



By Mike Wade, President & CEO

# THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS FOR FAMILY AND GIVING

The holiday season is upon us. It is a time to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for and express gratitude and appreciation to those around us. I am especially thankful for my family and I look forward to catching up with them over the holidays. I am also 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 another successful year of serving our members and I look forward to the great things we will achieve in the upcoming year.

Our Member Appreciation Breakfast was a huge success and I was glad to see so many members in attendance. The pancakes and sausage were delicious and the cake was fantastic (yes, I said cake!). 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 underway and now is the perfect time to donate a toy at one of our local drop locations. These toys will help the children in our communities have a very merry Christmas and your donations are very much appreciated. If you are looking for a site to drop off toys, please check our website for details. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

We continue to see market conditions that are keeping electric energy costs high. Natural gas supply and demand are causing high fuel costs and coal plants continue to see transportation delays in bringing coal from the mines to the plants. Be mindful of these price fluctuations as you warm your homes this winter. Although I wish I had better news, we may continue to see higher than expected electricity prices until the markets change in our favor.

Remember these helpful safety tips this holiday season. Check your holiday 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.

From all of us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we are proud to be of service to you. We hope that you and your family are healthy and safe during this holiday season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

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



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The September regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on September 29, 2022 at 8:01 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 25, 2022 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. The Governance Committee met on September 28, 2022 to review a firearms policy.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 409 – West Riverside Energy Center Accounting and made no recommended changes.
- d. The board approved the capital credit retirement for 2022

in the amount of \$300,000.

- e. Amanda Seger, regional vice-president of CFC, was unable to attend the meeting to present the KRTA ratios. The board requested a future date be arranged with Ms. Seger to present the data.
- f. The board approved American Transmission Company (ATC)'s Fourth Call for Voluntary Additional Capital Contributions for 2022 in the amount of \$13,770.
- g. The board approved Director Al Zander as the WECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and the Federated Youth Foundation Voting Delegate at the WECA Annual Meeting to be held in Stevens Point on November 15 and 16, 2022.
- h. At the conclusion of the meeting, the board went on their annual field tour to Strassburg Creek Dairy Farm and the Tigerton area to view completed work projects.

Due to the scheduled board tour, staff provided their department reports by written report. Those reports were viewed online with the board materials.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.





# INCREASED ATTENDANCE AT MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

This year's Member Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Rosholt on October 29 saw an increase in attendance, with 546 people attending the event. We thank everyone who attended this annual event.

In addition to a pancake breakfast, there were plenty of activities for attendees. A bounce house returned for kids to play in. Kids could also play games, and received a goodie bag.

The annual CWEC Marine Toys

for Tots campaign was launched at the breakfast. We received 105 toys, stocking stuffers, and books donated by members.

Non-perishable food items were also collected at the event, with our generous members donating 423 items, which were donated to area food pantries.

A special thank you to Rural Health Initiative for providing blood-pressure checks.

Door prize winners included: Amy Wojtalewicz, Leonard Oppor, Rollie Myers, Jim Dunsirn, Barb Cady, Lynne

Schmid, Adam Bruski, Duane Johnson, and Gary Tryba.

A girls and boys 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The winners were Croix Fuller and Emma Gollon. Winners of the Halloween costume contest for kids included: Brook Fuller (1 year old), Savanna Ostrowski (1 year old), Croix Fuller (4 years old), Livie Hoffman (3 years old), Maddyx Waltenberg (5 years old), Emma Gollon (6 years old), Zaylin Hutchison (7 years old), and Chelsea Losinski (7 years old).



Above left: Attendees enjoyed pancakes, sausage, and cake.

Above right: There were plenty of pancakes for members to enjoy.

Right: Savanna Ostrowski (left) and Brook Fuller (right) won the Halloween costume contest for kids for ages 0-2.

Far right: Mike's Meats of Tigerton was one of more than 20 local vendors set up in the vendors' area.







## 12 ENERGY-SAVINGS TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- 1 Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.
- 2 Use a timer to turn off holiday lights at night when you're sleeping.
- 3 Lower the thermostat when guests arrive.
- 4 Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning.
- 5 Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat to save energy.
- 6 Heading out of town? Unplug appliances and electronics.
- 7 Gifting new electronics, gadgets, or appliances? Look for the ENERGY STAR logo.
- 8 Keep the winter chill outdoors by sealing air leaks around your home.
- 9 Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural sunlight warm your home.
- 10 Consider rechargeable batteries and chargers. They make great stocking stuffers!
- 11 Cooking a holiday feast? Use the oven light to check the progress of your dish.
- 12 When your holiday tree is lit, turn off lamps and enjoy the cozy ambiance.

**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).

**RECYCLE YOUR BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

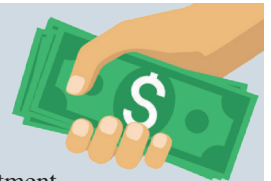
When you put up your Christmas lights this year did you find any strings of lights that didn't work? If you did, bring them to our headquarters in Rosholt to have them recycled. There is a collection box in our lobby where they can be placed.

*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 Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26 in observation of the Christmas holiday. Our office will also be closed Monday, Jan. 2 in observation of New Year's Day.

## 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 for energy assistance 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	Energy Services, Inc.	1-800-506-5596
Waupaca	Energy Services, Inc.	715-258-6820

# NEW METER SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM TO BEGIN

In April, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) announced that it would be transitioning to an updated metering infrastructure (AMI) system in the near future. The transition is part of CWEC's commitment to provide safe and reliable power to its members.

The first phase of the transition to the new metering system is scheduled to begin in December when 178 meters around the Iola substation will be switched out to the new meters.

Switching to an updated AMI is needed because CWEC's current system is more than 10 years old and is becoming obsolete. A new AMI system will be more efficient and require less maintenance in the field than the current system.

The new meters use radio frequency, which will allow CWEC to read all of its meters without having to physically send a CWEC employee to read the meters where they are located.

"It's going to save money based on less labor time needed to read meters," said Kevin Kurtzweil, vice-president of operations for CWEC.

He added that changing the AMI system is needed for the co-op to move forward

with new technology, which helps provide safe and reliable power to members. The new system will also allow CWEC to see real-time meter outages, which will help pinpoint where power outages are.

The new radio frequency system will require that all the CWEC meters be replaced with new meters.

Lila Shower, vice-president of accounting, said after the pilot program is reviewed, the remaining meters in the CWEC service territory are scheduled to start being replaced in March of 2023. Work will continue on replacing meters through the summer of 2023 until all meters have been replaced.

CWEC members shouldn't notice any power disruptions while the meters are being switched out.

Allegiant Utility Services will be doing the work of replacing the meters for this project.

Once the new meters are installed, Shower said members will be able to receive more frequent electricity usage reads. And if they use SmartHub, members will have more interval readings available to them.

Timeline updates for the project will be shared in *WECN*, as well as on the CWEC website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) and CWEC's Facebook page.



Central Wisconsin  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## Our Mission

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

## – 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 two buttons. As the buttons indicate, one will take you to a list sorted alphabetically by last name and the other button will take you to a list sorted by the city of residence of the past member. 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.