



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

As an electric cooperative, we are guided by seven Cooperative Principles which provide the foundation on which we and all other cooperatives operate. One of those principles is “Concern For Community.” This principle calls for cooperatives to work for the sustainable development of their communities.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) recently participated in two events that help to show how CWEC is involved in the local communities it serves.

In late July, CWEC was one of many organizations who participated in the 5th Annual Meet The Fleet event in Iola. Even though this was the fifth year of the event, it was the first time that CWEC participated. The event has vehicles on display from community service organizations such as police and fire departments, and emergency medical organizations. Attendees can get up close to the vehicles to see what they all feature.

Businesses in the community that use

specialized vehicles for their services, such as garbage trucks and tow trucks, also had vehicles on display. Attendees were allowed to sit in some of these vehicles.

CWEC had one of its bucket trucks on display at the event. With the bucket on the ground, kids who attended the event were allowed to go in the bucket to see the “workplace” of an electric lineman. Kids were also given “The Electric Co-op” coloring book, a pack of crayons, and a frisbee.

We also had our hotline demo trailer at the event and conducted a hotline demo of how power lines work and what happens when a tree branch falls on power lines. Attendees were also shown why it is important to stay away from downed power lines.

It was a great event, and I am glad we participated in it.

Another event that we attended was the groundbreaking for a new apartment building complex being built by S.C. Swiderski in Wittenberg on July 22. CWEC will have



CWEC linemen conducted a hotline demonstration for attendees at the Meet The Fleet event in Iola July 29.

the privilege of supplying electricity to the 60-unit apartment building.

These are just two examples of CWEC’s commitment to the communities it serves. We do not take this commitment lightly, and we will continue to follow this commitment into the future.

Before I end this month’s column, I want to thank Dennis Magee for 34 years of dedicated service to CWEC. Dennis retired from the co-op in August. His last day was August 4. Enjoy your retirement, Dennis.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:53 a.m. on June 26, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, meeting minutes of May 29, 2025, 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.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried on the ATC Quarter 3 Voluntary Additional Capital Request of \$123,457.
- The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 404, Records Management. Recommendation by the committee was to leave the policy as it was written.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported on his submitted report. Crews have been working on new connections and pole changes. Work continues on the Swiderski Apartments in Wittenberg. The Stockbridge Munsee Tribe will be adding additional load to the system.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for May was -\$0.00000. On June 6, 2025, there were 635 disconnect notices sent out. The Cooperative received their patronage capital allocation of \$57,909 and retirement of \$66,767 from Resco.

Member Services – Bert Lehman reported on the submitted Member Services Report. Two students will be attending the Youth Leadership Conference this year. Three key account visits were made in June. Member Relations continues to educate members on the importance of staying away from downed power lines.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of “shoulder months,” which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



OPERATION ROUND UP CONTINUES TO HELP AREA COMMUNITIES

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?



Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month.

Electric bills are simply “rounded up” to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly “round up” could be as little as a single penny, but never more than ninety-nine cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.



Rosholt Area Youth Football and Cheer



Above: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Fishing Club

Right: Greater Mattoon Area Museum Historical Society, Inc.



Tigerton School District – Thundercatz Football



Iola Fire Department



1ST QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$1,000 – Bowler Area Fire District to help with the purchase of four new firefighter suits.
- \$500 – Greater Mattoon Area Museum Historical Society, Inc. to help purchase materials and supplies to build a replica of the Train Depot Building that once existed years ago.
- \$500 – Shepard’s Watch Community Center Food Pantry-Bowler and Mattoon areas to help their food pantry like we have done for the other food pantries in our service area.
- \$500 – Tigerton Main Street Inc. to help with their Main Street program.
- \$500 – Iola Historical Society to help with five projects with high priority and demand at the facility.
- \$250 – Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition to help with supplies for their January event.
- \$250 – Birnamwood Polka Days to help with start-up expenses for their June Polka Days event.
- \$250 – The American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14-Iola to help with the cost for a bench honoring Lyle Mork for all of his dedication to Veterans Memorial Park.
- \$250 – Wittenberg Area Historical Society to help with their fundraiser event to kick off the Capital Campaign

2ND QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- \$4,000 – Four Individual Medical Hardship donations of \$1,000 each.
- \$1,000 – Iola Fire Department.
- \$500 – Rosholt Area Youth Football and Cheer to help with the purchase of new safety equipment.
- \$300 – Tigerton School District-Thundercatz Football to help with purchasing four new tackling dummies.
- \$300 – Jensen Community Center to sponsor a Youth Soccer team’s shirt.
- \$250 – Iola Lions Club Post Prom to help with their 29th Annual Iola-Scandinavia Post Prom Party.
- \$250 – Bowler School District, High School Class of 2025 Grad Party to help with their High School Class of 2025 graduation party.
- \$250 – Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Fishing Club to help with the costs associated with launching the new club and getting the necessary equipment.
- \$250 – Tigerton 4K/K Swimming Fund-Tigerton School District to help with busing the students to the Wittenberg pool for their monthly swimming trip.

**TOTAL
OPERATION
ROUND UP FUNDS
DONATED:
\$725,914**

AFTER 34 YEARS DENNIS MAGEE RETIRES FROM CWEC

After graduating from an electrical distribution program in 1991 and being hired by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) that same year, Dennis Magee has retired after a 34-year career with CWEC. His last day was Aug. 4.

Magee said he decided to enroll in the electrical distribution program in 1990 after hearing about the program from the wife of one of his wife's co-workers.

"I worked in the shipbuilding industry at the time, but that was kind of going nowhere as a job," Magee said. "Prior to that I worked some factory jobs, but I just knew that wasn't for me to do the same thing every day, day in and day out. When I found out about this, it really sparked my interest. I took it from there and decided to go for it. That's how I ended up here."

Magee was hired at CWEC as a lineman after applying for an opening while he was finishing up his schooling. He said he was one of two students who were called in for an interview by CWEC. After his interview with CWEC, he was offered the job the next day.

When asked if he thought he would spend his entire career in the electrical distribution field with CWEC, Magee said he was just happy to secure a job in the field he went to school for.

"I knew after about four years when I finished my apprenticeship, I knew I



Dennis Magee was given a gift featuring a lineman to commemorate his 34 years with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

wasn't going to be going anywhere else," Magee said. "I was happy here. It was what I was looking for, more of a small-town operation."

Magee said he spent around 25 years as a lineman at CWEC, first as an apprentice lineman, then a journeyman lineman, and then a foreman at the co-op's outpost in Wittenberg. When CWEC moved to its new building in Rosholt, Magee made a job shift to staking and line management. He has held those roles since.

"At that time there wasn't a whole lot of opportunity to advance," Magee said. "I was also starting to have some back issues, so I figured this was going to be

my only chance (to advance). And I'm glad I did."

Looking back at his time with CWEC, one of the things he is most proud of was volunteering to help restore power in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

"That was quite an experience. I'm glad I did it," Magee said. "I was worried at first because I was the only one from

here going, but I'm glad I did. It's just hard to put into words when you're actually there. It was pretty rewarding. After that I would have done it again with no hesitation."

While helping to restore power there, Magee said he worked with linemen from other electric co-ops, which allowed him to build new friendships.

"Just to see when you take something that was totally destroyed and we rebuilt it in a matter of months, it's a pretty good feeling to look back and see your work," Magee said. "The people in the area were so appreciative. That was the best part. They really made you feel welcomed."

Magee said he spent about three weeks working in Louisiana. In all, volunteers worked three months restoring power after Hurricane Katrina.

"Basically, in about three months we rebuilt pretty much their whole system. That's pretty impressive," Magee said.

Regarding retirement, Magee said he feels that now is the right time to retire because things are changing and he's done the job long enough.

"It's been a good career. I'm not complaining," Magee said. "You have good days and bad days like any other place. Overall, it's been good. It's just that time that I want to start doing something else. I'm just at the point in my life where I can do it. As long as I can afford to do it, I figured why not."

Magee said he will miss his co-workers.

"I think the co-op right now with the changes, and the crew we have now, I think the co-op is sitting in a really good spot," Magee said. "Better than we have been for quite a while."

In retirement, Magee plans to stay busy by completing projects at home and at his cabin. He also plans to do plenty of salmon fishing on Lake Michigan. Plenty of golfing is also on that list, including golfing with his son in a golf league.

"I think I've got enough to keep me busy for a while," Magee said. "My wife has a pretty good 'to do list' that I think will never end."



CWEC President & CEO Lila Shower (right) and CWEC VP of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil (center) present a cake to Dennis Magee (left) in honor of his retirement.



BURCLAW & OSTROWSKI SHARE YLC EXPERIENCE

Two high school students, Levi Burclaw and Sadie Ostrowski, represented Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) held at UW-Stout July 15-17.

The conference was a three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

Ostrowski, who also attended YLC last year and will be a senior at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, said she wanted to attend again because of the “positive impact” it had on her last year.

“I wanted to learn more about the cooperative because it would give me a greater understanding of the world around me,” Ostrowski said.

She said she accomplished that goal.

“I learned more about how cooperatives create a positive impact on the community by giving back,” Ostrowski said. “I also learned what patronage funds are and why we have them.”

She added that she enjoyed listening to all the speakers share stories from their lives, as well as share their perspectives on life.

“It was super eye opening,” Ostrowski said.

Burclaw, who will be a sophomore at Mosinee High School, said he decided to attend YLC because he wanted to improve his leadership skills as well as meet new people.

“I went about meeting people by trying to get out of my comfort zone and going to the people instead of having them trying to talk to me first,” Burclaw said. “It went pretty

good and most of the people were very nice.”

Burclaw said he also learned more about electric cooperatives.

“I learned that electric cooperatives do a lot more than I expected,” Burclaw said. He also said he enjoyed hearing the different points of view from the different speakers.

“That was my favorite part because I liked hearing about how different people’s lives went, and how it can help better my life in the future,” Burclaw said.

Ostrowski said that attending YLC will benefit her when applying for scholarships, and it also gave her a better understanding of how different companies work.

Burclaw said attending YLC will allow him to be a better leader in school, in the community, and in sports.

In addition to enjoying the speaker programs at YLC, both Ostrowski and Burclaw participated in some fun activities. Ostrowski said she enjoyed participating in a photo shoot before the etiquette dinner, while Burclaw said he enjoyed playing sand volleyball during some of the available free time at YLC.

Both said they would recommend attending YLC to other high school students.

“I would completely recommend YLC because of the fun experience it provides, the speakers that they have there,” Ostrowski said. “They have so many interesting speakers, and I met many, many wonderful people.”

Burclaw added, “It was a great learning experience. And you can meet a lot of new people from all over the Midwest.”



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

www.cwecoop.com

Follow us on X
and Facebook



Lila Shower, President & CEO

Bert Lehman, Editor

Board of Directors

District 1

Ron Onesti
715-551-9257

Tom Smith
715-701-2051

District 2

Todd Pamperin
715-250-0504

Lou Oppor
Vice Chairman
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz
715-370-1378

District 3

Sue Rombalski
Secretary/Treasurer
715-701-2053 - cell
715-341-4571 - home

Allen Zander
Chairman
715-630-8239

Our Mission

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