



REPRESENTING OUR MEMBERS IN MADISON



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Lila Shower, President & CEO

In early February, myself and all seven of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Board of Directors attended the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's (WECA) Education and Lobby Days in Madison. This multi-day event gave us the opportunity to speak with political representatives around the state about issues that affect electric utilities, including electric cooperatives, and their members.

The event also allowed those in attendance to learn more about legislation that is being considered. Some of that legislation would have a big impact on the operations of electric utilities. It is important for elected representatives to know how legislation would impact – positively or negatively – electric cooperatives.

Having the opportunity to speak with representatives from around the state is our way of representing the members of CWEC and advocating for policies that support the communities they live in.

Two pieces of current legislation that electric cooperatives, including CWEC, oppose are a community solar bill and a net metering for rooftop solar systems bill. While electric cooperatives are not against solar projects and welcome solar energy as

part of the energy mix, these two bills would have adverse financial effects on electric utilities and their members.

The community solar bill would establish a statutory framework for community solar in Wisconsin by authorizing third-party solar facilities to offer subscription-based generation and require utilities to provide bill credits to participating customers. This would create unregulated, third-party generation providers who operate outside established utility planning, accountability, and cost-recovery frameworks. But utilities would remain responsible for funding and maintaining generation capacity, distribution infrastructure, system reliability, and storm restoration. Private developers, on the other hand, would be allowed to inject generation into the system without bearing those same obligations and costs.

Net metering for rooftop solar systems would establish a statutory net metering framework requiring electric providers, including cooperatives, to credit rooftop solar customers at near-retail rates for excess electricity generation.

The bill mandates compensation for exported solar energy at 100% of the retail electricity rate, even though retail rates

include fixed costs for distribution infrastructure, maintenance, storm restoration, and system reliability. While rooftop solar customers continue to rely on the grid for backup service, the bill reduces their contribution to those shared costs. This results in fixed system costs being shifted to non-participating members, many of whom are rural, low-income, or unable to install rooftop solar.

CWEC will continue to represent the best interests of its members in order to keep electricity as cost-effective and as reliable as possible.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: I know you all have a very busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to come to our 88th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 9 at Rosholt High School. The meeting lasts about an hour and will be very informative about what has and is happening at your cooperative. It is also a great opportunity for you to visit with fellow cooperative members and learn more about your cooperative and the programs we offer. There will be plenty of fabulous door prizes donated by our corporate partners. For more information about the annual meeting, see page 18 in this issue.

I look forward to seeing you there.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:53 a.m. on January 22, 2026. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the December 22, 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.
- \$1,200,000 is being deferred from the revenue cycle 2025 to 2026.
- Board Policy 409 – West Riverside Energy Center Internal Accounting was reviewed. No changes were recommended.
- The Nominations Committee met on January 10, 2026. District 1 incumbent Director Tom Smith, District 3 incumbent Director Sue Rombalski, and At-Large incumbent Mike Schultz are running unopposed.
- Two new Operation Round Up Board Members were approved. Annie Falkowski will represent subdistrict 1(b), the townships

of Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, and Wittenberg. Austin Beilke will represent subdistrict 1(a), the townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, and Red Springs.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. The Fairview Project is being retired and should be completed in the week of January 19, 2026. An update on the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council construction was shared.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. Past due notices were sent out on January 8, 2026. The auditors will be at the office in the first week of February 2026. A cost of service study will be conducted in 2026.

Member Services – Mr. Lehman submitted a written report. The Operation Round Up Trust Board met on January 13, 2026. They approved \$4,050 in requests. Quarterly reporting has been submitted for the grant projects. The final numbers for the Toys for Tots Campaign were shared.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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.

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 submitting completed applications is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and full-time (12+ credits) 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.



Since the CWEC Operation Round Up scholarship program began in 2005 CWEC has awarded more than \$359,350 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of its members is another.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 8

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7, 2026.



APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR 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) has established a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship is intended to assist a student pursuing a technical college education in an electric program that lends itself to employment in the electric utility industry.

Traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants need not be a member of CWEC, 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 submitting completed applications is **Wednesday, April 1, 2026.**

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.





CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **April 30, 2026**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:



Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will also offer a \$25 check to one local winner, a \$15 check to a local second place poster, and a \$10 check to a local third place poster. Registration forms and eligibility details can also be found on the CWEC website at www.cwecoop.com under the "News" tab.

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



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.



CWEC 88th ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 9

Rosholt High School
346 W Randolph Street
Rosholt, WI

REGISTRATION
BEGINS:
5:15 P.M.

BUSINESS
MEETING:
6 P.M.



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Bert Lehman, Editor

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District 3

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715-341-4571 - home

Allen Zander
Chairman
715-630-8239

Our Mission

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



Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on **Thursday, April 9, 2026**, for our 88th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Rosholt High School. Registration begins at 5:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served until the start of the meeting at 6 p.m.

President & CEO Lila Shower 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 three 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. Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April 2026 issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* will have the chance to win a \$50 energy credit. In addition to many door prizes, one lucky member will be drawn as the winner of a grand prize consisting of an electric grill. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present.

Help Fill Our Local Food Pantry Shelves

CWEC will be kicking off its food pantry drive at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026. 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 can still receive the free LED bulb.

For more information call 715-677-2211.

