



September 2025

DENNIS MAGEE RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS

After graduating from an electrical distribution program in 1991 and being hired by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) that same year, Dennis Magee has retired after a 34-year career with CWECC. 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 CWECC 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 CWECC. After his interview with CWECC, 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 CWECC, Magee said he was just happy to secure a job in the

field he went to school for.

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BURCLAW & OSTROWSKI SHARE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 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.



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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road — but the greatest risk comes when children are getting on or off the bus. Whether you’re a driver, parent or student, knowing these safety tips will help keep everyone



safe.

For drivers:

- **Slow down:** Reduce speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- **Keep your distance:** Stay back at least 10 feet from a school bus — this is the most dangerous area for children.
- **Know the signals:**
 - Yellow flashing lights: bus is preparing to stop — slow down.
 - Red flashing lights + stop arm: bus is loading/unloading — stop and wait until the bus moves again.
 - Never pass a stopped bus on an undivided road — it's illegal in most states.
- **Stay alert:** Watch for kids who may unexpectedly enter the road, especially near bus stops.
- **Respect the zone:** When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to look for children near playgrounds, parks and residential areas.

MORE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

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 (CWECC) recently participated in two events that show how CWECC is involved in the local communities it serves.



In late July, CWECC 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 CWECC participated. The event had vehicles on display from community service organizations such as police and fire departments, and emergency medical organizations. Attendees could get up close to the vehicles to see what they all featured.

Businesses in the community who 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.

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OPERATION ROUND UP CONTINUES TO HELP AREA COMMUNITIES

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 CVEC 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.

2025 OPERATION ROUND UP RECIPIENTS

GO ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR A SAFE HARVEST

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead.

5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

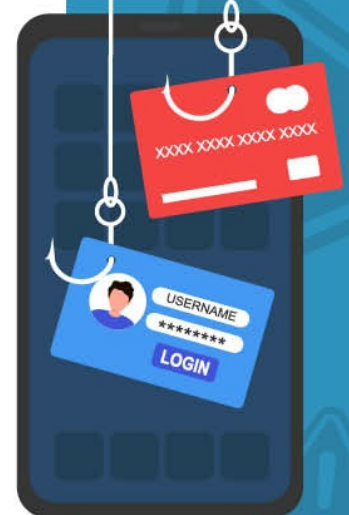
- Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

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TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Do you know the warning signs of an energy scam? Scammers will often use **high-pressure tactics** that create a sense of urgency. They may also ask for **unusual payment methods** such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. **Dodgy communication** is typically associated with a scam, including poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. If you spot any of these warning signs, take a moment to pause and determine if it's legitimate or if it's a scam.



Bill Payment
Options

Energy
Conservation
Rewards

Small Business
Loans

Operation Round
Up Information

Thinking about

Community
Events Calendar

adding solar
energy?



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