

Kevin Kurtzweil  
V.P. of Operations/  
Interim co-CEOLila Shower  
V.P. of Accounting  
and Finance/  
Interim co-CEO

## NEW SUMMER HOURS NOW IN PLACE

a.m. to 4 p.m. The office will be closed on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July.

With the number of hours that our office is open increased, our members will have more opportunities to conduct business with the co-op in-person. We hope you enjoy this change for the summer.

With summer upon us, whether we like it or not, it means the threat for severe weather is also here. While we do our best to make sure electricity keeps flowing to your property, there are times when Mother Nature has other ideas.

When power is knocked out due to severe weather, our linemen work as fast and safely as possible to restore power.

If you encounter a downed power line, do not go near it. Call our office at 1-800-377-2932 to report it. If your

property experiences a power outage, call that same number to report the outage. Do not send us a Facebook message or email to report an outage, as those are not always monitored during off hours.

Summer is also a busy time for our linemen to complete projects pertaining to our overhead and underground

power lines. This means there is a greater chance that you will encounter a CWEC truck parked along the side of the road with orange cones around it. We ask that you please provide our linemen plenty of room to do the work they need to do. If we all work together we can keep everyone safe and avoid injuries.

Lastly, now that warm weather has arrived we hope you are able to spend plenty of time outdoors and enjoy your summer. Be safe and stay healthy.

It was great to see so many of our members at the 85th CWEC Annual Meeting in April at Rosholt High School. Attendance at the meeting was up from last year and we appreciated the opportunity to discuss the business of the cooperative from the previous year. For more information about the annual meeting, see page 16.

We are excited to inform our members that we have introduced new hours that the CWEC office will be open during the summer months. During the summer, the CWEC office will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The new hours began on May 8 and will continue through Sept. 1.

The only exception to the summer hours will be the holiday weeks of Memorial Day and Fourth of July. During those two holiday weeks, the CWEC office will be open from 7:30

### CWEC SUMMER HOURS

6:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

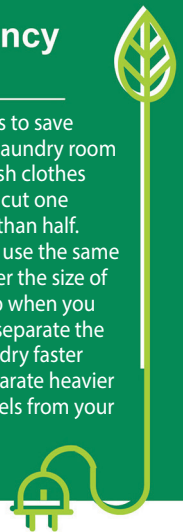
Monday through Friday

\*Weeks of Memorial Day  
& Fourth of July  
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The March regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on March 30, 2023 at 8:07 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the February 24, 2023 meeting, minutes of the March 6, 2023 special board meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The board approved the following Governance Committee proposed changes:
  - Adding the additional language to 7.2.7 Relocations, Conversions and Upgrades in the Rules and Regulations document.
  - Adding the Distributed Generation Avoided Cost Rate to the Residential Service Rate sheet.
  - Adding the additional language to the Application and Agreement for Membership and Electric Service form.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 603-Member Advisory Group and had no recommended changes.
- The board approved discontinuing the future monthly review of Board Policies until a new CEO is hired.
- John LaValley gave a presentation to the board on grant opportunities related to key projects we will be working on in the coming year.

- The board approved the Agenda for CWEC's Annual Meeting coming up on April 13, 2023 at the Rosholt High School Auditorium.
- The board agreed to table discussion on a flex working schedule for non-union employees until the April board meeting when both co-interim CEOs will be present.
- The board approved American Transmission Company's (ATC's) Notice of Second Capital Call for 2023 in the amount of \$61,494.00.

Operations – Kevin Kurtzweil reported crews are working on #6 HD overhead replacements in the Tigerton area and pole changes from the hazard recognition inspection. Arrangements are finalized for Jarret Brow and Alex Lutz going to Chinle, AZ to work on the Navajo Nation Lighting Project. Kevin also reviewed co-op cost savings of about \$5,000 on various items, which will be included monthly in his report.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower's report was reviewed as submitted.

Member Relations – Brenda Mazemke reported the scholarship applications are coming in, with 36 new and 18 repeat applications. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2023. The next Member Advisory Group (MAG) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Brenda also discussed the photo submission by Bert Lehman on the April edition of the WECN magazine cover.

Administrative Services – Lori Patoka reviewed her submitted report, adding she recently met with Office Outfitters from Waupaca and will be doing a price comparison on office, janitorial and cleaning supplies.

Interim CEO's – Kevin Kurtzweil reviewed the co-interim CEO submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

# ALMOST 250 MEMBERS & GUESTS ATTEND CWEC ANNUAL MEETING

The 85th Annual Meeting for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) was held April 13 at the Rosholt High School. There were 243 members and guests in attendance, which was an increase over the previous year.

Members in attendance voted in favor of a bylaw amendment that will simplify the voting procedures for uncontested board of director elections. Prior to the change, ballots needed to be mailed to members for all board of director elections, even if the elections were uncontested. The bylaw change now allows members to elect directors in uncontested elections by a unanimous consent or voice vote at the annual meeting. This will save the co-op money as it will eliminate the costs to print and mail ballots.

Kevin Kurtzweil, interim co-CEO and vice president of operations, provided a recap of the outages in 2022, which were up from the previous year. The majority of the outages were the result of two storms, one in June and one in December.

Members were also informed about supply-chain issues that the co-op has had to deal with, along with the cost of materials increasing 62-96%. Because the lead time for deliveries has increased to 18 months, the co-op has to keep a larger inventory than normal, because supplies need to be on hand when storms arrive and cause damage. The co-op is currently

ordering supplies for 2024.

"Storms can deplete inventories quickly, and that only makes things more challenging when forecasting the co-op's future needs," Kurtzweil said.

Kurtzweil also spoke about the co-op's vegetation management program, and how it improves service, reliability, and safety. In the past year, CWECC has spent more than \$490,000 on right-of-way clearing, and more than \$9 million since 2004.

Lila Shower, interim co-CEO and vice president of accounting and finance, reviewed key statistics for 2022, the statement of operations, and the balance sheet for the co-op. She said energy sales for the co-op were up compared to the previous three years. After expenses and other adjustments, the net margin for the co-op was nearly \$1.3 million. She also noted that the co-op retired more than \$491,900 in capital credits in 2022.

Members were also informed about how CWECC's investment in the West Riverside Power Plant has been beneficial for members. Shower said more than \$1 million in direct credits has been passed on to members as a result of that investment.

"Members have realized a return of \$2.81 million since 2019 and things are on track for eclipsing the co-op's investment in five years and should continue to add value for many years beyond that," she said.



CWECC's 85th Annual Meeting was held April 13 at Rosholt High School.

Shower also explained the reasons for CWECC's recent rate adjustment, with the main reasons being inflationary cost pressures and increased power costs. She also told members that CWECC hasn't had a rate increase since 2016.

During the Chairman's Report, Board Chairman Tom Smith updated members on the delay of the new meter system that was planned for 2023. He also spoke about the many ways the co-op was involved in local communities. One of these programs was the STEAM grant program that the co-op introduced in 2022. Three area school districts received \$1,000 each through the STEAM grant program.

"These are just a few things the cooperative does as a reflection of its commitment to and concern for the communities we serve," Smith said.

Directors Sue Rombalski, Michael Schultz, and Smith were each unopposed in their reelection bids and were reelected.

A total of 27 door prizes were given away to members during the Annual Meeting.

Members also donated 305 non-perishable food items to be donated to area food pantries.

After the Annual Meeting, the CWECC Board of Directors met to elect the officers for the board. Tom Smith was reelected as chairman, while Lou Oppor was elected as vice chair, and Allen Zander was elected as secretary-treasurer.

Clockwise, starting right: Members register for CWECC's 85th Annual Meeting; CWECC Board Chairman Tom Smith visits with a CWECC member prior to the Annual Meeting; CWECC members vote at the Annual Meeting; CWECC Chairman Tom Smith.







## ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

**Georgia Link** – \$50 electric bill credit, CWEC  
**Arlene & John Hoffman** – Weather Station, Altec Industries  
**Nancy Hamm** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company  
**Edmond Suchomski** – Smart Watch, The Benefit Works  
**Janice & Tom Knaup** – \$25 Exxon Mobil gift card, AJ Construction of Wisconsin  
**Walter Smith** – Battery Operated Husqvarna Chainsaw, Zielie's Tree Service  
**Rose Mlodik** – Backpack & Sleeve of Golf Balls and Golf Towel, NISC & National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Company  
**Diane & James Kryll** – Air Fryer, RESCO  
**Joan & Mark Carlson** – Hooded Sweatshirt and Knit Hat, Irby Utilities & Electric Power System (EPS)  
**Patricia & Gerald Witkowski** – Gift Basket, Power System Engineering Inc.  
**Janet Hoks** – \$50 Kwik Trip Gift Card, Recloser Services LLC  
**Rhonda & Tim Hollfelder** – \$100 Kwik Trip gift card, Weld Riley, S.C.  
**Steve Long** – \$25 Exxon Mobil gift card, AJ Construction of Wisconsin  
**Elroy Ziolkowski** – \$50 Service & Repair gift certificate, Gordy's 66 Service & Towing  
**Chris & Tony Buss** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company  
**Denise & Dan McCollum** – Backpack & Golf Balls, NISC & National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation  
**Kim & David Paulson** – DeWalt Compact Drill/Driver Kit, EIR Testing and Maintenance Co.  
**Beverly & Richard Haug** – Hooded Sweatshirt & Tumbler, Irby Utilities & Electric Power System (EPS)  
**Colleen & Tim O'Connor** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company  
**Rita & Daniel Betker** – 70-Piece Mechanics Tool Set, Electric Power System (EPS)  
**Marcia Nueske** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, Complete Office  
**Joe Hartleben** – \$50 Visa gift card, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)  
**David Haberman & Sheryl Deer** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company  
**Robert Knitter** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, Recloser Services, LLC  
**Barb & David Kurszewski** – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card/Mug/Earbuds, Alliant Energy  
**Laura & Ryan Gunderson** – Free Oil Change, Schierl Tire & Service  
**Leah Wierzba** – MECO Easy Street Electric Cart Grill, CWEC

*We would like to thank all the vendors for their generous door prize donations to the 2023 CWEC Annual Meeting. We also congratulate the winners of those door prizes.*

## DRIVING BEHIND FARM EQUIPMENT: DO YOUR PART

Spring planting and fall harvest are busy times. Farmers and workers have big equipment and implements on the road. Navigating roadways can be dangerous for farm equipment operators and auto drivers who follow behind them.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 410 farmers and farm workers died from work-related injuries in 2019. Transportation incidents, which included tractor overturns, were the leading cause of death for these farmers and farm workers.

Follow these safety tips to make it safer for everyone involved.

### Equipment operators:

1. Make sure all flashers and lights are operational.
2. Drive as far to the right side of the road as possible when going around a curve.
3. Pull over and allow vehicles to pass when traffic builds up behind you.
4. Take care at railroad crossings.
5. Avoid traveling during busy traffic times.
6. Be mindful of the height and width of machinery, watching power lines, bridges, and other hazards.
7. Along with turn signals, use hand signals.
8. Stay rested; do not drive when you are too tired or hungry.
9. Keep a first-aid kit in case of accidents.

### Auto drivers:

1. Add extra time to your drive for busy farm roads.
2. Give farmers plenty of room on the road. If a piece of equipment takes up the entire road, pull into a driveway or area and wait for them to pass.
3. When passing, be sure you do so in a passing zone and that there is clear visibility around farm equipment. Watch for oncoming vehicles.
4. Go slow. Farm operators often stop or turn into fields. In addition, cars going at or over the speed limit can catch up to farm machinery quickly, since farmers in equipment move slowly.
5. Don't assume a farmer can move over in narrow areas; it isn't always possible.
6. Honk or motion when passing farmers, they may not see you or know you are there; their equipment is big and noisy.
7. Do not tailgate; the farmer often cannot see you.
8. Do not pass and then slow suddenly in front of equipment with implements behind it or farm trucks full of grain. They cannot stop quickly.
9. Farmers make very wide turns; give them plenty of time and room.

These are a few tips to make it safer for both the equipment operator and auto drivers and to provide a more pleasant drive for all. For information about safety around electricity, including farm and ranch safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in recognition of the Independence Day holiday. We wish you a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July holiday.

# NAPIWOCKI CONQUERS BOSTON MARATHON

When Margaret Napiwocki crossed the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 17 with a time of 3 hours, 27 minutes, and 15 seconds, she achieved a goal she had spent a year training for.

Napiwocki, billing assistant at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), said she has been running all her life. In high school she ran cross country and track. After high school, she ran 5K and 10K events. Looking for a new challenge, about three years ago she said she ran her first marathon.

The time she ran her first marathon in was nine minutes shy of the required qualifying time to qualify to run in the Boston Marathon. That's when she began thinking that running in the Boston Marathon was achievable.

"My first marathon I was nine minutes off so I decided I could do this because nine minutes isn't that much to make up in 26 miles," Napiwocki said.

In August of 2022, while on vacation in the state of Washington, Napiwocki completed a marathon with a finishing time that qualified her for the Boston Marathon.

After competing in two marathons, Napiwocki said she learned some dos and don'ts when it comes to training for a marathon.

"My first marathon, I pretty much skipped out on all of my long runs," she said. "I did the short runs, and you could tell in my race because I pretty much died at the end.

"So, for the second marathon I told myself I'm sticking to the schedule and I'm not skipping out of any days, especially my long runs. I usually started with a short run for the beginning of the week. Then I'd do some sprints, faster speed work. And then ramp it up a little bit to six or eight miles Thursday and Friday, and then take it back down Saturday. Sunday was my long run, 10-20 miles. I stuck to the schedule for my second one.

"And my third marathon, training for

Boston, I took it to another level, making sure I was eating a lot better and sticking to my schedule."

With the Boston Marathon taking place in April, it meant Napiwocki had to overcome some Wisconsin weather challenges while training.

"I went to the gym more than the last couple marathons," she said. "I did still go run outside because I'm not running on a treadmill for 15 miles. After six miles, I pretty much cut it off there."

Napiwocki said participating in the Boston Marathon was an "awesome" experience.

"There are so many people," she said. "It was hillier than what I thought it was going to be. I looked at the chart and it shows you what the elevations are going to be and everybody talked about the four hills at the end of the marathon. Those were just long hills. But the whole run was pretty hilly. I'm not used to hills because there are no hills around here where I train."

As one would expect, Napiwocki said running in the Boston Marathon was "hard."

"You have to mentally prepare for it and tell yourself multiple times during the run that you can do it," she said.

Napiwocki added that having her husband and other family in attendance encouraging her was helpful.

"I had two groups of people cheering me on, so I had that little bit of extra energy once I heard them screaming my name," she said.

Overall, Napiwocki said she is satisfied with her effort in the Boston Marathon.

"Even at the end of the run, my joints were sore but my muscles didn't cramp up like they had in the past," she said.

When asked if she planned to run in the Boston Marathon again in the future, Napiwocki said, "Maybe one day, but I'll give marathons a little break for right now. I did sign up for a half-marathon in the fall in Stevens Point with some friends."



Margaret Napiwocki was all smiles after completing the Boston Marathon on April 17.



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## Our Mission

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