



March 2025

## 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](http://www.cwecoop.com) (Member Services tab).

The deadline for submitting completed applications is **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## 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.

Scholarship applications and guidelines can be found online at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) (Member Services tab).



The deadline for submitting completed applications is **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

### ELECTRIC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## CWEC 87TH ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 10

Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Thursday, April 10, 2025, for our 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Wittenberg-Birnamwood 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 two board positions will be held.

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 2025 issue of WEEN 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.



### CWEC ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

## W-B SCHOOL RECEIVES \$1,000 STEAM GRANT

The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District has received a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be

used to create a workshop for middle school students about exploring electric and magnetic principles.

In order to create the workshop, Christina Priewe, physics and chemistry teacher for Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, said that needed equipment and supplies will be purchased with the funds. The main piece of equipment to be purchased is a new Van de Graaff generator, which costs around \$500.

"We have one that's old, it doesn't work that well," Priewe said.

Most of the items that will be purchased with the funds will be able to be used in future school years.

While the electric and magnetic principles workshop will be geared to teach middle school students, the teaching will be done by 13 high school students enrolled in Priewe's physics class.



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## BE READY FOR STORM SEASON

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, we are all looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings many favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.



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# ENERGY DEMAND USE INFORMATION ADDED TO MONTHLY BILLS

In March, a new line item will begin to appear on monthly residential electric bills. The new line item will show a member's electric demand use. This is possible because of the recent installation of our new metering system.

We have always shown demand use for large businesses, as it has been part of their billing structure.

You are probably asking yourself, why are we adding demand use information to the electric bill.

The most important thing to remember is that we are not charging for demand, the data is being provided for informational purposes only. Knowing your demand use helps you and the co-op understand what makes up your total bill. When doing a cost of service study, having this information available to our consultants will help them keep our rates fair for everyone.

To better understand demand, it is important to know the difference between Demand and Energy. Demand is the rate at which electricity is used at a given time and is measured in kilowatts (kW). Energy is the number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) or the amount of electricity a member used for a month.



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## GAGAS FARMS RECEIVES ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARDS

For Gagas Farms, Inc., updating its operations is nothing new. After all, the history of the farm dates back to the early 1930s.

Clifford Gagas, who owns Gagas Farms with his brother, Gene, said his grandfather originally started the farm in the early 1930s. The farm was eventually taken over by Clifford and Gene's dad, before they took over the operations of the farm.

"We're starting to step out of it and I have one son who's the next generation and will be taking it over, and see where it goes from there," Clifford Gagas said.



He said the farm specializes in growing vegetables and grain. Potatoes are the main crop of the farm, with half the crop going to canning companies, and the other half going to the fresh market. Sweet corn and green peas are also grown, which go to canning companies.

Food grade soybeans are also grown on the farm.

With Energy Conservation Rewards available through Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), and the opportunity to update its irrigation equipment, Gagas Farms took advantage of that opportunity.

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## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 9

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PARTICIPATES IN JOB SHADOW AT CWEC

Iola's Carter Melum, who was one of the recipients of the CWEC Utility Worker Scholarship in 2024, took part in a job shadow at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) on Feb. 19.

With the goal of continuing to learn about the electric utility industry, Melum requested the job shadow opportunity.

"I learn a lot more here than a day at school," Melum said. "It's also nice to meet some of the guys that are in the trade, rather than working with kids just like me that are learning."



On March 13, Melum will graduate from the Electric Distribution Program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. He already has a job lined up after

graduation as a locator for Wisconsin Public Service. His goal is to eventually become an electric lineman.

"I look forward to doing this for the next 40 years," Melum said.

Melum added that the job shadow experience at CWEC was extra special, considering he received a scholarship from CWEC. He said he is thankful for the scholarship because it has helped him move forward in achieving his goal of being a lineman.

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**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative**  
10401 Lystul Road  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211

[Contact Us](#)

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative | 10401 Lystul Road | Rosholt, WI 54473 US

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