



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

# 2022 IS SHAPING UP TO BE A BUSY YEAR FOR THE CO-OP

As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity to extend best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy, and safe 2022. The cooperative had a successful year in 2021, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members in the new year.

2021 was a strong year for the cooperative in terms of new construction and line maintenance. We are experiencing growth in our service area as we are performing more new connections of electric service than in previous years. Our vegetation management contractor is making great progress in clearing our rights-of-way and will continue to work on our system in 2022. Once the snow has cleared, our underground and pole inspection program will begin. We will be stepping up our efforts to replace older underground cable and overhead lines that have an impact on our reliability. As always, expect to see our crews and contractors working in our service area to update and improve our electric system.

In 2022, we will be making a significant investment in a new automated metering system. Our current system of more than

8,000 electric meters will be replaced starting in 2022. We will utilize a contractor to assist with the installation of new meters. As this project takes shape, expect to see future announcements on the deployment of the new meters and its impact on you, our member.

As you know, the winter months in Wisconsin can be challenging for our members who have work activities outside. Winters are also challenging for our linemen and technicians who perform work in the field during all types of weather conditions. We thank them for their efforts to serve our members and perform the work of the cooperative during inclement weather conditions. We also welcome our new journeyman linemen Jarret Brow and Wyatt Phillips. Jarret and Wyatt are no strangers to working in cold weather conditions and will be a great addition to our cooperative in the months and years ahead. Welcome, Jarret and Wyatt, to our co-op family.

A special thank you goes out to all of our employees who assisted with our Toys for Tots program this year as well as the community organizations and businesses that help make this program work. We have had another successful year of



Central Wisconsin  
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helping area children and their families at this special time of year, but we know this program is only successful through the generous donations of the public and the hard work of volunteers who make it possible. Thank you.

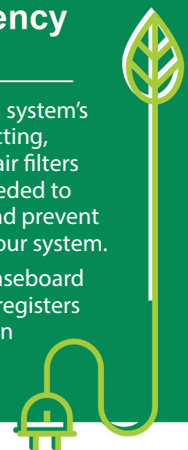
I wish all of the membership the very best for a happy and prosperous new year. Your cooperative will remain committed to being your trusted energy partner and I am confident that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead as we work together. Happy New Year!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning, or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters, and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The October regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on October 28, 2021 at 7:56 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 30, 2021 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 reviewed work order costs, rate structure and the allowances (credits) that are applied to work orders and agreed to make no changes at this time.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 301 – Whistleblower Policy and agreed to make no changes.
- d. The board approved the Board Resolution for the Forfeiture of Unclaimed Capital Credits in the amount of \$8,654.55.
- e. Keith Johnson from Federated Rural Insurance gave an in-person presentation to the board on the insurance coverages they provide to us with a brief description of each.
- f. Kyle Kopczyk from Power Systems Engineering (PSE) presented to the board the results of the 2021 Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) replacement search.
- g. The board approved Director Smith as the NRECA Voting Delegate and Director Rombalski as the NRECA Alternate Voting Delegate at the WECA Annual Meeting on November 10, 2021.

- h. The board approved Tuesday, April 19, 2022 as the date for the 2022 Annual Meeting to be held at the Wittenberg-Birmamwood High School.
- i. The board approved Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 9 a.m. for the Nominations Committee meeting. The board will select a replacement member to fill the vacancy and approve the committee members at the November meeting.
- j. The board approved all Member Advisory Group (MAG) members to serve an additional year on the committee due to the pandemic and only meeting once in the last two years.
- k. The board approved a \$200 donation to each of the 10 food pantries in our service area (\$2,000 total donation) with the funds coming from the Federated Youth Foundation

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported the crews have begun work on the un-bonding of all retired open concentric neutrals starting with the Dewey Substation. Discussion was held regarding the notification process to inform members on the duration of the outages.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower reported on the status of the disconnect notices that were sent out last week.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported on the vacancy on the Operation Round Up Trust Board. Replacement recommendations will be brought to the November board meeting.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

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.

## JARRET BROW JOINS CWEC AFTER WORKING A STINT IN MONTANA

Jarret Brow comes to Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) after working at a cooperative in Montana for about four years.

Originally from Michigan, Jarret said it was fun working out west in Montana, but he is happy to be moving closer to home with his wife and 2-year-old son. Jarret's parents live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Jarret said he decided he wanted to pursue a career as an electric utility worker when he was a junior in high school. At that time, he spoke with a friend who was a lineman, and liked what he heard.

"I think the fact is you work outside every day, work in the elements. It's rewarding to restore power for people," Jarret said.

Nov. 8 was Jarret's first day at CWEC, and since that time,



he said everything has gone well.

"Everyone has different ways of doing things. I'm just trying to adapt and do the same things they're doing, so we're all on the same page," Jarret said.

CWEC's service territory is different from that in Montana where he worked. He said he lived in a fairly remote area in Montana, with the closest Walmart being a 90-minute drive.

"It pretty much has anything you need family-wise that is not that far of a distance to drive," Jarret said about the CWEC service area.

He added that he has already seen how CWEC members appreciate the CWEC linemen.

Jarret said he likes what he sees as far as his future with CWEC.

"I'm not looking to go anywhere, because I'm done moving around. I have family now and it'd be nice after awhile to buy a house and settle," Jarret said.

During his spare time, Jarret said he enjoys spending a lot of time outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.

## WYATT PHILLIPS HAPPY FOR OPPORTUNITY AT CWEC

While spending more than three years in the Army, Wyatt Phillips said he didn't think too much about what he would do once his time in the military ended. That changed after a conversation with one of his friends who said a relative got into the electric utility industry and said it was "really awesome."

"He pretty much described it and I thought it was a good fit for me, so I went into the industry," Wyatt said.

He added, "What intrigued me is you work outside. You work with a group of people, a tight-knit group. Like in the military where it's a brotherhood. It's that brotherhood aspect of lineman work that drew me to it."

Wyatt attended Northwest Lineman College in Boise, Idaho.

"They were taking applicants and Wisconsin was backed up a year and a half," Wyatt said.

Wyatt joined Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) as a lineman on Nov. 8, after spending time working at two other electric co-ops. He got his start in the electric utility industry at a co-op in southeast Iowa. He spent three years there before moving back



to his hometown of Spencer to work at Clark Electric Cooperative. He spent two years at Clark Electric.

Looking for a better fit for his family, Wyatt said he is happy to be at CWEC.

"I feel that there's more opportunity around the area," Wyatt said. "The co-op (CWEC) seems very

community-minded. It seems very personal and kind of a tight-knit family, so that instantly drew me here."

After the first few weeks on the job, Wyatt said he is excited about his future at CWEC.

"There is great equipment, great people, and great employees," Wyatt said.

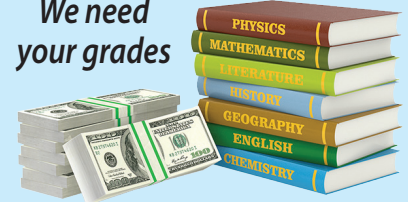
Wyatt said he has already received the training to be a journeyman lineman, and his goal is to become a well-versed, well-rounded journeyman lineman.

He and his wife, Katie, have a 4-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son.

For hobbies, he said he enjoys spending time outside with his family, especially taking walks with the kids and their dog. He also enjoys camping and golfing.

### 2021 CWEC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*We need your grades*



Congratulations for concluding your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for second semester to receive your scholarship money.

Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average, been a full-time student, and completed 12 or more earned credits during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. You can mail or email your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:

CWEC

Attn: Scholarship Program

PO Box 100

Rosholt, WI 54473

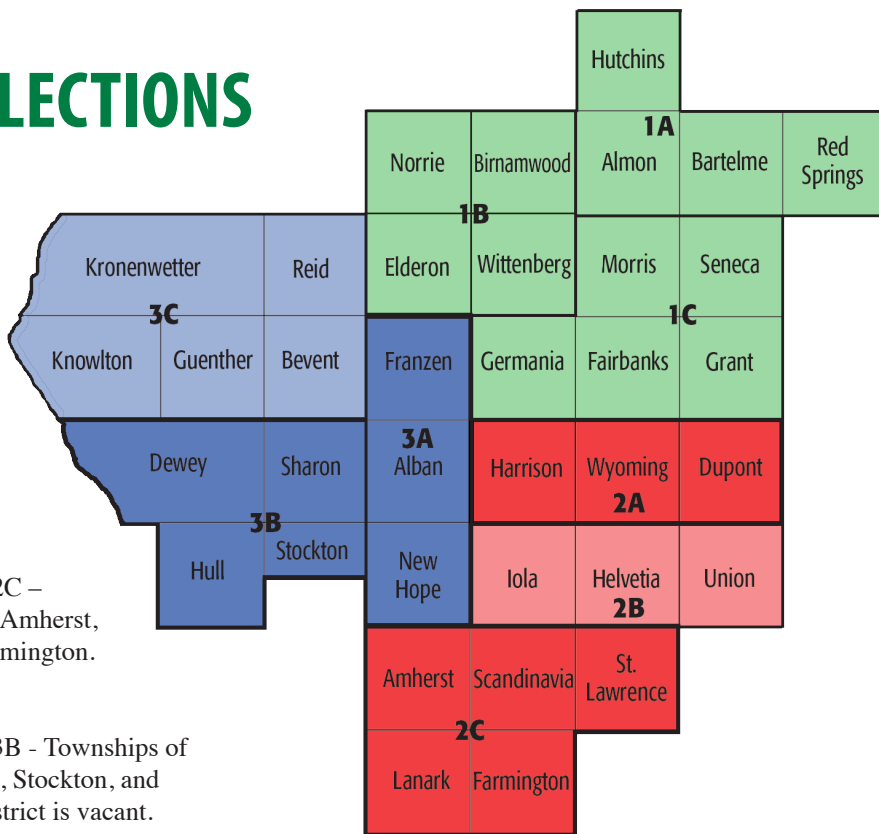
Email: [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com)

# 2022 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts up for election this year. Terms for District 2 and District 3 are three-year terms. **If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Friday, January 14. Members of the nominations committee are listed below.**

**District 2** – Consists of sub districts 2A & 2C – Townships of Harrison, Wyoming, Dupont, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. Current Director is Lee Lehrer.

**District 3** – Consists of sub districts 3A & 3B - Townships of Franzen, Alban, New Hope, Dewey, Sharon, Stockton, and Hull. The current director position in the district is vacant.



## DIRECTOR NOMINATION BY MEMBER PETITION

Members may nominate director candidates by a nominating petition. Nominating petitions must be obtained from the cooperative, and returned to the secretary-treasurer at least fifty (50) days prior to the day of the annual meeting.

A nominating petition must contain the signatures from a minimum of 20 members, along with their address and the date signed. No member may sign more than one nominating petition for a particular director position.

To nominate a candidate for a director of a district, only members residing within such district may sign a petition. Members from any district may sign a petition to nominate a candidate for the at-large director.

For more information contact Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 715-677-2211.

### 2022 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Elton Strassburg, District 1A**  
W14986 County Road D  
Bowler, WI 54416  
715-793-4425

**Kathy Prah, District 1B**  
2141 Willow Drive  
Eland, WI 54427  
715-454-6531

**Gerald Erdmann, District 1C**  
W15416 Fairmorr Road  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-851-5184

**Ryan Opperman, District 2A**  
E3453 County Road C  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-754-5437 / 715-250-3711

**Dale Bestul, District 2B**  
P.O. Box 94  
Iola, WI 54945  
715-445-2576

**Mary Bohlman, District 2C**  
E2633 Hermanson Lake Road  
Ogdensburg, WI 54962  
715-445-2784

**Renee Groshek, District 3A**  
1744 Sunset Lake Road  
Amherst Jct., WI 54407  
715-570-1425 / 715-677-3064

**Anthony Danczyk, District 3B**  
3594 Sunset Drive North  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-344-7154

**Jeff Javorek, District 3C**  
206649 County Road X  
Mosinee, WI 54455  
715-693-1801

# DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

(As they appear in Article IV, Section 5 of the cooperative's bylaws)

## To become and remain a Director, a person must comply with the following qualifications:

A. be an individual who is a member served by the Cooperative at his or her residence, who is a bona fide domiciliary of the district which the individual is to represent, and who has been a bona fide domiciliary of that district for at least the one year immediately before his or her nomination;

B. have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;

C. while a Director and during the one year immediately before becoming a Director, not be, be employed by, control, own more than ten percent of, serve as a director or officer of, or receive more than ten percent of annual gross income from

a. an individual or entity that competes with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate,

b. an individual or entity that provides a good or service similar to a good or service provided by the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, within the same geographic area as the Cooperative, Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate, or

c. an individual or entity that directly or indirectly advances the individual or entity's pecuniary interest by engaging in business dealings with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, if such interest or relationship would likely impair the individual's ability to serve the best interest of the Cooperative. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to disqualify any member from serving as a director who provides electric energy by means of distributed generation facilities that are interconnected with Cooperative facilities.

D. while a Director and during the three

years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate;

E. while a Director, not be a relative of a Director or Employee of the Cooperative or of a Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate except as may be reasonably authorized by the Board as set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board;

F. not have been previously removed as a Director by the Board or the members in accordance with these Bylaws, or shall not have resigned as a Director while a proceeding to remove him or her was pending;

G. while a Director not be, and at any time during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not have been party in any stage of mediation, arbitration, lawsuit, or other legal action against or by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

H. while a Director and during the five years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or first degree misdemeanor;


I. except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least two-thirds of all Board Meetings during each year of the Director's term of office; and

J. any other reasonable qualifications set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any member from serving as a director because such member is also a member or a director of any other cooperative from which this Cooperative purchases or may purchase electric energy, supplies or services, or which is engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of this Cooperative.





Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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**Mike Wade, 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  
Secretary-Treasurer  
920-851-4545  
715-677-3850

Lou Oppor  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
Vice Chairman  
715-370-1378

### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053

## Our Mission

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