



By Mike Wade, President & CEO

84th ANNUAL MEETING SET TO BE IN-PERSON ON APRIL 19

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 19 to attend the 84th Annual Meeting of the co-op membership at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School in Wittenberg. The meeting will be a great opportunity for you to visit with friends and neighbors and learn more about your cooperative and the programs we offer. Come join us for an informative meeting and an opportunity to win some fabulous door prizes donated by our corporate partners.

Special thanks to the Nominations Committee for its work in interviewing candidates for this year's board election. The committee has the responsibility of selecting candidates who meet the qualifications defined in our bylaws and policies, and who are committed to serving in the best interests of all members. In addition, the committee approves the rules that we follow at each year's annual meeting of the membership. Thank you, Nominations Committee, for your service to our cooperative.

In this month's magazine we talk about our partial ownership of the West

Riverside Energy Center and how this natural gas generating facility is benefiting our members. Our ownership is part of a collaborative effort among three electric cooperatives and is a perfect example of how electric cooperatives can work together for the good of each cooperative and its members. This May, West Riverside will have been in operation for two years and it has helped our cooperative improve its financials and maintain stable rates to our members. We look forward to it being in operation for many years to come.

Because of the generosity of our members, we are able to offer educational scholarships through our Operation Round Up program. I encourage all of our graduating seniors and young adults who will be pursuing an education beyond high school to apply for a scholarship. Look for more information on the scholarship application process on page 17 in this edition of *WECN* magazine.

In February, board members and I spent a day in Madison talking with our legislators about electric vehicles, community solar, and the dangers of wild

parnsnip. We also thanked them for their support of previous legislation that has been beneficial to electric cooperatives. We had very good discussions with our political leaders and we thank them for their service to rural Wisconsin.

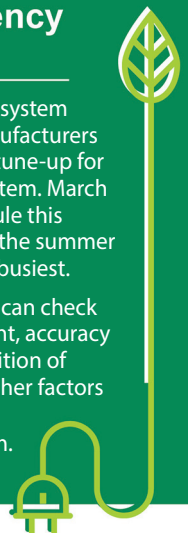
I know each of you has a busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to come to our annual meeting in April. I look forward to seeing you there.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune-up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The December regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on December 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the November 30, 2021, 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 did not meet this month.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 303 – Delegations of Authority from the Board of Directors to the President/CEO and agreed to make no changes.
- d. The board approved the 2021 write-off of uncollectable debt from 2020.
- e. The board approved American Transmission Company's (ATC) First Call for Voluntary Additional Capital Contributions for 2022.
- f. The board approved holding the November 2022 regular board meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 24, 2022.
- g. The board reviewed the 2022 Annual Goals and Financial Budget in

- detail and approved as presented.
- h. The board approved the West Riverside Energy Center credit percentage that is returned to the membership in the form of a power cost adjustment (PCA).

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported his department will be working on year-end inventory next week. Crews will be starting service work on oil circuit reclosers.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower reported the Wisconsin Disaster Fund reimbursement check from the July 26, 2021 storm/wind damage was delivered to our office by Phil Rentmeester, director of Marathon County Emergency Management.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the Toys For Tots campaign had a very successful year, helping approximately 1,100 children in the community.

Administrative Services – Ms. Patoka reported the Business Processes project is very close to completion. January will kick-off training for employees on NISC modules, NRECA programs, and KnowBe4 Cybersecurity training. Word and Excel training will begin in March.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

MEMBERS REAPING BENEFITS OF WEST RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER

When Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) decided to make an investment in the West Riverside Energy Center, one of the anticipated benefits was that it would have a positive impact on electric bills.

That benefit, as well as other anticipated benefits, is now being realized by CWEC members.

Mike Wade, president & CEO of CWEC, said that CWEC's small ownership share in West Riverside allows CWEC to receive a capacity (or demand) credit based on its ownership level. In addition, when the plant is in operation, CWEC receives a benefit from all of the energy it generates and is sold onto the market.

"These savings help us reduce power costs to our members each month," Wade said.

Since West Riverside went into commercial operation in May of 2020, CWEC has received over \$1.3 million in savings. A majority of these savings have been passed on to CWEC members directly each month.

"The cooperative passes on any increases or decreases in our wholesale power costs through the PCA (power cost



adjustment) on each monthly bill. For each month in 2021, we were able to keep the PCA negative or at zero even through the winter months when high natural gas prices caused energy prices to spike," Wade said.

Wade added that West Riverside has performed according to the expectations CWEC had for it.

"There were early startup issues which were expected of a plant this large and

there have been periods where the plant was shutdown due to maintenance," Wade said. "However, even during these periods we still receive a financial benefit due to our capacity ownership of the plant."

Energy that is generated at the West Riverside Energy Center is placed on the transmission grid that is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) market. CWEC is connected to that grid and receives power from all the generating plants that are part of the grid.

West Riverside Energy Center is owned by Alliant Energy, but CWEC partnered with Rock Energy Cooperative and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative to purchase a portion of the new facility. The three electric cooperatives own 9% of the facility. CWEC's ownership level is 0.8%.

HELPING MEMBERS WITH ENERGY CONSERVATION REBATES

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is a strong advocate of energy conservation and using renewable energy sources. To make our members' energy projects more affordable we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades. Over the past several months, we helped Plover River Farms, as well as Keith

Long with energy efficiency upgrades on their farms.

For a listing of rebates we're currently offering, visit our website at: www.cwecoop.com. Documentation to receive rebates must be submitted within the calendar year of the purchase. Call us at 800-377-2932 for more information.



Left: Randy Fleishauer (left), general manager at Plover River Farms, and Jeanine McCain (right), controller at Plover River Farms, accept a rebate check from CWEC for energy conservation upgrades made on the farm. Right: Keith Long accepts the rebate check from CWEC for energy conservation upgrades made on his farm.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 13

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12, 2022.





CWEC OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Once again, scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school bound students through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Operation Round Up program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

Since the CWEC scholarship program began in 2005 CWEC has provided more than \$260,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of our members is another.

To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Round Up. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors and online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for returning completed applications is **Friday, April 1, 2022.**

Scholarship winners must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and fulltime student equivalent during their first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school.



Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient will need to provide CWEC with a copy of their grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.



REBATE REMINDER

As Spring nears, you may be thinking about completing projects around the house that include energy-saving home-improvement measures. These projects may include purchasing new, energy efficient appliances or insulating your home.

If you have any such projects, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to www.cwecoop.com/energy-conservation-rewards to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate.

Receipts must be submitted in the year the items are purchased to qualify.

ELECTRIC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

To encourage students to consider a career at an electric utility, and to create an incentive for trained electric utility workers to seek employment with electric cooperatives or other utilities, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will once again offer a \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship in 2022.

Traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants need not be a member of the co-op, but preference will be given to CWEC members. The scholarship is administered by the CWEC Operation Round Up Trust Committee. The committee will evaluate all applications and essay responses. The selection criteria will be based on scholastic achievement, school and community involvement, work history, and essay submission.

Scholarship applications and guidelines can be found online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for returning completed

applications is **Friday, April 1, 2022.** Scholarship winners will be chosen shortly after the deadline.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.



CWEC 84th ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 19

Wittenberg-Birnamwood
High School
400 W Grand Avenue,
Wittenberg, WI



**REGISTRATION
BEGINS:
5:15 P.M.**

*Light refreshments
will be served*

**BUSINESS
MEETING:
6 P.M.**

Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, for our 84th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School.

Registration begins at 5:15 p.m. Light refreshments will be served until the start of the meeting at 6 p.m.

President & CEO Mike Wade and Board Chairman Tom Smith will keynote the meeting's business session, which begins at 6 p.m. During the business session, members will have the opportunity to hear how their co-op is faring financially, learn details about various services offered by their member-owned power supplier, and receive updates on state and federal regulatory issues of importance to electric co-ops. An election of two board positions will be held.

As a member-owner of an electric cooperative, you can voice your opinions at the annual meeting, observing the annual meeting rules. This is an advantage that cooperatives have over the investor-owned utilities, whose customers have no say in the management of the company and cannot vote for their board of directors.

Members who attend the in-person Annual Meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit, as well as a gift. Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April issue of *WECN* will have the chance to win a \$50 energy credit. In addition to

Help Fill Our Local Food Pantry Shelves

CWEC will be kicking off its food pantry drive at the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. Bring three or more non-perishable food items that are not expired, and you will receive a FREE LED bulb. (Limit of three bulbs per family)


Your generous donation helps fill the shelves of food pantries in our service area.

If you cannot make it to the annual meeting, we will be collecting food pantry donations at our office, located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, throughout the year, and you will still receive the free LED bulb.

For more information call 715-677-2211.





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.**