




**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Lila Shower, President & CEO

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's hard to believe but another holiday season is upon us. Each holiday season is a time for the co-op to reflect on the past year and be thankful for all the members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

We consider it a privilege to be able to provide our members safe and reliable electric service. We are also grateful to play a role in supporting our local communities.

One of the co-op's favorite events each year is hosting our annual Member Appreciation Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who attended our breakfast Oct. 25. The event was a huge success, and it was nice to catch up with members who attended. In addition to a great breakfast of pancakes and sausage, it was wonderful to see so many kids participate in the Halloween Costume Contest. There were so many awesome costumes. Congratulations to the winners in each age group.

I want to spend the rest of this column discussing "community solar" leg-

islation that has resurfaced at the State Capitol. Rob Richard, WECA president and CEO, touched on this topic in his Message from the CEO column in last month's issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, but I'd like to reiterate a few points that Richard made.

Even though electric cooperatives would remain exempt under the current bill, electric cooperatives remain opposed to the bill. The reason for the opposition is the possibility that that bill could have long-term consequences for Wisconsin's electric consumers.

The electric cooperatives in Wisconsin tend to be located primarily in rural and agricultural areas, which are areas that third-party entities tend to try to develop solar projects. This is due to land being more readily available and less expensive.

While electric cooperatives are not opposed to working with private solar developers, we do it with our members in mind.

As Richard explained in his article,

"The legislation creates artificially high prices for power produced by community solar systems, offset by what other customers pay for their service. It also shifts hidden costs to utilities – the responsibility and expense of providing subscribers with power at all times, which requires personnel, poles, wires, substations, and generation. It leaves utilities with all the obligations, and developers with all the rewards and minimal risk. It also limits the Public Service Commission's ability to provide stronger consumer projections for subscribers signing 25-year contracts."

This isn't a business model that cooperatives follow. Cooperatives consider the financial well-being of all its members when making business decisions.

From all of us at CWEC, 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.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:49 a.m. on September 18, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, meeting minutes of August 26, 2025, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 407, Sale of Material and Equipment and the Pole Release Form. No changes were recommended and the Board agreed.
- Director Zander will be the voting Delegate for RESCO's Annual Meeting on September 24, 2025.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. Crews will begin work on the first grant project on September 22, 2025. The line crew has been working on new connects, work plan projects and a stray voltage study for a member. A request to start the process of replacing Truck 37 was tabled and will be discussed in executive session.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for August was -\$0.00570. Work continues on the budget documents for 2026.

Member Services – Mr. Lehman submitted a written report. The 2026 calendar has been designed and is currently at the printer. It will be available to members at the Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 25, 2025.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

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



## MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE ATTEND CWEC MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

A total of 527 people were served at the 2025 Member Appreciation Breakfast hosted by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at its headquarters in Rosholt Oct. 25.

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 88 toys, stocking

stuffers, and books donated by members.

Non-perishable food items were also collected, with our generous members donating 532 items, which were then donated to area food pantries.

A special thank you to Northwest First Responders for providing blood pressure checks. They provided blood pressure screenings to around 25 attendees.

Door prize winners included: Kurt Bronk, Bruce Cady, Verlyn Hanson, Renee Luke, Jon Dalton, Kimberly Habeck, Kathy Johnson, Jim Brandl, Gerald

Burmesch, and Allen Thulien.

Carol Knaup was the winner of the Christmas angel inflatable.

A girls and boys 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The winners were Alaina Richter and Nikolai Baxley.

Winners of the Halloween costume contest for kids included – Age 0-2: Oscar Richter and Tuesday Knaup; Age 3-4: Braelynn Stark and Grayson Rew; Age 5-6: Sadie Goldsworthy and Levi Brow; and Age 7-10: Phynn Waltenberg and Alianna Stark.



Top row, left: Kevin Kurtzweil, VP of Operations at CWEC, serves breakfast sausage to attendees. Top row, middle: Members of CWEC enjoy a tasty breakfast at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. Top row, right: Oscar Richter, the lion on the left, and Tuesday Knaup, the "old lady" on the right were the winners of the Halloween costume contest at the CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast in the ages 0-2 group. Bottom row, left: CWEC directors Todd Pamperin, Lou Oppor, and Al Zander judged the Halloween costume contest for kids at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. Bottom row, right: Nikolai Baxley was the winner of a boys 20-inch bike.





## CHECK LIGHT STRANDS AND OTHER DECORATIONS FOR SIGNS OF WEAR AND TEAR

While decorating can be one more thing to mark off an extensive holiday to-do list, take a little extra time when using electrical light strands or other plug-in decorations and while using a ladder.

Holiday decorating-related injuries include those caused by falls, cuts and back strains, although they can also be related to electrical hazards. For example, “do not use a staple or nail to hang light strands, and always be aware of overhead power line locations when carrying or using ladders or stringing lights,” says Erin Hollinshead, executive director of Safe Electricity.

“Like with any home task, it is best to take your time, think before you start and make safety a priority, which includes assessing the condition of lights and other decorations powered by electricity,” she added.

Be on the lookout for damaged light strands, plugs and electrical cords, and discard items that are cracked, old or frayed. Safe Electricity provides these additional holiday decorating safety tips:

- When decorating outside, be aware of overhead power lines. Imagine a 10-foot circle around a power line, and do not let any body part or item (such as light strands or a ladder) enter that 10-foot area.
- When securing light strands, do not nail them into place; instead, use plastic hooks.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the number of light strands that can be daisy chained (plugged into one another).

- Make sure lights and extension cords are properly rated; that is, those that are used outside should be rated for outdoor use.
- Before hanging lights, check the strands for broken bulbs as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards. Always discard damaged strands.
- Turn off all lights before leaving home or going to sleep or ensure they are timed to do so.
- Do not run cords under carpets, through doorways or in a way that could cause a tripping hazard.
- Plug lights and decorations that are used outdoors into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. GFCIs detect and prevent dangerous situations where an electric shock could occur.
- When using holiday lights, whether indoors or out, look for certification by an accredited independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- Puppies and other pets love to chew on electrical cords, including light strands and extension cords. Keep cords out of sight or hidden with a cord cover.
- Be careful when using extension cords around crawling babies and toddlers. Check for long electrical cords that span the floor and secure them with cord covers to avoid hazards.

Here’s to a happy and safe holiday season. For more information on electrical safety, visit [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org).

## 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). Under the Member Services tab, click Gift of Light.

## 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. Only strings of Christmas lights can be brought to the office for recycling.



## – 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. 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. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you prefer e-mail, 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.



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### Our Mission

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

## HEY KIDS, GET OUT YOUR CRAYONS!

We are once again having a Christmas coloring contest this year.

The contest is open to all kids ages 10 and under. Draw a picture of something related to Christmas, and mail or bring it to:

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

**On the back of the picture, please include the name of the child, the age of the child, the name of the child's parents, and a phone number for the child's parents.**

The contest is open to the children of CWEC members only.

Those who submit a Christmas drawing will be entered into a drawing to win a grand prize of a large-filled Christmas stocking. A second and third place prize of



lesser value will also be awarded. Prize winners will be chosen through random drawings. Entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 12. Winners will be notified by CWEC and prizes must be picked up at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt.

Winners will be chosen by random drawing only, written content or coloring will not be considered or judged.

## 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 Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25 in observation of the Christmas holiday. Our office will also be closed Thursday, Jan. 1 in observation of New Year's Day. Have a safe and joyous holiday season!