



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



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US

December is a time to be thankful and express gratitude and appreciation to those around us. This year seems to have flown by for us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), as it doesn't seem possible that it is already December. We have been very busy connecting 52 new accounts as of the end of October, with more continuing into November and early December.

One of our important system improvements has been replacing old, unjacketed underground cable on our system. But our largest project is installing our new AMI metering system. We hope to have all the meters installed by early summer and we appreciate our members' cooperation with this project.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Member Appreciation Pancake breakfast. It was a huge success, as the turnout exceeded our expectations and we had the highest attendance ever. It is always fun to catch up with friends while enjoying pancakes and sausage and coffee, milk, or juice. A huge thank you to the kids! We had 79 kids participate in the costume contest and they all enjoyed the bounce houses, fun games and goodie bags. It is always a joy to see the kids laughing and playing and having fun.

I also want to thank all the vendors who came to this event. I personally was successful in purchasing some Christmas gifts. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our employees and board of directors who make this fun event possible each year. It is a bit of work, but we enjoy the annual event and the chance to show our appreciation to our members, the owners of our cooperative.

I also want to thank the Tigerton Main Street Association for inviting me to dinner and to speak at its 30th anniversary celebration. The organization has a lot of history and tradition. They have kept Tigerton on the map and a thriving community. I was honored to attend their event.

I want to take a moment to thank our Member Advisory Group (MAG). These folks meet twice a year at our headquarters, with their purpose to improve communication among the membership, the CWEC Board of Directors, and employees. This is accomplished by obtaining member input regarding CWEC's services and programs.

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 at www.cwecoop.com for details. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

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

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The September regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on September 28, 2023 at 7:58 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 23, 2023 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, CEO and employee expenses.
- The capital credit retirement has been approved to retire \$275,000 to our membership.

Operations – A written report was submitted. Linemen Brow and Lutz did a presentation at the Line Superintendents Meeting is Wisconsin Dells on the Navajo Nation Lighting Project. They will do a presentation at the WECA annual meeting in November.

Accounting and Finance – We will continue to have a water heater load control program. We are waiting on the new equipment.

Member Relations – Brenda Mazemke reported on the USDA loan requests. Tyler Tautges did a presentation at UW-Stout to get youth interested in Youth Leadership.

President & CEO Report – Lila Shower reviewed her submitted CEO report. The Strategic Planning Meeting is October 3 and 4.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

LARGEST TURNOUT EVER

FOR CWEC MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

This year's Member Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Rosholt on October 28, saw the largest turnout ever. A total of 566 people were served breakfast at the event. We thank everyone who attended.

In addition to a pancake breakfast, there were plenty of activities for attendees. There was a Halloween costume contest for kids, games to play, and each child received a goodie bag.

The annual CWEC Marine Toys for Tots campaign was launched at the breakfast. We received 102 toys, stocking stuffers, and books donated by members.

Non-perishable food items were also collected, with our generous members donating 376 items, which were donated to area food pantries.

A special thank you to the Rural Health Initiative for providing blood-



Members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative enjoyed a tasty breakfast at the Member Appreciation Breakfast held Oct. 28.

pressure checks.

Door prize winners included: Andy Lemmer, Debbie Kulas, Ronald Rendt, Al Suehring, Matt Mlodik, Kari Goldsworthy, Elroy Koskey, JoAnn Wesson, Pat Kelly, and Diane Civik.

A girls and boys 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The

winners were Kenna Huisenga and Stanley Iczkowski.

Winners of the Halloween costume contest for kids included: Tuesday Knaup, Huxley Schnobrich, Finnegan Schnobrich, Sawyer Iczkowski, Michael Ott, Jillian Jakubek, Reid Kostka, and Annalee Hutchison.



Top row, left: Tom Smith, president of the CWEC Board of Directors, serves coffee to members at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. Top row, right: Kids had the opportunity to catch pancakes with their plate. Above left: Pancakes were not the only item on the menu. This youngster enjoyed a piece of cake. Above, center: Kids had the opportunity to play many games. Right: The costume contest for kids is always a popular event the Member Appreciation Breakfast. Winners in the 0-2 age category included Huxley Schnobrich (left) and Tuesday Knaup (with her parents Anna and Ray Knaup).



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 yet strung your twinkle lights, 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 a timer for



If you prefer a more natural approach to your holiday décor, consider making a simple wreath or garland for the exterior of your home. You can also use solar-powered spotlights to illuminate the greenery at night.

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. Visit our website at www.cwecoop.com for additional energy-saving tips.



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.

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. On the main page under About Us select Capital Credits. This will take you to a page that includes 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. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you prefer email, address your message to 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.

NEW METER SYSTEM ADVANCES PAST PILOT PROGRAM

The installation of a new meter system for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has advanced past the pilot program, as new meters are currently being installed throughout the CWEC territory.

Meters for the pilot program began to be installed in December of 2022 when 178 meters around the Iola substation were switched out to the new meters. Work for the pilot program was completed in August.

After all the meters for the pilot program were installed and found to be working properly, new meters began to be installed, expanding outward from the pilot program's geographical area.

The new meters are required for an updated metering infrastructure (AMI)

system CWEC is moving toward, as part of a commitment to provide safe and reliable power to its members.

Allegiant Utility Services is doing the work of swapping out the meters for the project. When arriving at a member's residence, the person swapping out the meter will knock on the door to let the resident know their current meter will be swapped with a new meter. If nobody answers the door, the meter will be swapped out and a door hanger will be left on the door of the residence, stating what work was done. Electricity will be out only a short amount of time when swapping out a residence meter.

The project of swapping out all the meters in the CWEC territory is estimated to be completed in the spring of next year.



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

Follow us on X
and Facebook



Lila Shower, President & CEO

Bert Lehman, Editor

Board of Directors

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
Vice Chairman
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz
715-370-1378

District 3

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

Allen Zander
Secretary-Treasurer
715-630-8239

Our Mission

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

