



PLENTY OF WORK IN SUMMER, INCLUDING RESTORING POWER AND MAINTENANCE



By Mike Wade, President & CEO

How is your summer so far? My wife and I are having fun grilling outside on our patio and relishing the peace and quiet of our backyard. In July, we went to a Brewers game with 40,000 other fans and although it wasn't peace and quiet, we had a wonderful time and the Brewers added one to the win column. Fall will be arriving soon and winter is just around the corner, so I encourage you to get outdoors and make the most of a beautiful summer.

A major June storm caused significant tree damage and the resulting power outages affected many parts of Wisconsin. Our line crews stayed extremely busy and, in many areas, had to wait until trees were removed from the right-of-way before restoration could begin. Our system was hardest hit in the areas around Bowler/Stockbridge-Munsee, Wittenberg, and Tigerton. We thank our members for their patience as our crews worked diligently to restore power safely and efficiently. We also thank the crews that came from other Wisconsin electric cooperatives and our contractors to help

with the restoration effort.

Summer is a very active time for our members, but it is also when the cooperative gets much of its construction and inspection work completed. Our line crews and contractors are busy extending new electric service to our members and performing needed maintenance work. Our vegetation management contractor is clearing around our overhead facilities so we can access the lines during storms and bad weather. In many cases, our line crews and contractors are working along town and county roads. If you see our crews working along the roadside, remember their safety and slow down or move over.

Congratulations to the many students who received scholarships from our Operation Round Up fund. Without a doubt, these scholarships will help our students achieve their academic and career goals. And thank you to the members who participate in our Operation Round Up program. Your contributions help meet the needs of our local communities and families. See page 17 for a list of the first-time scholarship recipients.

In September, you may be contacted by phone or email to participate in our Member Satisfaction Survey. This survey

is performed periodically to check in with our membership to see what is important to them and discover areas we need to address. If asked to participate in the survey, let me thank you in advance because your feedback is invaluable to us as we look for ways to better serve our members.

Be safe the rest of the summer as you spend time with your friends and family. Mark your calendar for our annual Member Appreciation Breakfast, which will be held at our office on Saturday, October 29. Hope to see you there.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The continued use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers, and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water.

Source: EIA and DOE



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The May regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on May 26, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. The Governance Committee did not meet this month.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 405 – Offers to Acquire Cooperative's Assets and recommended no changes.
- d. The board approved holding the Member Appreciation Breakfast as an in-person event in the CWEC shop on October 29, 2022.
- e. The board approved a one-year trial period for the Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts & Mathematics (STEAM) Grant Program as presented.
- f. Dee Fox, manager of our Safety and Regulatory Compliance program, presented her Annual Safety Report to the board.
- g. The board approved Directors Smith, Lehrer, Rombalski and Zander to attend the WECA District 4 Meeting to be held at Price Electric

Cooperative on July 21, 2022 and also approved Director Smith as the voting delegate.

- h. A presentation was provided to the board on Asset Growth and Long-Term Debt.
- i. The board approved the Resolution Authorizing the Amendment and Restatement of the Retirement Security and 401(k) Pension Plan for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported on the Trucker Hill radio tower project. Due to delays with getting material needed for operations, an order will be placed for transformers and primary cable soon for 2023. Vendor contracts are being updated with amended fuel surcharges due to the increased prices.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower reported we have received our final FEMA check from the 2019 July storm.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke thanked employees for the fantastic job they did with the fourth-grade Safe Electricity Demos recently held in area schools! Currently there is one student signed up for the Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for July 12-14, 2022.

Administrative Services – Ms. Patoka reported the energy specialist position has been filled and we are in the process of filling vacant apprentice lineman positions.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

LONG HOURS SPENT RESTORING POWER AFTER JUNE 15 STORMS

Severe thunderstorms that rolled through much of Wisconsin and the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) service area June 15 left a trail of damage to clean up and power outages that required days to restore.

In the CWEC service area, the Bowler/Stockbridge-Munsee, Wittenberg, and Tigerton areas were hit the hardest. Most of the outages were in those areas. In the days following the storms, it was confirmed that an EF1 tornado had hit the Bowler/Stockbridge-Munsee area, which helps explain why there were a lot of broken power poles in that area.

Around 20 power poles were broken during the storms and needed to be replaced. In addition, there were many downed trees that knocked out power.

Approximately 2,000 CWEC members lost power because of the storms.

Because of the extensive damage, CWEC sent out a request for assistance through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and Jump River Electric Cooperative each sent two crews, while Price Electric Cooperative sent one crew to help us restore power.

“The restoration work amongst co-ops was very universal, so it is easy for visiting ROPE crews to jump right in and make repairs so we are able to restore power,” said Lisa Hardel, operations support specialist at CWEC.

In addition, Zielies Tree Service, a contractor CWEC hires to do vegetation man-

agement, sent seven employees to help remove fallen trees. Tjader & Highstrom Utility Services, LLC also sent three employees to help replace the many broken power poles.

“Besides ROPE, it was very helpful to have our brushing contractor on standby,” Hardel said. “They were able to bring in additional crews to clean up tree damage and debris, this allows our crews and visiting ROPE crews to concentrate on putting wire back up and restore the electrical side.”

As one would expect, the process of restoring power was long and strenuous. Crews were in the field soon after some areas lost power. Once crews began restoring power, they worked late into each night, and were back out restoring power early each morning after a few hours of rest.

Before linemen could work on the power lines, the downed trees and branches needed to be removed in order to make the area safe, and the damage could be assessed. One of the most challenging parts of restoring power was the time it took to replace the many broken power poles.

Much of the power was restored by the end of the day

on June 17, except for the Bowler/Stockbridge-Munsee area. Crews were able to concentrate on that area on June 18 and restored power in that area by the end of that day.

Despite the fact it is easy to get fatigued when working long hours to restore power, all linemen practiced safety during the long hours of work. There were no injuries reported.





Congratulations TO OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Natalie Brown



Isaac Cychosz



Eric Guzman



Colby Hintz



Slade Krause



Mary Kreklow



Rachel Kurszewski



Mary Lewandowski



Lana Linke



Nicholas Louison



Blade
Niewiadomski



Ruby Nowinsky



Elisa Obremski



Elizabeth Raczek



Alicia Rucker



Jordana Schmidt



Samantha Simonis



Samuel
Trzebiatowski



Robert Vater



Gunnar Whitt



Evan Wojtalewicz



Elaina Zoromski



Isaiah Zoromski

With donations from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's members through the Operation Round Up program, \$16,100 has been awarded to students pursuing a post-high school education. Of that total, \$12,500 has been approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, to be awarded to first-time scholarship applicants who will be attending a technical college or university. The 25 students who will be receiving a \$500 scholarship are listed at right.

CWEC also awarded \$200 Operation Round Up scholarships to 18 repeat scholarship applicants.

We thank our members who participate in the Operation Round Up program; more than \$594,539 of Operation Round Up funds have been paid to worthwhile charitable and educational purposes.

Natalie Brown, Scandinavia, daughter of Kyle and Amanda Brown, undecided, psychology

Faith Cummings, Wittenberg, daughter of Jason Cummings & Sarah Timm, UW-Green Bay, accounting (photo not available)

Isaac Cychosz, Rosholt, son of Shawn & Wendy Cychosz, Bryant & Stratton College, business management

Eric Guzman, Iola, son of Matthew & Tracy Guzman, Northcentral Technical College, power and distribution

Colby Hintz, Mosinee, son of Peter & Gretchen Hintz, Mid-State Technical College, undecided

Slade Krause, Mosinee, UW-Oshkosh, rehabilitation science

Mary Kreklow, Tigerton, daughter of Lee & Linda Kreklow, St. Olaf College, economics

Rachel Kurszewski, Rosholt, daughter of Richard & Karen Kurszewski, Northcentral Technical College, business management

Mary Lewandowski, Hatley, daughter of Bill & Sandy Lewandowski, Northcentral Technical College, agri-business

Lana Linke, Eland, daughter of Jeffrey & Tetyana Linke, St. Andrews University, equine management

Nicholas Louison, Iola, son of Todd & Tammy Louison, Fox Valley Technical College, industrial welding technology

Blade Niewiadomski, Rosholt, son of Randy & Jenni Niewiadomski, Bryant & Stratton College, business

Ruby Nowinsky, Eland, daughter of John Jr. & Amanda Nowinsky, Indiana University, accounting

Elisa Obremski, Mosinee, daughter of Todd & Sandy Obremski, Fox Valley Technical College, culinary arts

Elizabeth Raczek, Mosinee, daughter of John & Carol Raczek, undecided, business administration

Alicia Rucker, Rosholt, daughter of Chris & Barb Wierzba, Mid-State Technical College, respiratory therapy

Jordana Schmidt, Eland, daughter of Jason & Bree Schmidt, UW-Green Bay, accounting & finance

Samantha Simonis, Rosholt, daughter of David & Karen Simonis, Northcentral Technical College, radiography

Justin Sivertson, Tigerton, son of Mike & Tara Sivertson, UW-La Crosse, business (photo not available)

Samuel Trzebiatowski, Custer, son of Tim & Jolene Trzebiatowski, Ripon College, chemistry/biology

Robert Vater, Iola, son of Jack & Jenny Vater, UW-Whitewater, undecided

Gunnar Whitt, Mosinee, son of Bill & Joanie Whitt, UW-Whitewater, sports management

Evan Wojtalewicz, Rosholt, son of John & Alicia Wojtalewicz, UW-Eau Claire, psychology

Elaina Zoromski, Mosinee, Paul & Lisa Zoromski, UW-La Crosse, biomedical science

Isaiah Zoromski, Mosinee, Paul & Lisa Zoromski, UW-Oshkosh, environmental science

WHAT IS THE BASIC CHARGE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

One of the things we get the most questions about from members pertaining to their electric bill is, what is included in the basic charge?

The basic charge includes a variety of costs associated with bringing electricity to the members in the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Service area. This involves costs associated with the primary powerlines, transformers, meters, service drops, accounting expenses, taxes, and miscellaneous items.

Depreciation, interest, operations and maintenance, and administrative and general costs are part of some of the previously mentioned costs. Included in the costs for

meters is the co-op's metering system, software, and overhead.

Members often ask us why the cooperative's basic charge is higher when compared to an investor-owned utility. The main reason is we have 5.5 members per mile of line while an investor-owned utility has 35. That means per mile of line, an investor-owned utility with a basic charge of \$20 per month collects \$700 per mile of line while the co-op at \$30 collects \$165. So, by having fewer members per mile of line, we have to charge more to cover the same maintenance costs.

In short, the basic charge covers expenses regardless of how much electricity is used by a member.



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Our Mission

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

CO-OP SEEKS MEMBER FEEDBACK IN SATISFACTION SURVEY

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will be conducting a member satisfaction survey to explore your views on co-op programs and services. Random co-op members will be selected to complete an anonymous survey questionnaire by telephone or email.

The survey will take place during the week of September 12, 2022 and will take approximately six minutes to complete.

Your input is valuable and will help the co-op provide the best possible service and plan for the future. We hope that you take the time to answer the questions in an effort to provide CWEC employees and directors a better understanding of how well we are meeting your expectations.



POLE INSPECTIONS SET FOR SEPTEMBER

To help ensure the integrity of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) electric system, pole inspections are scheduled to be conducted in September. Once started, it will take about 2-3 weeks to complete the inspections.

CWEC has contracted with RAM Utilities to perform the inspections. If a pole to be inspected is in the yard of a CWEC member, a representative from RAM Utilities will knock on the member's residence door, identify themselves, and

state the reason for being there.

The inspections will take place in areas serviced by the following substations and feeders: Iola Feeder #3 and #5, and Sannes Feeder #1 and #2. Townships for Iola Feeder #3 are Iola, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, and Helvetia. Townships for Iola Feeder #5 include Iola, New Hope, Harrison, and Alban. Townships for Sannes Feeder #1 are Iola, Amherst, and Scandinavia. Townships for Sannes Feeder #2 are Amherst, Scandinavia, Farmington, and Lanark.