



From Here to There

By Michael Wade, President and CEO

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendar for Saturday, April 18, to attend our 77th Annual Meeting of the membership at the Rosholt High School. We look forward to seeing you, our member-owners, to catch up, listen to what you have to say, and enjoy a morning together. The event will be a great opportunity for our members to learn more about their cooperative and the programs we have to offer, and to get to know the co-op staff. Come join us for an informative meeting.

I would like to send out a special thank you to the Nominations and Resolutions Committees for their work in selecting director candidates and developing resolutions to come before the membership. We had very productive committee meetings, and it was a pleasure to work with you on important cooperative matters. We appreciate the suggestions and ideas that you bring to the co-op, and we value

your effort to improve the cooperative for all members.

You will see in this month's magazine some of the wonderful contributions we are able to make in our communities through the Operation Roundup program. By voluntarily "rounding up" your electric bill and contributing a few cents each month, we are able to do great things. These added cents go into a trust fund that is used exclusively for charitable causes. Your Operation Roundup trust board meets quarterly and reviews and approves monetary requests from needy organizations or individuals. This program has allowed you to assist so many worthy causes in our communities over the years. If you have not signed up to have your electric bill rounded up, please call one of member service representatives at 715-677-2211.

One of our employees, John Bestul, has completed his apprentice lineman training and graduated as a

journeyman lineman in January. Congratulations to John for the time and effort he has spent in the last five years gaining the knowledge and experience to be a journeyman lineman. Working with John, his dedication to his craft and to our membership is evident.

Each of our linemen has a challenging job to do, but each is focused on not only doing the job right, but also doing it safely. But safety is not only a concern for our linemen. It is a part of the job for all of our employees. With this in mind, we want to challenge each of our members to be safety conscious as you go about your daily life. Whether in your home or business or as you drive around our beautiful state, watch for potential dangers and take proactive steps to ensure you are safe and secure.

I know each of you has a busy schedule, but I hope that you will make time to come to our annual meeting in April. I look forward to seeing each of you there. ■

CWEC MEMBER SURVEY

Ever on the alert to provide the best possible services to our members, the board and management of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has determined a need to conduct a Member Information and Satisfaction Survey. We conduct these surveys periodically to find out what our members like, or dislike, about what CWEC is doing, the services we offer, if there are any other services you want that we are not currently offering, and to evaluate our performance in providing for your energy needs.

We will retain an independent company to conduct the survey in order to provide the highest level of accuracy and confidentiality for our members. You may be selected as part of the small group of members to participate in this survey. Over the next few weeks, you may be contacted by someone to answer a series of questions about CWEC, and your participation and cooperation in this survey will be greatly appreciated. Please be as open and honest as possible, as all of your answers will remain strictly confidential. The total survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

As a vital part of this survey, your voice and opinion are very important to us, and we appreciate your cooperation and honesty in answering these questions for CWEC. The information you provide will help us plan for the future as we strive to serve our members better. ■



Mark Your Calendars

Annual Meeting set for April 18

The 2015 Annual Meeting marks CWEC's 77th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Rosholt High School in Rosholt on Saturday, April 18, 2015. Watch for more details in next month's magazine.



Scholarships Available

Once again, scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school-bound students through the CWEC Operation Roundup program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Roundup. Applications are available from your high school guidance counselor, online, at www.cwecoop.com (Services Section), or by contacting Mark Forseth at 715-677-2211 or by email at mark.forseth@cwecoop.com.



Since the CWEC scholarship program began in 2005 we have provided more than \$161,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principals; furthering the education of our members is another.

The deadline for returning completed applications is **Wednesday, April 1, 2015**. Please mail your completed scholarship application to the address below, or drop it off in person at the CWEC office in Rosholt.

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

Scholarship winners must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and full-time student status during their first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school. Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient must provide the cooperative with a copy of his/her grades and proof of enrollment for second semester. ■

CWEC Employee Celebrates Service Milestone

We are honored to recognize John Bestul for five years of service and dedication to the cooperative. Thank you for your years of service.



CWEC Offers Many Convenient Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

Auto Pay: You can sign up to have your bill paid every month on the due date automatically. You can pay by either check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, and Discover).

Online: You can go to our web page and pay by check or credit card on line at www.cwecoop.com.

Mail: You can mail your payment to the co-op.

Drop Box: You can drop your payment off in Iola or at our headquarters drop box.

Stop in: You can stop in and pay with cash, check, money order, or credit/debit card.

Phone: You can call the co-op and pay by check or credit card.

Cost: There are no fees with any of these options.

(Please Print Clearly)

Name _____

Electric Account Number _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone number _____

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date _____

I authorize Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to instruct my financial institution to deduct my payments from the account number on the voided check I have included with this application. If at any time I decide to discontinue this payment service, I will notify Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

PLEASE INCLUDE A VOIDED CHECK, NOT DEPOSIT SLIP WHEN SIGNING UP FOR ACH.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Operation Roundup Keeps Rolling

At its most recent meeting the Trust Board for Operation Roundup approved five donation requests totaling \$3,700. Those groups or individuals benefitting from the generosity of co-op members include Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post 14, Iola Historical Society, Hatley Area Fire & Ambulance, Saint Michael's Foundation, and a co-op member family facing hardship.

Operation Roundup is a co-op member-funded program that raises money for charitable and educational purposes. Since its inception in 2004, over \$357,000 has been donated. The Roundup program is administered by a nine-member trust board (one member

from each of the co-op's nine sub-districts). The trust board is responsible for approving the donation requests. Current board members include Pat Cychosz, Nancy Camber, Lloyd Gutt, Mike Ekern, Maxine Lemke, Bonnie Paulson, Sue Halverson, Clifford Kessen, and Gary Kolodziej.

"Operation Roundup strikes to the core of what cooperatives are about—neighbors helping neighbors," said Co-op Vice President Mark Forsyth. "On behalf of the co-op, I want to thank all current and past trust board members for their dedication, and I would especially like to thank all of the co-op members who participate in this wonderful program." ■



Above: Sue Halverson, Operation Roundup Trust Board, presents a check to Cliff Mishler, Iola Historical Society. Below, l-r: Halverson presents a check to Lyle Mork, Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post 14; Maxine Lemke, Operation Roundup Trust Board, presents a check to Bob Kuklinski, EMT with Hatley Fire & Ambulance; Pat Cychosz, Operation Roundup Trust Board, presents a check to Angie Heuck, director of Saint Michael's Foundation, and Michael Fraley, EMS coordinator.



CWEC Employee Completes Apprenticeship, Earns Journey Status

CWEC employee John Bestul recently graduated from a four-year indentured lineworker apprentice program offered through Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire.

Bestul, an Iola resident, was one of 16 apprentices from utilities around the state who completed apprenticeships and received diplomas on Jan. 21, 2015, at the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin/Rural Electric Cooperatives Joint Superintendent's Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The Electrical Lineman Appren-

ticeship Program consists of four years of not less than 8,000 hours, in which a minimum of 640 hours is spent in paid-related instruction. As an apprentice, Bestul completed this training to achieve his status as a journey electric lineworker.



John and his wife, Miranda

"We are proud to see John complete his apprenticeship," said Kevin Kurtzweil, Central Wisconsin Vice president of operation. "The training and knowledge he has received since joining our co-op will help him perform highly skilled work on our high-voltage electric distribution system."

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative provides electricity to approximately 7,100 members in Central Wisconsin. We service parts of Portage, Waupaca, Marathon, and Shawano counties. ■



Safety Tips for Work Zone Awareness Week, March 23–27

Orange cones, flashing lights, and warning signs all indicate a work zone on the road ahead. Within these zones are men and women doing work like road construction, working on power lines, or trimming trees. Unfortunately, hundreds of these workers are injured every year from work and road hazards.

March 23 to 27 is National Work Zone Awareness Week, which is designated to call attention to the hazards in work zones. Safe Electricity urges motorists to slow down and pay attention in work zones while driving.

According to a Federal Highway Administration study, more than 20,000 workers are injured in work zones each year. Between 2005 and 2010, there were 733 worker deaths in work zones. Roughly 14 percent of these deaths were due to vehicle collisions.

To help prevent fatalities and



injuries, Safe Electricity recommends the following guidelines while driving:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected occurrences in your schedule.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.

- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as operating a radio or eating while driving.

Be aware of the legislation in your area. Many states have hefty fines or even jail time for violating traffic laws in work zones.

Power poles and electrical equipment line streets and highways, and narrow roadways often require crews to place equipment in traffic lanes. Their work activities are often taken for granted but benefit us all, and they deserve a safe workplace. Be alert to utility crews and other work zone workers for their safety as well as yours.

Don't make the jobs of road workers, electric utility linemen, and tree trimmers more dangerous. Drive safely. For more safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org. ■

Dates to Remember in March

Rosholt Food Pantry

First and third Monday of each month for people of the Rosholt School District, 3–5 p.m. The Rosholt Food Pantry would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the people of the community who have so generously contributed to the Rosholt Food Pantry. If you need to schedule a different time for pickup call 715-570-3045 or 715-592-4570.

St. Adalbert Parish “Friday Night Fish Fry”

Beginning Friday, February 13 through Friday, March 27 during Lent, serving 4–8 p.m. Fish or shrimp, or combo with your choice of potato, coleslaw, bread, beverage, and one homemade dessert. Adults, \$9.50; child meals, \$5.50 (only fish or shrimp). Served at the American

Legion Hall, 290 Grand Ave, Rosholt. For take-out orders call 715-677-4732. Weekly raffle. Come share a great meal and good conversation.

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

77th Annual Meeting Set for Saturday, April 18, 2015

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 77th Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Rosholt High School. Look for more information to arrive as the date gets closer.

Daylight Savings Time March 8, 2015

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7, 2015.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Mike Wade, President & CEO
10401 Lystul Rd. P.O. Box 100,
Rosholt, WI 54473
(715) 677-2211 • 800-377-2932
www.cwecoop.com