

Electric Line



MARCH 2008

Special points of interest:

- ▶ **Brushing update.** We should complete the Stockbridge-Munsee area sometime in March and from there we will move into the Tigerton area. We appreciate your cooperation as we perform this much needed project.
- ▶ **Automated Meter Reading (AMR).** We are approximately 50% done with the meter conversion. Once completed the AMR's will allow us to better serve you.
- ▶ **Business Loans Available.** We have low rate business loans available to assist with startups or expansions.

Annual Meeting

Hear Ye, Hear Ye come one - come all to your co-op's annual meeting. This year's event will be held on April 12th at the Iola/Scandinavia High School. The day's festivities will start with registration and socializing over coffee and donuts at 9:00 a.m. Pre-meeting entertainment will be provided in the auditorium by the talented Faldet kids. At 10:00 the business portion of the meeting will commence in the high school



Comedian Scott Novotny "The New Red Skelton"

auditorium where you will find out how the co-op is faring financially, act on a few resolutions, and hear what else is going on at the co-op. An election for two board positions will be held. After the business portion of the meeting, nationally known comedian Scott Novotny "the new Red Skelton" will take the stage.

Since this is the co-op's 70th anniversary we will draw the names of 70 members for up to \$100 of free electricity. In order to win, you must be at the meeting. In addition, there will be numerous door prizes given away. If you're not one of the lucky prize winners, not to worry, as all those in attendance will receive a free gift.

Bring the kids and grandkids as they will be able to swim in the high school's aquatic center while you attend the meeting. There will also be a drawing for a bicycle for all kids in attendance.

You won't leave hungry as a hearty lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

We hope to see you on April 12th!

Cell Phone Maze

Do you ever find yourself lost in the cell phone maze, wondering what phone and plan is right for you? If so, we can help. Our cell phone representative will take the time to listen to you and help you decide what is right for you. No high pressure sales pitch - just the folks you have known and trusted through the years helping you get what you need. Whether it's a new activation, phone upgrade, accessory purchase or to add minutes to your prepaid account, we can do it



for you. Of course we'd love to see you, but if your busy schedule doesn't afford you the time to come on by you can call Jeff at 715-445-2395 and he'll be glad to help you over the phone or via email at jeff.rice@cwecoop.com.

Are you behind on your bill?

We understand that from time to time members can hit financial bumps in the road. We are willing to work with them to get through those times, but all too often members take what we call the "ostrich approach", putting their head in the sand hoping the problem disappears. That approach can only lead to more problems. We will begin nonpayment disconnections shortly, so if you are behind it's important you contact us immediately to make satisfactory payment arrangements. Failure to do so can result in the possible disconnection of your electric service and collection fees added to your account.



"Don't take the ostrich approach!"

Electric Line

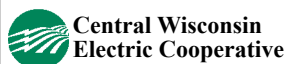
Electric Line is published quarterly by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. This publication is designed to provide information about the cooperative to our member-owners.

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Editor Mark Forseth

If you have questions or comments please contact us at 1-800-377-2932.

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Happy Easter to All!

Preparation Is Key to Staying Safe After Storms

Along with warmer weather, the advent of spring brings the potential for severe thunderstorms and tornados. Safe Electricity and your cooperative advises everyone to be mindful of the electrical hazards that storms can leave behind.



“The danger does not end when the storm does,” says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. “People can be hurt or killed by hazards left behind. It’s wise to be cautious in any clean up effort.”

Stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

If using electric yard tools in clean-up efforts, do not operate them if it’s raining or the ground is wet, or while you are wet or standing in water. Keep all electric tools and equipment at least ten feet away from wet surfaces.

“Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off,” said Mark Forseth, CWEC Vice President. “Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can’t reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.”

Never step in to a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.

“Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks,” said Forseth. “Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.”

If after a storm or disaster, the power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside! And if you use a portable generator, be sure a transfer safety switch has been installed or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what’s known as “back feed.” Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power.

If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or the electric utility. Never drive over a downed line. A downed line causes other things around it to become potentially hazardous.

For more information on electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

We are looking for Story Ideas

Do have a home-based business that is unique to our area or belong to an interesting organization. If yes, we’d like to hear from you as we are looking for story ideas for upcoming issues of Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News. Please contact Mark Forseth at 715-445-2211 or 1-800-377-2932.

We’re looking for high school leaders!

Any high school sophomores or juniors interested in enhancing their leadership skills should consider attending the Youth Leadership Congress this summer. We will once again sponsor and chaperone area students to this wonderful program. This is a great chance for your child to expand their leadership skills, meet kids from around the state, experience what college life is all about, learn about cooperatives – all the while having a great time. For more information please contact Mark Forseth at the co-op.

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