




**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Lila Shower,  
President & CEO**

## A MONTH OF CELEBRATION

**T**here are plenty of things to celebrate in the month of October.

First of all, October is Co-op Month, which has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964.

During October, we acknowledge the benefits that cooperatives across the country bring to co-op members and the communities they serve. We at the co-op take this time to reflect on the principles we share with other cooperatives and the value we provide. It is an honor and privilege to provide electric energy to our members and support the communities in central Wisconsin.

For more information about National Co-op Month, see page 18.

Another reason for celebration in October is the fact October is the month that the cooperative returns to you a portion of your 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. Capital credits represent your ownership in CWEC.

Unlike investor-owned utilities who 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.

Capital credits are the revenues that remain at the end of the year once all expenses are paid. These revenues, or margins, are then assigned to members based on the amount of energy they consumed during the year.

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 CWEC Board of Directors approves a portion of the allocated capital credits to be retired and pay them back to you – the members.

This is how it works:

1. CWEC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.
2. At the end of the year, CWEC completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.
3. CWEC allocates the margins to members as capital credits based

upon their use of electricity during the year. We have been allocating capital credits since our inception in 1938. Look at your April bill and you will see your individual capital credit amounts on that bill.

4. When CWEC’s financial condition permits, the CWEC Board of Directors decides to retire, or pay, the capital credits. We have been paying out capital credits annually for the last 37 years in the month of October. If you are an active member, you will see a credit amount on your October bill. If you have moved off our lines, but still have capital credits, we will mail you a check.

It’s just another way the cooperative adds value back to our members.

To close out the month of October, CWEC will host its annual Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 25. We host this breakfast each year because the CWEC Board of Directors and employees of CWEC want to extend our thanks and appreciation for allowing us to provide electric service to you and to be an integral part of the communities in which we serve.

We will have arts and crafts vendors, so bring your wallet and start your Christmas shopping early. For the kids, we will have a Halloween costume contest, a parade, games, and a bounce house, plus a chance for boys and girls to win a bicycle.

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 7:43 a.m. on July 31, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, meeting minutes of June 26, 2025, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- b. The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 405, Offers to Acquire Cooperative’s Assets. Recommendation by the committee was to leave the policy as it was written.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil’s written report was submitted in his absence. A preliminary drawing of the Central Substation was shared with the Board. All vegetation management circuits are completed for the year. Unscheduled brushing is still active.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for June was \$0.001889. 627 disconnect notices were sent out on July 8, 2025. Work has started on the 2026 budget. Work continues to optimize the AMI system in the field.

Member Services – Bert Lehman reported on the submitted Member Services Report. The deadline for the photo contest is August 25, 2025. As of July 30, 2025, there are 20 entries. Operation Round Up approved several donation requests at the July 15, 2025 meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills. —Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# I-S SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1,000 STEAM GRANT

The Iola-Scandinavia School District has received a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be used to purchase items for the renovation of the auditorium at Iola-Scandinavia High School.

The renovation project will benefit students in the school district who participate in choir, band, and theater.

"I think the students have earned this in a way," said Shannon Huettner, a high school support instructor in the district, and part of the team who heads up the district's musical each year. "We have grown the musical to have almost 70 students yearly participate. For a small school district, that's really great. Because we have so many kids involved with the musical, the need was there. I almost feel like we're fulfilling a need they have."

She added, "They will have a much greater theater experience when performing."

Since the auditorium originally opened in 1979, Huettner said there have been some updates made, but it was time for a more in-depth renovation of the auditorium.

The curtains were faded and had holes in them and the lights put out a lot of heat with students underneath them, Huettner said.

"We're not sure if the curtains were ever replaced," Huettner said. "We can't find any paperwork on that. We're pretty sure the lights have not been replaced. The sound system has been upgraded over the years, but it still wasn't up to date."

In addition, the district didn't have any wireless microphones and had borrowed some from the Amherst School District when needed.

"We have been using Amherst microphones, the Amherst soundboard, and we've been dealing with the other things the best we can," Huettner said.

When Dale Bestul was brought in to help build the set for the district's musical, he suggested the district do fundraising to renovate the auditorium.

"When we went to do the bids on how much we were actually going to need, it was like \$400,000," Huettner said. "We were like, that's going to take 20 years to get that



CWEC President & CEO Lila Shower (second from right) presents a \$1,000 STEAM grant to Shannon Huettner, high school support instructor at Iola-Scandinavia High School, and part of the team who heads up the district's musical each year (second from left), Dale Bestul (far left), and Zach Shulfer, general music teacher for grades 4-6 and chorus teacher for grades 7-12 in the Iola-Scandinavia School District (far right).

much money, and it's going to cost twice as much."

The high total cost of the renovation of the auditorium shifted the thinking to do the project in three phases, Huettner said.

The first phase would be replacing the lights, with the second phase replacing the sound system, and everything else would be in the third phase.

"But once we started fundraising, the funds came in more plentiful than what we expected," Huettner said.

In addition, when competitive bids were obtained, the cost was lower than what organizers originally thought.

"Which was great because we had a wish list that just never ends," Huettner said. "We had enough money to do sound, lights, and curtains. As the money has been coming in, we just go down our wish list. We have been able to check off a lot of things. The three-phase project has really turned into maybe an extended year."

So far, an all-new sound system, lighting system, and curtains have been installed. Huettner said she believes that 75% of the entire renovation project will be completed by the district's musical performance in February 2026, with everything being completed in 2027.

"That is allowing us to add the streaming equipment, new audio visual, projector, new stage floor, things that we didn't really

know (if we could afford)," Huettner said.

"We didn't realize how expensive some of these things are. We also didn't realize that our auditorium, because of how old it is, and the materials it was constructed with, the sound isn't great. So, we really need those wall panels now that we have this great equipment to keep everything sounding good."

One of the items that is part of the sound system is an audio loop that will help those with hearing aids with a telecoil to have the audio sent directly to their hearing aids. The cost of that audio loop was \$15,000 and was paid for with a grant from the Waupaca County Community Foundation.

Twenty headsets were also purchased.

"If you don't wear a hearing aid but you are hard of hearing or you don't hear things clearly, you can stop at our sound and light booth and they will give you a monitor with a headset that you put on and sit in your seat and turn it on and you are now connected in our loop," Huettner said.

Huettner said she is appreciative of the STEAM grant from CWEC, adding that they are still collecting donations from the public.

"It's momentum. It's modeling for other groups and organizations that we have a project that's worth investing in," Huettner said. "So, I think it's extremely important and I know that we have many students and families who have worked for or who have been patrons of the co-op."





# JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST & FUN!

## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 25, 2025 • 8-11 a.m.

Main Office in Rosholt,  
10401 Lystul Road

Come join the fun, as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a pancake breakfast as a way to show its appreciation to its members.

- Door Prizes
- Bike Drawing for Kids (10 a.m. drawing)
- Kids Costume Contest (Judging at 9:45 a.m.)
- Bounce House for Kids
- Halloween Treat Bag for Kids
- Hotline Demo
- Paper Recycling
- Craft & Gift Fair with 25+ local vendors



Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to the CWEC Toys for Tots toy drive and we'll enter you in a special prize drawing.

Bring canned food items to be donated to local food pantries and receive one LED light bulb for every three food items. (Up to 15 limit)





# POWER BY PURPOSE

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

As a cooperative, we see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates as low as possible—because we

know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought—it's part of our mission.

We're also planning for the future. As electricity demand grows due to new technologies and economic development, electric co-ops are working to ensure we continue to meet those needs with a balanced, reliable energy mix. We know our members care about affordability and dependability, and we're committed to delivering both.


That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, we encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer—you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.



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**Lila Shower, President & CEO**

**Bert Lehman, Editor**

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## Our Mission

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

