



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## PLENTY TAKING PLACE AS WE APPROACH THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Many of you are counting the days (if not the hours and minutes) until the beginning of hunting season. The gun hunt for deer in Wisconsin is a fairly short time period, but it is a great way to get outdoors for some fresh air and gorgeous autumn weather. You may be preoccupied with bagging that big buck, but don't forget to practice general hunting safety and stay alert for hidden dangers. Also, never place your tree stand near a power line and do not shoot towards power lines, utility poles, transformers, or substations. Stay safe out there!

At their October meeting, the board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$350,000. Capital credits are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their energy purchases from the cooperative in previous years. The capital credit retirement this year will be made by applying 70% of the retirement to the oldest year on record and 30%


of the retirement to more recent years. This method provides a fair retirement rotation and allows us to clear older years off the books. If your capital credits were part of the retirement, you will have noticed a credit on your electric bill or have received a check in the mail. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative to you.

One of the best and most rewarding community service programs we participate in is the Toys for Tots program. Your generous donations have put smiles on the faces of thousands of children since the program began. With Christmas just around the corner, our Toys for Tots campaign has begun. A list of donation locations in our communities can be found on page 17 or on the CWEC website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com). These toys will find their way into the hands of deserving children in our area. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

Our 2022 Cooperative Calendar is ready and was handed out to members



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

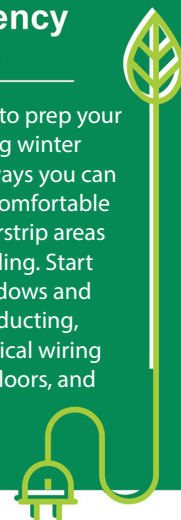
who attended our Member Appreciation Breakfast. If you weren't able to attend, please stop by our office to pick one up. Thank you to our members who submitted photos to help us create a beautiful calendar for all of our members to enjoy.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you and be safe and stay healthy as you enjoy this holiday season.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The August regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on August 26, 2021 at 7:55 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the July 29, 2021 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 proposed changes to Board Policy 106 – Director Education as presented by the Governance Committee.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 108 – Director Election and Addendum with no recommended changes.
- The board approved a new revolving loan application.
- Amanda Seger from CFC presented the 2020 Key Ratio

- Trend Analysis (KRTA) to the board.
- Mr. Kurtzweil and Ms. Hardel gave an informational presentation to the board on the new program for the replacement of unjacketed underground cable.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported his crews are very busy since the storms a couple weeks ago. The Almon substation will be back fed starting September 7 for a few days for Alliant to do some work and Energis to do maintenance.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported there were 65 submissions for the calendar photo contest this year. A team of employees will be selecting the winning photos in the next week so the calendar can be printed in time for the Member Appreciation Breakfast on October 30, 2021. Bert Lehman was selected as the new secretary/treasurer for the Wisconsin REC Member Services Association.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.



# CO-OP RETIRES \$350,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS

One of the benefits of being a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is that members are eligible to receive capital credits, which represent your ownership in CWEC.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, CWEC, which is a not-for-profit electric cooperative, provides our members with “at cost” electric service. We do not exist to earn a profit.

When each year’s finances are audited and closed out, the remaining profit or margins are allocated to the members based on the amount each member paid for electricity during the year in the form of capital credits. These capital credits are used by the co-op to help build and maintain the CWEC electric system. When the co-op’s finances permit, the board of directors approves a portion of the allocated capital credits to be retired, and paid back to you—the members.

This year, the board of directors approved the retirement of \$350,000 in capital credits. That amount was divided as follows: 70% of the \$350,000 for members with capital credits from 1993 and prior years; 30% distributed to members with capital credits from

## Money back to YOU!



1994 through 2016. All members who have been on CWEC electric

lines for six years or longer receive retired capital credits.

Active members whose retired capital credits were less than \$100 received a credit on their September electric bill, which was mailed to members in October. Checks were mailed in October to active members whose retired capital credits amounted to more than \$100. Checks, with a minimum of \$10, were also mailed to all past members who received retired capital credits.

CWEC has returned more than \$5.7 million to its member-owners.

For more information about capital credits, or to resolve a capital credit account issue, please call our office at 715-677-2211, or send an email to [cwec@cwecoop.com](mailto:cwec@cwecoop.com).



## CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS REVEALED!

The 2021 Member Photo Contest capturing “Life in Rural Wisconsin” is now complete, and the 22 winning photos have been revealed. The selected photos will be featured in the 2022 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Calendar, which was first available at our Member Appreciation Breakfast.

With more than 60 entries this year, the judges had their work cut out for them. CWEC graciously thanks all of the members who participated. Information for the 2022 contest will be available in February 2022. You can view all the winning photos at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).

### Submitted photos that were chosen:

- Donn Lord, Tigerton – cover
- Wendy McIntee, Marion – January
- Donn Lord, Tigerton – February
- Penny Hujet, Custer – March
- Sue Hintz, Tigerton – April
- Karley Poppe, Tigerton – May
- Deb McCue, Iola – June
- Bradley Kratzke, Wittenberg – July
- Darlene Baoer, Custer – August
- Leah Lehman, Tigerton – September
- Autumn Koback, Stevens Point – October
- Mary Ellie, Iola – November
- Cindy Rodeback, Iola – December
- Catelin Fischer, Ogdensburg – January 2023

### HONORABLE MENTION

- Cindy Rodeback, Iola
- Autumn Koback, Stevens Point
- Karley Poppe, Tigerton
- Catelin Fischer, Ogdensburg
- Heather Moede, Bowler
- Sally Behnke, Ogdensburg
- Sue Hintz, Tigerton
- Lynsay Mauritz, Tigerton

## Allocation vs. Retirement

An **allocation** is made annually for each member, based upon the amount of electricity you purchased the previous year. An allocation is your share of the amount of net margins CWEC sets aside into a separate account to be used as operating capital for reliability improvements and maintenance over a period of years. You typically receive notice of the amount allocated to your capital credit account on your April electric bill.

A **retirement** is the amount you receive back as a capital credit refund. It is a percentage of your total capital credit balance. The amount retired is decided annually by the board of directors.

# AREA KIDS NEED OUR HELP THIS CHRISTMAS!



Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate than us, especially children. In our effort to accomplish the above, we are happy to once again partner with the U.S Marine Corps to help make area children's Christmas a little brighter through the Toys for Tots program. We know that this year will once again be challenging to collect toys for area children.

Last year we were able to provide toys to more than 1,100 area children, which was more than in 2019. All indications are we will need at least the same number of toys again this year, if not more. As you can imagine, it is a pretty daunting task to collect enough toys for that many children. This is where CWEC members can help. Help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a new unwrapped toy. **All of the toys we collect are distributed locally.**

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative kicked off the annual Toys for Tots Drive at its Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 30.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see the accompanying list. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, you can make a check to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op, PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. If you would like to donate online, go to <http://iola-wi.toysfortots.org>

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas.

BIRNAMWOOD	Iola-Scandinavia High School	ROSHOLT	WAUPACA
<b>Banner Bank</b> 416 Main St. Birnawood, WI 54414 715-449-2556  <b>Dollar General</b> 472 US-45 Birnawood, WI 54414 715-449-6705	540 S Jackson St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2211  <b>Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness &amp; Aquatic Center</b> 445 S Jackson St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411	<b>Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op</b> 10401 Lystul Rd Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-2211  <b>Community First Bank</b> 275 W. Grand Ave. Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4523  <b>Dollar General</b> 436 W Grand Avenue W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4523  <b>Rosholt Middle School/High School</b> 346 Randolph St W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4541  <b>Rosholt Elementary School</b> 346 Randolph St W Rosholt, WI 54473 715-677-4543	<b>Cricket Wireless Waupaca</b> 1020 W Fulton Street, Ste B Waupaca, WI 54981 715-942-9833  <b>Danes Hall of Waupaca</b> Toy Drop-off: Drive-Thru ONLY Saturday, Dec. 4 301 N Main Street Waupaca, WI 54981 715-942-2660  <b>Mills Fleet Farm</b> 2016 Farm Drive Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-3851  <b>RE/MAX Lyons Real Estate</b> 206 W Fulton St Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-9565
BOWLER	MANAWA	SCANDINAVIA	WITTENBERG
<b>Bowler Schools</b> 500 S. Almon St. Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-4101  <b>1st National Bank</b> 102 E. Railroad Bowler, WI 54416 715-793-5200	<b>Manawa Elementary School</b> 800 Beech St. Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2524  <b>Little Wolf High School</b> 515 E 4th Street Manawa, WI 54949 920-596-2525  <b>Premier Community Bank</b> 341 S Bridge St Manawa, WI 54949 715-596-2531	<b>Silver Lake Lanes</b> N6311 State Road 49 Scandinavia, WI 54977 715-467-2700	<b>Associated Bank</b> 501 S. Webb St. Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2127  <b>Banner Bank</b> 202 S. Westgor Ave. Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2999  <b>Dollar General</b> 309 N Genesee Street Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-449-6740  <b>Wagner's Shell Food Mart</b> 504 E. Grand Ave. Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-6231  <b>Wittenberg Shell</b> 413 N. Genesee Wittenberg, WI 54499 715-253-2888
CLINTONVILLE	MARION	TIGERTON	
<b>Mills Fleet Farm</b> 500 S Main St. Clintonville, WI 54929 715-823-6571	<b>Dollar General</b> 213 Industrial Drive Marion, WI 54950 715-793-0111	<b>1st National Bank</b> 140 Cedar St. Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2291  <b>Premier Community Bank</b> 112 US Highway 45 Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-3300  <b>Tigerton Community Center</b> 221 Birch Street Tigerton, WI 54486 715-535-2262	
ELDERON	IOLA		
<b>Community First Bank</b> 311 State Hwy 49 Elderon, WI 54429 715-454-6264	<b>Bank First</b> 148 N. Main Iola, WI 54945 715-445-3211  <b>Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School</b> 450 E Division St Iola, WI 54945 715-445-2411		

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business will resume on Monday, November 29. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

**REMINDER:**

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 7  
 Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.





**M**att Schrank had already been a business owner in the village of Tigerton for 14 years when he made the decision to purchase another business in Tigerton—Cedar Street Market grocery store.

The grocery store was for sale and on the verge of being closed because the owner was retiring when Schrank purchased it in November 2020. With Schrank also owning Gage’s Tire & Auto in Tigerton, he said it was convenient for him to shop at Cedar Street Market, but added part of the reason he purchased the store was to keep it in the community.

“For the older generation it’s a lot more important (to have a grocery store in the community),” Schrank said. “For people who don’t like to travel out of town.”

He added that everybody in the community has been receptive to him being the new owner.

“Everybody who does shop here is appreciative,” Schrank said.

Since purchasing Cedar Street Market, Schrank has made some changes, most notably adding more product to the store to provide customers with more choices.

“We are not a discount store anymore,” said Rachel Marquardt, store manager at Cedar Street Market. “We are a full grocery store, getting in fresh meat cuts again, and having a full line of products.”

Marquardt said business has progressively been increasing.



**Matt Schrank (left), owner of Cedar Street Market, and store manager Rachel Marquardt.**

“People are starting to check us out, hearing that we are not a discount store,” Marquardt said. “They are coming in to see what we have, and liking what we have to offer.”

Marquardt said the goal is to add new products to the store as demand dictates, and to “keep business going and growing.”

### Gage’s Tire & Auto

As stated, Schrank has been operating Gage’s Tire & Auto in Tigerton since he purchased the auto garage in 2006.

“I was looking for something new,” Schrank said about why he purchased the auto repair business. “I always liked and enjoyed working on cars.”

Since purchasing Gage’s Tire and Auto, Schrank said business has been great. He added that he is concentrating on servicing existing customers.

“We’re busy enough that we really don’t need to grow anymore,” he said. “Just take care of the people.”

He added, “Shout out to all the people and the local support. It’s been a great community to work with.”



**Gage’s Tire & Auto is located on State Highway 45 in Tigerton.**



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

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

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**Bert Lehman, Editor**

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#### District 3

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### Our Mission

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