



From Here to There

*By Michael Wade,
President and CEO*

Happy New Year! I'm not sure about you, but I can hardly believe 2014 has come to an end. As with many years, I feel that I needed another month to complete everything in 2014 I intended. Although I did not finish all of the projects I had planned, I did finish some and even a few that I hadn't anticipated. Nevertheless, a new year is upon us along with new hopes and dreams for a better year. For Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we have our work cut out for us in 2015.

As we have discussed in the past, we are concerned with the proposed EPA Clean Power Plan ruling, which is designed to cut carbon (CO₂) emissions from power generation plants. The proposed CO₂ emissions limitations will result in the retirement of coal generation and could result in transmission reliability issues due to the loss of this baseload generation resource. Given the short time

frame of the proposed plan, the state will be challenged to bring new resources on line and maintain adequate reliability. If the plan is put in place as it is proposed, Wisconsin will no doubt see increases in energy costs. I have seen reports from other areas of the country that suggest energy costs for consumers may increase by up to 20 percent in 2020. This is no doubt a concern for the cooperative as this would place a considerable financial hardship on all members.

The deadline for comments to the EPA was December 1, with a final ruling to be issued in June 2015. We will then see the impact of over 1.1 million comments that were issued by rural electric members across the country. Our message has been that the EPA Clean Power Plan will have a disproportionate impact on small utilities such as electric cooperatives, the emission reduction targets are unachievable, and the short time frames in which to achieve the mandated reduction goals are unattainable. In short, the rule will have a negative impact on our membership, the reliability they deserve, and the rate they pay for electric energy.

In addition to the EPA ruling, we will continue to work with our legislative leadership at the state and national level to support legislative initiatives that are good for rural Wisconsin. I ask each of you to help us with this effort by staying informed about proposed legislation and having a voice in the political process. Our challenges are many in 2015, but I am confident that together we can meet whatever lies ahead. May you have a blessed and fruitful New Year. ■



*Best wishes in the New Year
from your friends and neighbors
at Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative*

**Our office will be closed
Thursday, January 1, 2015**

Rebate Reminder

Have your projects around the house included any energy-saving home-improvement measures? Perhaps you've updated your appliances to new, energy efficient models or insulated your home.



If so, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to www.cwecoop.com to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate. Items must be purchased and installed in 2014 to qualify.

Don't delay—submit a copy of your receipt with the Energy Star label as soon as the equipment is purchased and installed to ensure rebate.



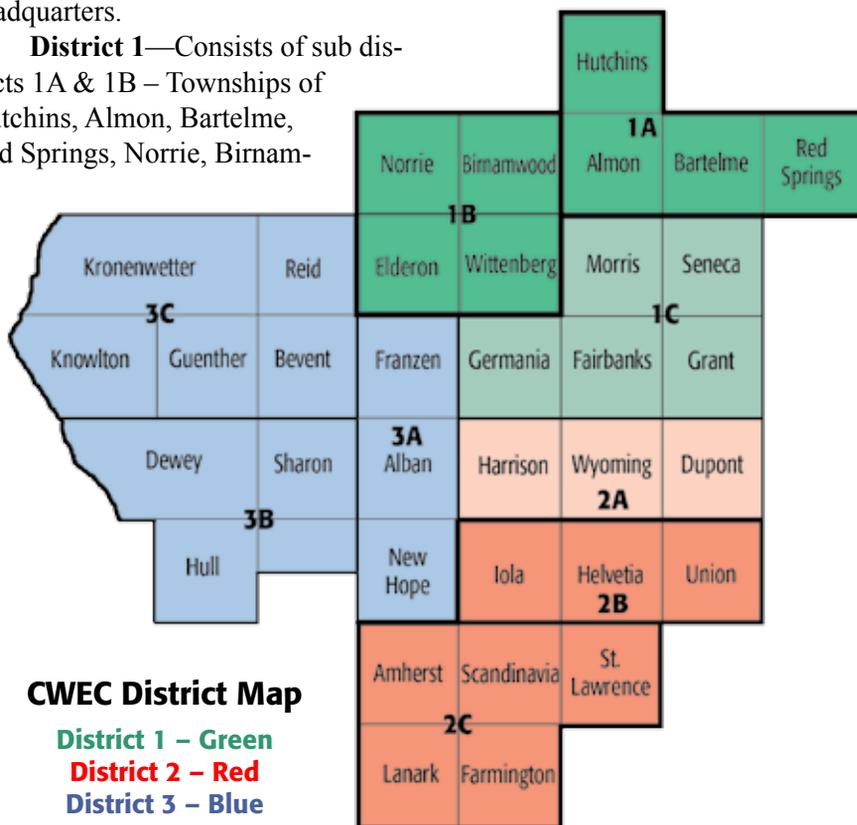
2015 Director Elections

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for directors at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts up for election this year. Terms for District 1 and District 2 are three-year terms. If you know of anyone interested, please contact Mike Wade at our headquarters.

District 1—Consists of sub districts 1A & 1B – Townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, Red Springs, Norrie, Birnam-

wood, Elderon, and Wittenberg. Current director is Anthony Buss, Jr.

District 2—Consists of sub districts 2B & 2C – Townships of Iola, Helvetia, Union, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. Current director is Leonard Oppor. ■



2015 Nominations Committee

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

Ron Robinson, District 1B
2395 Cty. Road D
Eland, WI 54427
715-454-6322

Gerald Erdmann, District 1C
W15416 Fairmorr Road
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2094

Alan Buss, District 2A
E1474 County Road C
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2658

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

Robert Wilhite, District 2C
E2698 Cty. Road B West
Scandinavia, WI 54977
715-445-3655

Renee Groshek, District 3A
1744 Sunset Lake Road
Amherst Jet., WI 54407
715-677-3064

Anthony Danczyk, District 3B
3595 N. Sunset Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-344-7154

Ron Cherek, District 3C
5458 Cty Road C/J
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-344-3804

Qualifications to Serve on the Board of Directors

In order to serve as a representative on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a member must...

1. Be a member and bona-fide resident in the district from which elected.
2. Not be employed by or have any financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or engage in selling electrical or plumbing appliances or supplies to members of the co-op.
3. Not be employed by the cooperative.

Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

The Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast was held on Saturday, October 25, at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt. Over 470 turned out to enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast on a beautiful and sunny morning. Plenty of activities for young and old were available. There were kids' games, a bounce house, bucket rides, goodie bags for the kids, a number of displays with energy-saving tips, and free-blood pressure screening provided by Rural Health Initiative.

Member Appreciation Day is an opportunity for members to learn more about their co-op. CWEC had information on load management programs, and information on how you can save money this year and down the road.

In addition, CWEC kicked off its annual Toys for Tots drive, and new this year, Stuff the Cart Back to School Supplies drive. The response was overwhelming; over 75 toys and over 360 school supplies were donated, plus monetary donations to both causes. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity to help those who are less fortunate than us. All toys are given to children locally, and school supplies are distributed to schools in our service area. Even though we did not promote our Food Drive for this event, our generous members donated over 90 items, which will be donated to an area food pantry. A special thank you to Rural Health Initiative for providing blood-pressure checks.

The door prize winners were: Cindi Bembenek, Floyd Gill, George Dziedzic, Clinton Olson, Audrey Wierzba, Gerald Lorbiecki, Daniel Stanislawski, Sandi Dunsirn, Bonnie Trzebiatowski, Lisa Rychter, Jodi Brientenfeldt, Valerie Thompson, Jennifer Jakubek, Chris Peplinski, Henry Omernick, Rose Ann Mlodik, and Ben Kozak.

This year we gave away a girl's and boy's 20-inch bike and helmet. The winners were Trenton Kielman and Meadow Vierck.

Congratulations to all of our winners. ■





CWEC, CoBank Donate \$2,000 to Birnamwood Area Fire District

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op, along with one of its financial partners, CoBank, donated \$2,000 to the Birnamwood Area Fire District. Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op had the opportunity to apply for grant funds on behalf of an area nonprofit organization (501c3) through a program CoBank offers cooperatives called **Sharing Success**. To be eligible for the grant, the co-op has to commit to match the amount of the grant application, which in this case was \$1,000.

“The toughest part of the process was to choose just one of the many terrific area nonprofit organizations,” said Co-op Vice President of Member Relations and Economic Development Mark Forseth. “Chief Randy Burger and his firefighters do a magnificent job of protecting the Birnamwood area while operating on a very tight budget, so we feel they’re an excellent choice.”

The funds will be targeted for new equipment or gear. When presenting the checks Forseth said, “As part of our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve, we’re pleased to present these checks to the Birnamwood Area Fire District.” ■



Randy Burger, Birnamwood fire chief (c), accepts the checks from CoBank and CWEC from Tom Smith (l) and Tony Buss, Jr (r), CWEC directors.

2014 CWEC Scholarship Winners!

You will soon be approaching the end of your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Congratulations! Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for second semester to receive your scholarship money. Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average and have been a full-time student, 12-plus earned credits, during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. You can mail your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:

CWEC
Attn: Scholarship
Program
P.O. Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473



Dates to Remember in January

New Year's Day—Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

CWEC wishes you all the best in the New Year!



Rosholt Blizzard Busters 25th Annual Fisheree

Saturday, January 10

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lake Helen, Rosholt, WI

Fish prizes for kids and adults, door prizes, raffle drawing, food and beverages in heated shelter. No charge to enter.

For more information call Nancy at 715-677-3235.

*CWEC would like to wish you
a safe and happy Holiday Season!*

To submit your community events, email brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Mike Wade, President & CEO

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