJOY IN-PERSON MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

There were 498 meals served at the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 30, held at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt. The annual event was held in its traditional format of an in-person sit-down breakfast after being held as a drive-thru breakfast in 2020 because of COVID-19. CWEC would like to thank everyone for their participation.

Plenty of activities for young and old were available. There were kids' games, goodie bags for kids, hotline demonstrations, free blood-pressure screening provided by Rural Health Initiative, free COVID-19 vaccination shots provided by Portage County Public Health Department, paper document recycling, and a craft fair with more than 20 area craft vendors.

In addition, CWEC kicked off its annual Toys for Tots campaign. The response was overwhelming with almost 150 toys and stocking stuffers donated at the event.

Non-perishable food items were also collected at the event, with our generous members donating 422 food items, which were donated to area food pantries.

A special thank you to Rural Health Initiative for providing blood pressure checks and Portage County Public Health Department for providing COVID-19 vaccination shots.

Door prize winners included: Lynn Meyer, Annette Slack, Len Luedtke, Dianna Smith, Joleen Kostuch, Diane Singer, Steve Kozak, Allen Zander, and Allie Thulien.

A girls and boys 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The winners were Noah Gollon and Rose Raykowski.

Winners of the Halloween costume contest for kids included: Maddyx Waltenberg (3 years old), Emmerson Mlodik (10 months old), Jasper Poppe (5 years old), Riley Scharrer (5 years old), Matthew Fenske (7 years old), and Natalie Jungen (10 years old).



There were plenty of activities for kids at the 2021 CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast.



Left to right: Jasper Poppe (left) and Riley Scharrer (right) won the Halloween costume contest for kids ages 4-6 years old; Maddyx Waltenberg (left, being held) and Emmerson Mlodik (right, being held) won the Halloween costume contest for kids 3 years old or under; Rose Raykowski was the winner of the girls bike.



# HOLIDAY DÉCOR TIPS FOR AN ENERGY-WISE HOME

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights yet, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking—and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers.

If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money, and energy. If you're using



For a more natural look, consider making a simple wreath or garland for the exterior of your home. You can use solar-powered spotlights to illuminate the greenery at night.

a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's

no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season.

## RECYCLE YOUR BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

When you put up your Christmas lights this year, did you find any strings of lights that didn't work? If you did, bring them to our headquarters in Rosholt to have them recycled. There is a collection box in our lobby where they can be placed.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF POWER!

Don't know what to give someone for Christmas? Why not give them the gift of power? Gift certificates are available at the CWEC office or online at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).

## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILLS?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Commitment to Community Program is designed to help households with their energy costs, including electric bills. For many Wisconsin households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family budget. To better serve our members, CWEC is part of the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus (HE+) program.

This program is funded through public benefits and federal dollars to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy assistance and weatherization. Members may be eligible if they meet the HE+ program guidelines. Members should contact their local agency to determine eligibility.

County	Agency	Telephone No.
Marathon	Energy Services, Inc.	715-842-3111
Portage	Energy Services, Inc.	715-344-5999
Shawano	Department of Human Services	715-526-4740
Waupaca	Energy Services, Inc.	715-258-6820



## PUBLIC NOTICE – UNCLAIMED PATRONAGE CAPITAL FUNDS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has unclaimed patronage capital funds for former members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Funds for these people have been unclaimed for three years. In accordance with cooperative bylaws, after 60 days from this publication, the unclaimed funds shall be forfeited from the cooperative to be used for educational loans, scholarships, or charitable purposes.

The listing of names is published on our website: [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com). On the main page under About Us select Capital Credits, where you will find a button **2021 Member List of Unclaimed Patronage**. If you do not have access to our website online, you may request a listing by contacting our office

during regular business hours.

If you know the whereabouts of these former members, please ask either the individual member or the estate executor to contact us at 800-377-2932. When writing to us, please include information to verify the person is the same one we are trying to locate. A previous mailing address, service address, street, road, or fire number where service was received would be helpful.

Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you prefer email, address your message to [cwec@cwecoop.com](mailto:cwec@cwecoop.com)



We respond to all inquiries; however, due to the large volume of inquiries please be patient as we do our best to serve you, our member.



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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**Bert Lehman, Editor**

### Board of Directors

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715-701-2051

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Lou Oppor  
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Michael Schultz  
Vice Chairman  
715-370-1378

#### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053

## HEY KIDS – GET OUT YOUR CRAYONS!

It's time for our annual Christmas coloring contest. The contest is open to all kids ages 10 and under. **The theme this year is a Christmas tree.**

Draw a picture of a Christmas tree and mail or bring it to:

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 100  
10401 Lystul Road  
Rosholt, WI 54473

**Please make sure to have your name, age, and phone number on the back of your picture.**

We will award three prizes in two age groups: 6 and under and 7 to 10. The prizes will be: first – \$25, second – \$15, and third – \$10.

Contest is open to the children of CWEC members only. **Entries must be done in crayon only.**

Deadline for the pictures is Monday, Dec. 6, so get started right away and good luck.

The drawings will be on display in the lobby at the CWEC office, so stop in and take a look at the beautiful pictures.



## Holiday Wishes

All of us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative wish all of our members a happy Holiday Season.

Our office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 23 and Friday, Dec. 24 in observation of the Christmas holiday. Our office will also be closed Friday, Dec. 31 in observation of New Year's Day.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season!



### Our Mission

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