



Lila Shower, President & CEO

# SMALL RATE INCREASE TO BEGIN JANUARY 1

Happy New Year to each of you and best wishes to you and your family for a fun and safe 2025. The cooperative had a successful year in 2024, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members in the new year.

As I mentioned in my December column, we will be having a small rate increase scheduled for January 1, 2025. I want to make sure you as the member/owner of the cooperative are aware of the increase. You receive your January bills in mid-February. We are increasing your monthly basic charge by \$1 per month, and the Power Supply will include an additional .0025 per kWh. This comes to a 1.7% increase in your bill. As an example, if your bill is \$120, your bill will now be \$122.04. We work very hard at keeping your rates as low as possible.

We have several construction projects and system upgrades scheduled for 2025

that we will be working on as soon as the snow is gone. A carryover from 2024 is our Sannes Substation in Scandinavia. This is the last substation that we have to update. We have reviewed the grounding and added a new switch at the substation. We have also updated the transformer. In 2025 we need to add additional ground rods and extend the existing fencing to make room for our portable substation should the need ever arise that we would have to use it at the Sannes Substation.

Along with finishing up the Sannes Substation, some of the other projects include replacing aged, outdated #6 solid overhead conductor and unjacketed open concentric underground wire. At Malueg Road near Tigerton, the overhead line will be replaced with underground wire. We will be adding a three-phase underground tie to be used for back feeding sections of line as needed along Highway 161 east of Iola.

Our pole inspections identified 40 power poles as rejects. Those poles will be replaced. In addition to our Work

Plan Projects, American Transmission Company will be covering the cost to bury our overhead three-phase line that is currently on their poles from our Groenier Substation to the Rosholt Substation.

We also have two projects that are awaiting approval from the Department of Energy (DOE). Once the DOE has approved the projects, we will receive a grant from the government in the amount of \$1,293,006. That will cover part of the \$1,939,509 cost of the projects. The co-op will have to fund \$646,503 of the cost of the projects. This is for grid resiliency and will help us with the reliability of our grid. We hope to have final approval before the end of the year.

Although 2024 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!

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 8:10 a.m. on October 31, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 26, 2024 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- b. Board Policy 109 – Nominations Committee was reviewed.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. The new Tandem Digger Truck was delivered on October 12, 2024. A PowerPoint was shared explaining Alliant’s Transmission Feed into the Almon Substation. Electrical Power Systems completed the maintenance of the Wittenberg Substation.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. There were 49 disconnects in September. The PCA for September was 0.00478. Progress continues in decreasing the number of manual meter reads. The 2025 budget is being finalized.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke submitted a written report. The Member Appreciation Breakfast served 605 people on October 26, 2024. The Toys for Tots program was kicked off at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. There will be 35 collection sites in our service area. This program runs through December 3, 2024. The Fall MAG meeting will be held on November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. More information was requested by the Department of Energy for the Grant Funding.

The CWEC Annual Meeting will be held at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

President and CEO – Lila Shower, CEO, reported on her submitted report. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

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

# OPERATION ROUND UP CONTINUES TO HELP AREA COMMUNITIES

## WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?



Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month.

Electric bills are simply “rounded up” to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly “round up” could be as little as a single penny, but never more than ninety-nine cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.



Wittenberg Food Pantry



Above: Central WI Order of the Sleepless Knights Parrothead Club  
Right: Tomorrow River Area Communities Kitchen (TRACK) Food Pantry



Tigerton School District - MS/HS



Rosholt Food Pantry



### FOURTH QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$1,000 – Family Hardship donation.
- \$1,000 – Dewey Fire Department to help pay for an air breathing pack that firefighters will use to enter a fire.
- \$500 – Toys for Tots donation to purchase toys for the CWEC Toys for Tots campaign.
- \$500 – To each of nine area food pantries to help them purchase food to be given to those in need.
- \$500 – Rosholt Area Youth Baseball to help purchase some new equipment-batting helmets and catcher's equipment.
- \$250 – Tigerton School District-MS/HS PBIS to help build and sustain its PAWSitive behavior program, which rewards students monthly for positive behavior.
- \$250 – Tigerton School District-Middle School to help with learning outside the classroom travel expenses.
- \$250 – Boys & Girls Club of Portage County-Rosholt Extension to help with its Taste of Rosholt Fundraiser, which benefits the boys and girls attending the Rosholt Extension.
- \$250 – Central WI Order of the Sleepless Knights Parrothead Club to help with its Bowl with the Band fundraiser.
- \$100 – Walls of Wittenberg to help pay for its January/February Quilt Show “Finely Finished” Art of the Quilter show.

**TOTAL  
OPERATION  
ROUND UP FUNDS  
DONATED:  
\$683,064**

## 2024 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)

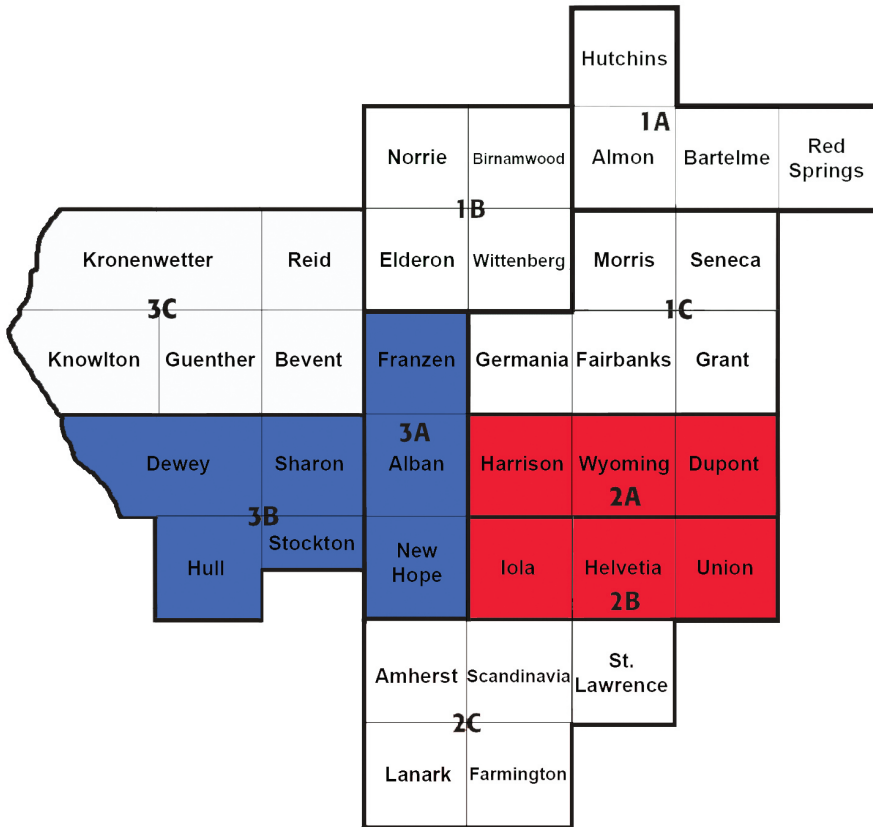


# 2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

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 11.

**District 2** – Consists of sub districts 2A & 2B - Townships of Harrison, Wyoming, Dupont, Iola, Helvetia, and Union. Current Director is Lee Lehrer, who is retiring from the board of directors.

**District 3** – Consists of sub districts 3A & 3B – Townships of Dewey, Sharon, Hull, Stockton, Franzen, Alban, and New Hope. Current Director is Allen Zander.



## 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.

## 2025 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

**Mike Stenglein, District 3B**  
7705 Wilderness Drive  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
847-521-8338

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

# 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 

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

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

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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.**