



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

PLENTY OF PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR 2024

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 2024. The cooperative had a successful year in 2023, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members in the new year.

We are looking forward to completing our new metering (AMI) project this winter. In addition to that project, you may also see our line crews on the road this winter as they inspect our overhead lines for damage or potential problems. This is part of our annual hazard recognition program to ensure that our distribution lines are in good working order. If you see our crews on the roadway, please slow down and keep a safe distance while passing them. They are working to keep our electric distribution system safe and reliable.

Once the snow is gone in the spring, we will begin work on several construction work projects and system upgrades scheduled for 2024. Some of those projects include replacing old underground, unjacketed cable and replacing overhead solid conductors with 1/0 ACSR. Both projects will help limit the outages our members experience due to outdated cable failing.

Our Sannes substation will be updated in 2024. This is the last of our eight substations that needs to be updated. We will review the grounding and add a new switch at the substation. We will also be updating the transformer and extending the existing fencing to make room for a portable substation should the need ever arise that we would need a portable substation. The co-op's 2024 budget also includes funds for overhead to underground conversions for service capacity increases.

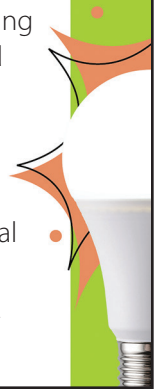
Although 2023 is behind us, the cooperative appreciates the privilege of serving you, our members. We will continue to focus our efforts on the needs of our membership and we hope that each of you stays healthy and safe. We look forward to serving you. Happy New Year!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The October regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 26, 2023 at 8:07 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the Sept. 28, 2023 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and the estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board, CEO, and employee expenses.
- b. The board approved the following as presented from the Governance Committee's meeting on Oct. 26, 2023:
 - i. Approved two 3-year terms for our MAG members
- c. The board approved to plan on sending two employees to help with the Navajo Light Up project in 2024.
- d. Brenda Mazemke had a presentation on Touchstone including what they have to offer, what we use currently, and what we might use in the future.

- e. The board approved a basic charge for the DG customers who generate more than 50% of their power. The rate will be \$1,348.
- f. The director finance webinar series for 2024 will likely be an in-house class. Adams-Columbia will host the event on March 14, 2024.
- g. Lila Shower presented energy cost and basic charge comparison with CWEC to other Wisconsin cooperatives.

Accounting and Finance – Stacy Claussen reported that the board will be reviewing the budget at the next board meeting. We had our last round of disconnects with three accounts still disconnected.

Engineering and Operations – Kevin Kurzweil reported that our pole inspection program had a reject ratio of only 1.49%. This is very good. We will potentially be adding a large load to the Dewey Sub. He discussed the refusal by some members of our new smart meters.

Member Relations – Brenda Mazemke reinforced the new MAG terms. She will be looking to schedule our Annual Meeting for 2024.

CEO Report – Lila Shower reported on her submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

\$500 STEAM GRANT AWARDED TO BOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Bowler School District has been awarded a \$500 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to purchase STEAM bins to help promote science, technology, engineering, art, and math for its first-grade students.

Tarah Malotky, first grade teacher at Bowler Elementary School, said the STEAM bins, which will be able to be used for years into the future, contain items that help students develop their problem-solving skills and their creativity.

“The first thing they’re most excited about are magnet tiles,” Malotky said. “They are little blocks that magnet together, but I also have a workbook so there’s different challenges for them to do. That’s what I’m most excited about because I really want to see how creative they can be and if they can problem solve to build all those.”

Malotky added that she plans to have at least one dedicated time slot in the weekly classroom schedule for students to work on a STEAM bin activity. In addition, when students finish their school work early each morning, they will have the opportunity to use the remaining time working on STEAM bin activities.



Brandi Dove (back row, left), Bowler Elementary School principal, and Tarah Malotky (back row, right), first grade teacher at Bowler Elementary School, and her first-grade students show their appreciation for receiving a \$500 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

“They’re really going to work on their problem-solving skills and their creativity,” Malotky said. “I’m very excited for them to use it as a time filler activity. If they finish up their math homework early, then they can go work on that and they’re still building those skills, but in a fun, hands-on way.”

The goal for Malotky is for her students to do activities that will help them experience real-life skills related to engineering, graphic design, etc.

“All of those things the bins are going to be targeting, are skills that they can apply later in life,” Malotky said.

Without receiving the STEAM grant, Malotky said it wouldn’t have been possible for the district to purchase the STEAM bins. And in addition to the STEAM bins being beneficial for her students, the STEAM bins are also going to be beneficial for her.

“As a first-year teacher, I am starting my classroom from scratch and do not yet have many items available for my students to use freely,” she said. “I want to fill our classroom with items that are appealing and beneficial to my students for years to come.”

Through the process of creative and meaningful play, students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for numerous aspects of their life.”

She added, “We’re just so thankful for the grant and the kids are so excited. I could not be more grateful.”

2023 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

LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR WATER HEATERS DISCONTINUED

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be discontinuing its load management program for water heaters. By discontinuing the program, the need for co-op employees to enter the homes of its members will be eliminated.

A letter has been sent to CWEC members who are enrolled in the load management program for water heaters to notify them that the program is being discontinued. The letter includes information about CWEC hiring a third-party to set up appointments with members to have the load management receivers removed from their water heaters.

With the load management program ending, members who were enrolled in the load management program for water heaters will no longer receive a \$2 credit on their monthly electric bill.

If you have questions, please call our office at 715-677-2211.

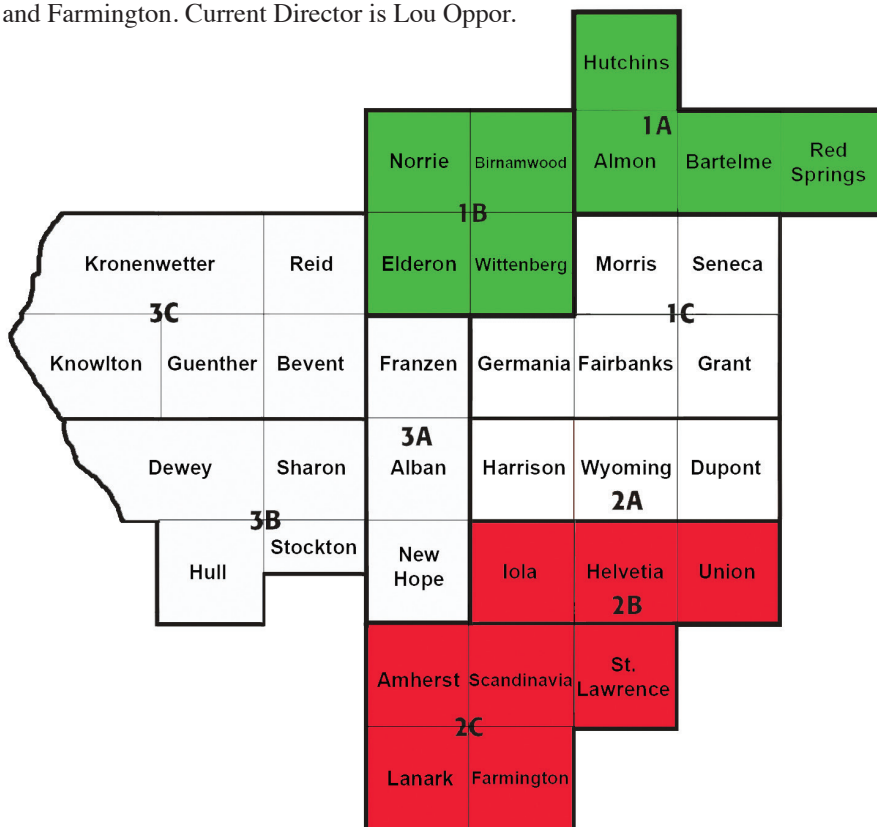


2024 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

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. Each director seat is for a three-year term. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Saturday, January 13.

District 1 – Consists of sub districts 1A & 1B – Townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, Red Springs, Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, and Wittenberg. Current Director is Ron Onesti.

District 2 – Consists of sub districts 2B & 2C - Townships of Iola, Helvetia, Union, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. Current Director is Lou Oppor.



2024 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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

Kathy Prah, District 1B
217850 Black 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

Rita Betker, District 3C
169763 Shantytown Drive
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-321-3736

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.

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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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.