



By Mike Wade, President & CEO

# LOOKING AHEAD

Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year! We look forward to continuing to provide

safe and reliable electric service to you in 2023. If you are like me, you are amazed at how fast the years fly by. This new year, take some time to reflect on the year that has passed and to prepare for the new year that is to come. Our employees and Board of Directors have reviewed our budget and are ready to start on this year's projects and goals. Let the new year begin!

One of the biggest projects we will be working on this year is the installation of our new metering system. A pilot project to test the new system will be initiated early in the year and installation of the full system will take place after that. We will utilize a contractor to assist with the installation of approximately 8,200 meters. As the project develops, expect to see further announcements in this magazine and on social media.

The director election for our Board of Directors will be coming up in a few

months. We have three director positions up for election this year and qualified members interested in these positions should contact a member of the Nominations Committee. You will see more information concerning the election process in this edition of the magazine. If you have questions regarding director qualifications or the director election, please contact our office.

The winter months can be challenging for our members who have work activities outside. Winters are also challenging for our linemen and technicians who perform work in the field during all types of weather conditions. We thank them for their service to our members and for performing the work of the cooperative during the coldest time of year. Please watch for our vehicles along roadways and slow down in order to help keep our employees and contractors safe.

I wish all of the membership the very best for a happy and prosperous new year. Your cooperative will remain committed to being your trusted energy partner and I am confident that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead as we work together. Happy New Year!



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will be doing maintenance on Oil Circuit Reclosers (OCR) starting in mid-January. Much like a circuit breaker in your home, an OCR is a device on our lines that senses faults and disconnects a section of line when it detects a fault. The maintenance will take place on OCRs on the Groenier and Rosholt substations.

Townships that will be impacted by the maintenance include parts of: Stockton, Sharon, Bevent, Franzen, Alban, Harrison, New Hope, and Reid.

CWEC linemen will remove the OCRs from the field, and bring them to the CWEC shop in Rosholt, where the maintenance will be done. The maintenance will be completed by Recloser Services from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. After the maintenance is completed, the OCRs will be reinstalled in the field by CWEC linemen.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The October regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on October 27, 2022 at 7:55 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 29, 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. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 1:30 p.m.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 501 – Examination of Books and Records and made no changes.
- d. The board approved the Board Resolution for the Forfeiture of Unclaimed Capital Credits from 2019 in the amount of \$19,711.55.
- e. The board approved the 2021 IRS Form 990 as presented by Katherine Lutzke and Mickey Gosh from CliftonLarsonAllen via GoToMeeting online.
- f. John LaValley gave a presentation to the board on his activities as the new energy specialist.
- g. The board approved the list of members on the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 9 a.m.

- h. The board approved holding the 2023 CWEC Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at the Rosholt High School.
- i. The board discussed the results of their recent self-evaluation.

Operations – Kevin Kurtzweil reported we recently sent a two-man crew to Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association in Gladstone, MI to assist with a mutual aid call. Crews are currently working on the Trout Creek/Johnson Road three-phase replacement project. EXO recently completed pole inspections. EPS completed the inspection of our Dewey Substation. Wyatt Phillips participated in NTC's "Build Your Future Event" that took place October 12, 2022.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Lila Shower gave an update on the current disconnects and also reviewed the moratorium that goes into effect November 1. Some equipment for the new AMI system is scheduled to ship this week.

Member Services – Brenda Mazemke reported there are a few Member Advisory Group (MAG) members who will be coming off the committee due to term limits. Further discussion will be held at the November board meeting. Operation Round Up checks were recently mailed. The USDA required loan reporting has been completed.

Administrative Services - Lori Patoka reported that the deadline has been extended for the completion date for employee online NISC training from December 31, 2022 to January 31, 2023.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.



# 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 99 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.



Above, left to right: Emily Draska and Tessa Thurs, co-head track coaches at Iola-Scandinavia High School; Hazel Packer, of the Amherst Fire Department, with Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Bonnie Paulson. Left: Kerri Giese and students from Tigerton High School.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER RECIPIENTS

- **\$500 – Amherst Fire Department** to help purchase a new calibration station called MSR Galaxy, which is used to detect gas levels.
- **\$500 – Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District** to help purchase the materials needed for the School Forest Low Ropes Course.
- **\$500 – Toys for Tots** to help purchase toys for children in need in our area.
- **\$500 – I-S School District-Thunderbirds Track & Field Renovation** to help with the rubberized track project.
- **\$500 – Town of Sharon, Polonia Park** to help create a public park.
- **\$300 – Walls of Wittenberg** to support promotional expenses associated with its quilt events in January and February.
- **\$250 – Tigerton School District/Tigerton Coop** to help care for the school chickens.
- **\$250 – The Helping Foundation** to help with its “Pretty in Pink” breast cancer fundraiser, which donates its proceeds to the Marshfield Clinic’s Patient Care Fund of Wausau/Weston Center, which serves our area.
- **\$250 – Nine area food pantries** to help purchase food.
- **\$100 – Boys & Girls Club of Portage County-Rosholt Extension** to help with its Taste of Rosholt Fundraiser, which benefits the boys and girls attending the Rosholt Extension.



Top row, left to right: Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Rita Betker and Dawn Cherek of the Rosholt Food Pantry; Jenny Onesti, of the Wittenberg Food Pantry, with Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Tammy Meverden. Above: Kris Kranski, Lori Printz, Kevin Schleicher, and Gayle Hintz of the Development of the Polonia Park group.

**TOTAL  
OPERATION  
ROUND UP  
FUNDS  
DONATED:  
\$606,589**



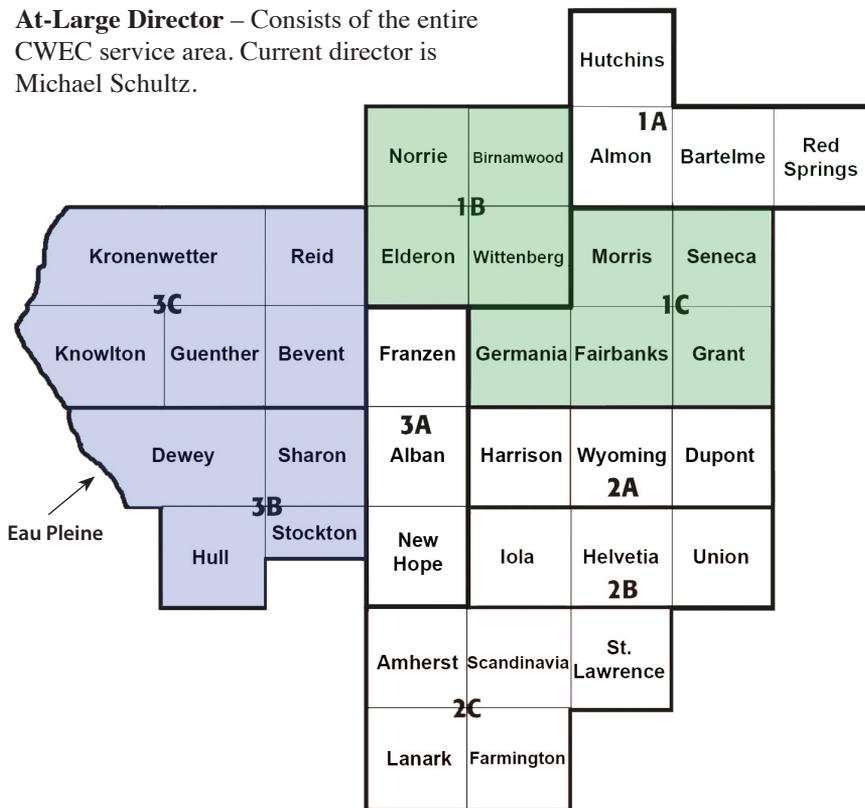
# 2023 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts up for election this year, as well as the At-Large Director. Each director seat is for a three-year term. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Saturday, January 14.

**District 1** – Consists of sub districts 1B & 1C – Townships of Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, Wittenberg, Morris, Seneca, Germania, Fairbanks, and Grant. Current Director is Tom Smith.

**District 3** – Consists of sub districts 3B & 3C - Townships of Dewey, Sharon, Hull, Stockton, Kronenwetter, Reid, Knowlton, Guenther, and Bevent. Current Director is Sue Rombalski.

**At-Large Director** – Consists of the entire CWEC service area. Current director is Michael Schultz.



## 2023 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Elton Strassburg, District 1A**  
W14986 County Road D  
Bowler, WI 54416  
715-793-4425

**Kathy Prah, District 1B**  
217850 Black Willow Drive  
Eland, WI 54427  
715-454-6531

**Gerald Erdmann, District 1C**  
W15416 Fairmorr Road  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-851-5184

**Ryan Opperman, District 2A**  
E3453 County Road C  
Tigerton, WI 54486  
715-754-5437 / 715-250-3711

**Dale Bestul, District 2B**  
P.O. Box 94  
Iola, WI 54945  
715-445-2576

**Mary Bohlman, District 2C**  
E2633 Hermanson Lake Road  
Ogdensburg, WI 54962  
715-445-2784

**Renee Groshek, District 3A**  
1744 Sunset Lake Road  
Amherst Jct., WI 54407  
715-570-1425 / 715-677-3064

**Anthony Danczyk, District 3B**  
3594 Sunset Drive North  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-344-7154

**Jeff Javorek, District 3C**  
206649 County Road X  
Mosinee, WI 54455  
715-693-1801

## DIRECTOR NOMINATION BY MEMBER PETITION

Members may nominate director candidates by a nominating petition. Nominating petitions must be obtained from the cooperative and returned to the secretary-treasurer at least fifty (50) days prior to the day of the annual meeting.

A nominating petition must contain the signatures from a minimum of 20 members, along with their address and the date signed. No member may sign

more than one nominating petition for a particular director position.

To nominate a candidate for a director of a district, only members residing within such district may sign a petition. Members from any district may sign a petition to nominate a candidate for the at-large director.

For more information contact Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 715-677-2211.

# DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

(As they appear in Article IV, Section 5 of the cooperative's bylaws)

## To become and remain a Director, a person must comply with the following qualifications:

- A. be an individual who is a member served by the Cooperative at his or her residence, who is a bona fide domiciliary of the district which the individual is to represent, and who has been a bona fide domiciliary of that district for at least the one year immediately before his or her nomination;
- B. have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts;
- C. while a Director and during the one year immediately before becoming a Director, not be, be employed by, control, own more than ten percent of, serve as a director or officer of, or receive more than ten percent of annual gross income from
  - a. an individual or entity that competes with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate,
  - b. an individual or entity that provides a good or service similar to a good or service provided by the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, within the same geographic area as the Cooperative, Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate, or
  - c. an individual or entity that directly or indirectly advances the individual or entity's pecuniary interest by engaging in business dealings with the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate, if such interest or relationship would likely impair the individual's ability to serve the best interest of the Cooperative. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to disqualify any member from serving as a director who provides electric energy by means of distributed generation facilities that are interconnected with Cooperative facilities.
- D. while a Director and during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not be an employee of the Cooperative, a Cooperative Subsidiary or a Cooperative Affiliate;
- E. while a Director, not be a relative of a Director or Employee of the Cooperative or of a Cooperative Subsidiary or Cooperative Affiliate except as may be reasonably authorized by the Board as set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board;
- F. not have been previously removed as a Director by the Board or the members in accordance with these Bylaws, or shall not have resigned as a Director while a proceeding to remove him or her was pending;
- G. while a Director not be, and at any time during the three years immediately before becoming a Director, not have been party in any stage of mediation, arbitration, lawsuit, or other legal action against or by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;
- H. while a Director and during the five years immediately before becoming a Director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or first-degree misdemeanor;
- I. except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least two-thirds of all Board Meetings during each year of the Director's term of office; and
- J. any other reasonable qualifications set forth in a policy or policies adopted by the Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any member from serving as a director because such member is also a member or a director of any other cooperative from which this Cooperative purchases or may purchase electric energy, supplies or services, or which is engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of this Cooperative.



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](http://www.cwecoop.com)

Follow us on Twitter    
and Facebook

**Mike Wade, President & CEO**  
**Bert Lehman, Editor**

## Board of Directors

### District 1

Ron Onesti  
715-551-9257

Tom Smith  
Chairman  
715-701-2051

### District 2

Lee Lehrer  
Secretary-Treasurer  
920-851-4545  
715-677-3850

Lou Oppor  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
Vice Chairman  
715-370-1378

### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053

Allen Zander  
715-630-8239

## Our Mission

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