



## LOOKING AHEAD

Lila Shower, President & CEO

**A**s we begin a new year, I want to extend my best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy, and safe 2026. The cooperative had a successful year in 2025, and we look forward to continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members in the year ahead.

2025 was a strong year for the cooperative, particularly in new construction and line maintenance. We are experiencing growth in our service area and completed more new service connections than in previous years. Our vegetation-management contractor made significant progress clearing our rights-of-way and will continue this work throughout 2026. Once the snow has melted, we

will increase our efforts to replace aging underground cable and overhead lines that can affect system reliability. As always, you can expect to see our crews and contractors working throughout the service area to update and improve our electric infrastructure.

As you know, Wisconsin winters can pose challenges for members who work outdoors. They are also demanding for our linemen and technicians, who perform field work in all types of weather conditions. We thank them for their dedication to serving our members and carrying out the work of the cooperative during harsh winter weather.

A special thank you goes out to all our employees who assisted with the

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:58 a.m. on November 24, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the October 30, 2025, meeting, 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 2026 Budget was approved.
- A donation to the TUGS program was approved.
- The Nominations Committee will interview candidates on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Operations and Engineering** – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. The operations crew continues with new connections and the Fairview Grant Project. A new bucket truck is slated for delivery in January 2026.

**Accounting and Finance** – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for October was 0.00500. Past due notices were sent out on November 7, 2025. Troubleshooting for meters that aren't reading is in process.

**Member Services** – A written report was submitted by Mr. Lehman. Collection for The Toys for Tots program continues. There are 35 collection sites in our service area. This program runs through December 2, 2025. The Operation Round Up Board has 2 members that have reached their term limits. Positions will be filled by January 1, 2026.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.



Toys for Tots program this year, as well as the community organizations and businesses that help make this effort possible. We had another successful year of supporting area children and their families during this special season. This program succeeds because of the public's generous donations and the hard work of volunteers, and we are deeply grateful for that support.

I wish all our members a happy and prosperous new year. Your cooperative remains committed to being your trusted energy partner, and I am confident that we can meet the challenges ahead as we continue working together. Happy New Year!

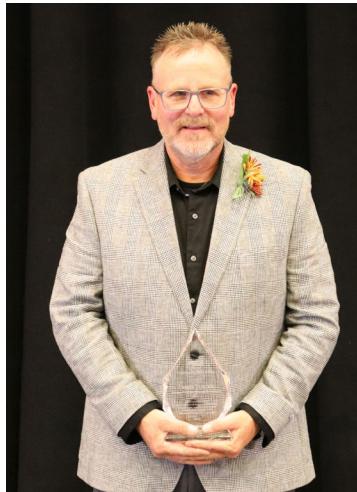
## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

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: energy.gov*



# CHRIS TUSZKE RECEIVES THE 2025 WECA COOPERATIVE HERO AWARD



**O**n November 12, 2025, Journeyman Lineman Chris Tuszke was awarded the 2025 WECA Cooperative Hero Award. The Cooperative Hero Award recognizes a WECA cooperative member employee or director who has demonstrated extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save a life, whether the lifesaving action occurred on the job or not. That is exactly what

happened in the early hours of April 27, 2025. Journeyman Lineman Chris Tuszke was returning from a call when he received a notification of another outage, so he headed straight there. He arrived at the scene just moments after a sheriff's deputy and learned there was a UTV crash near an electrical pole. Tuszke secured the area to ensure it was safe, helped the deputy pull the victim from the brush, and started life-saving measures based on his training. The victim, a co-op member, did not survive the accident, but the event was a catalyst for the co-op, which recognized that safety training is now more important than ever.

Denise Fox works in compliance safety and training, and she recalls speaking with Chris after the incident. They talked about how critical it is for field crews to know exactly what to do so they can best assist law enforcement and other first responders in situations like this, since smart meter technology means line workers may arrive soon after, or even before, anyone else. Even the sheriff's deputies on the scene that April night, who were notified of the crash by an app on the victim's cell phone, were surprised how quickly the co-op responded. "Chris then asked me if we could arrange training with law enforcement on how we can assist and notify procedures for police and sheriff's departments in the event of a similar incident," Fox said.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative President and CEO Lila Shower took it from there, contacting the Waupaca County Sheriff, and invited them to speak at a co-op safety meeting. As a result of this collaboration, Central Wisconsin was invited to participate in the 5th Annual "Meet the Fleet" event, which brings together local fire departments, EMTs, Flight for Life, K9 units, and other emergency service organizations to engage with the public.

Central Wisconsin VP of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil said,

"Chris maintained his composure and exemplified compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to human life," and added that, "Chris's actions serve as a reminder of the importance of continual training and readiness. More importantly, they reflect the strength of character we strive for in all our team members."

Congratulations Chris!



Left to right: Left to right: Lila Shower, President/CEO, Director Tom Smith, Kelly Tuszke, Director Allen Zander, Chris Tuszke, Director Sue Rombalski, Director Ron Onesti, Kevin Kurtzweil, VP of Operations, Journeyman Lineman Wyatt Phillips, Katie Phillips.

## 2025 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: [bert.lehman@cwecoop.com](mailto:bert.lehman@cwecoop.com)

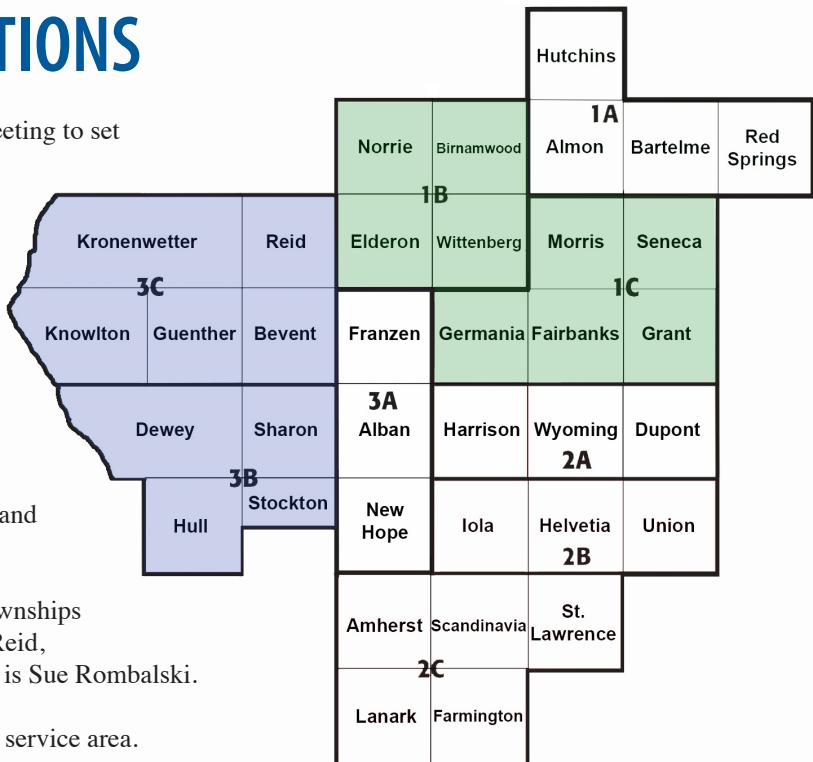
# 2026 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

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, as well as the At-Large Director. Each director seat is for a three-year term. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Friday, January 9, 2026.

**District 1** – Consists of sub districts 1B & 1C – Townships of Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, Wittenberg, Morris, Seneca, Germania, Fairbanks, and Grant. Current Director is Tom Smith.

**District 3** – Consists of sub districts 3B & 3C - Townships of Dewey, Sharon, Hull, Stockton, Kronenwetter, Reid, Knowlton, Guenther, and Bevent. Current Director is Sue Rombalski.

**At-Large Director** – Consists of the entire CWEC service area. Current director is Michael Schultz.



## 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.

## 2026 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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

**Kathy Prahl, District 1B**  
2141 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

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

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and Facebook  

**Lila Shower, President & CEO**

**Bert Lehman, Editor**

## Board of Directors

### District 1

Ron Onesti  
715-551-9257

Tom Smith  
715-701-2051

### District 2

Todd Pamperin  
715-250-0504

Lou Oppor  
Vice Chairman  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
715-370-1378

### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
Secretary/Treasurer  
715-701-2053 - cell  
715-341-4571 - home

Allen Zander  
Chairman  
715-630-8239

## Our Mission

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