




**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

2020 WAS CHALLENGING, BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR

As you enjoy the holiday season and prepare for the new year, remember these helpful safety tips. Check your holiday lights for frayed cords and loose connections, and always turn off holiday lights when you leave the house or go to bed. Test your smoke alarms and clean or replace your furnace filter as needed. The holidays are about family and friends and we all enjoy a little time off from work. But above all, remember to be responsible and play it safe.

Thanks to all of you who attended our drive-thru Member Appreciation Breakfast in October. We were overjoyed that so many of you came to our office to pick up a pancake and sausage meal for the road. The event gave our members an opportunity to drop off toys for our Toys for Tots program as well as food to be donated to the food pantries in our area. Many of you brought old documents to

be discarded using our secure shredding service. It was wonderful to visit with each of you briefly as you drove through. We are so glad you came.

Our Toys for Tots campaign is in full swing. Now is the perfect time to donate a toy at one of the local toy drop locations. These toys will find their way into the hands of a deserving child in the area. Your generous donations have put smiles on the faces of thousands of children since the program began. Due to the challenges surrounding COVID-19, I believe we will have an even greater need for toy donations this year. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

As we pause to celebrate the holiday season this year, it is time to reflect on our many accomplishments during the year. COVID-19 has been a disruptive force, but I am especially proud of our employees for the resiliency they have shown as we have addressed the challenges the disease has presented to our day-to-day operations. We have many things to be

thankful for and I am especially grateful to be associated with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. The cooperative plays a vital role in supporting our local communities and providing our members with safe and reliable electric energy. I hope you find our services beneficial and will continue to support us as we prepare ourselves for a new year.

From all of us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we are proud to be of service to you. We hope that you and your family are healthy and safe during this holiday season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.—Source: www.energy.gov



MY CO-OP

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held both in-person and via teleconference on September 24, 2020 at 8:01 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The Governance Committee did not meet this month.
- The board approved retiring \$350,000 in capital credits for 2020. The board also approved the method to a hybrid FIFO/Percentage by applying 70% of the retirement to the oldest year (1993) and prorating the remaining 30% over the years of 1994 to 2014.
- The board viewed an informational presentation on the different programs CWEC utilizes to help protect our data and our network from cybercrime.
- The board approved a Resolution for the Redemption of Bonds to redeem \$9,000,000 in fixed rate revenue bonds as of December 1, 2020.
- Discussion was held regarding the cooperative's legal counsel. Further discussion will be held at a future meeting.
- Due to COVID 19, the board was not able to hold their annual fall tour. They viewed a presentation on the Iola substation grounding grid improvements.
- The board discussed the three (3) vacancies on the Nominations Committee and will begin a search for those replacements.

- The board approved an investment opportunity in ZEF Energy, a Minnesota-based EV charging company with commercial and in-home EV chargers, and to become a member of Distribu-Gen Cooperative.
- The board approved Mike Wade as the voting delegate for the upcoming WECA Annual Meeting on November 12, 2020.
- The board approved casting a vote for the nominating committee and a vote for Jeffrey Allen Rehder as the District 5 director candidate for the CFC District 5 Meeting that will take place on October 15, 2020.
- The board approved ATC's Fourth Capital call in the amount of \$13,728.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported the work plan project on County J has been completed. Karcz Utility Services has completed all underground inspections. Ram completed inspections on 1,590 poles, with only 21 being rejected (1.3%). PGA has all humidifiers now working throughout the building. The Y71 Tap with ATC has been postponed due to backorder of materials needed. The Dewey substation transformer work has been completed.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower explained the peak load control data on her report.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the yearly calendar has been finalized and is at the printer. One will be given to each attending member at the Member Appreciation Breakfast on October 31, 2020. Staff is working on those plans to successfully hold the drive-thru event with a “to-go” pancake/sausage breakfast, while still promoting the Toys-For-Tots campaign, food drive, paper shredding/recycling, and goodie bags for the children.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.



NEUSKE KEEPS W-B GIVING TREE PROGRAM RUNNING STRONG

For roughly the last 37 years, Nancy Neuske has been helping ensure that kids in the Wittenberg-Birnamwood area have a more joyous Christmas.

Neuske oversees the Wittenberg-Birnamwood Giving Tree program, which is a program that seeks donations from the community to help others.

The program first began when Neuske was a nurse at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood school, and shared an office with a speech and language teacher.

“We were noticing that there were children coming with hardly any clothes on, just noticing a few things like that,” Neuske said. “We just decided that we would take up a collection within the school. I think the first time we had it, there were like eight people. That was the list we had. There was no tree.”

In the following years, Neuske was notified by more teachers of more children in need during the Christmas season. Neuske and others involved in the program eventually decided to have a Christmas tree erected each Christmas and have information about what the program needed that year on the tree. Those willing to donate would then pick a number from the tree and donate the items of need listed under that number.

The Christmas tree was originally placed in the school, but then moved to a hardware store with the hope the community would buy into the program.

“It took off, I mean the numbers just climbed,” Neuske said. “The community bought into it. We’ve had great success.”

The program served approximately 220 individuals in 2019, and as of early November this year, there were already 140 people registered for the program.

“That’s high with a month to go,” Neuske said.

Part of the reason for the high number may be because of COVID-19.

“I put the tree up a week early because I was getting names and referrals from teachers, ministers, a social worker, and even some parents that would call,” Neuske said. “That’s how we get our information.”

After receiving referrals, Neuske said she does some research before a referral is placed on the tree.



Nancy Neuske with several students who helped unload the toys donated to the Wittenberg-Birnamwood Giving Tree program by the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Toys for Tots program last year.

“I can’t just put them on with no knowledge of who they are,” Neuske said. “Then I call the parents and explain the program that we have, and ask if it is something they need for their children.”

Donated items through the program include wearable clothing, and personal items like deodorant and body spray. Toys are also donated, with many of them coming from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Toys for Tots program. The program also helps some elderly adults.

“There are a few who are alone and somebody referred them for boots or shoes or slippers, or something,” Neuske said.

Neuske said she never envisioned the program growing to where it is today, but admits the program is very important to the community.

While Neuske does a lot of the work herself, she said one of the school librarians helps her with the program, as well as two of her daughters.

“We need their help,” Neuske said. “There is no way I could do it without them.”

DO YOU HAVE UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has unclaimed patronage capital funds for former members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Funds for these people have been unclaimed for three years. In accordance with cooperative bylaws, after 60 days from this publication, the unclaimed funds shall be forfeited from the cooperative to be used for educational loans, scholarships, or charitable purposes.

The listing of names is published on our website: www.cwecoop.com. On the main page under About Us select Capital Credits, where you will find a button 2020 Member List of Unclaimed Patronage. If you do not have access to our website online, you may request a listing by contacting our office during regular business hours.

If you know the whereabouts of these former members, please ask either the individual member or the estate executor to contact us at 800-377-2932. When

writing to us, please include information to verify the person is the same one we are trying to locate. A previous mailing address, service address, street, road, or fire number where service was received would be helpful.

Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you prefer email, address your message to cwec@cwecoop.com.

We respond to all inquiries; however, due to the large volume of inquiries please be patient as we do our best to serve you, our member.





ANNUAL MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST CONTINUES WITH STRONG TURNOUT

The Member Appreciation Breakfast hosted by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has been an annual tradition for years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to think “outside the box” if we wanted to continue the tradition.

“Despite COVID-19, we felt it was important to show our appreciation to our members for allowing us to serve them,” said Mike Wade, president and CEO of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

In order to eliminate the large gathering the breakfast would normally generate, and to follow social distancing guidelines, it was decided to host a Drive-Thru Member Appreciation Breakfast on Oct. 31.

Everything was set up in our garage area, which was set up in a way where members could enter the building through garage doors on one side of the building, drive through the garage, and

then drive out through garage doors on the other side of the building.

“The virus has caused us all to be more creative in how we operate our cooperatives,” Wade said.

Members who showed up for the breakfast received pancakes, sausage, syrup, and cookies, in a to-go container. A carton of milk was included with each meal. A bag of Halloween candy was also given to children.

A total of 438 meals were distributed. In addition, stations were set up for members to donate food items for local food pantries, and toys for local children through the CWEC Toys for Tots Toy Drive, which

was launched at the breakfast.

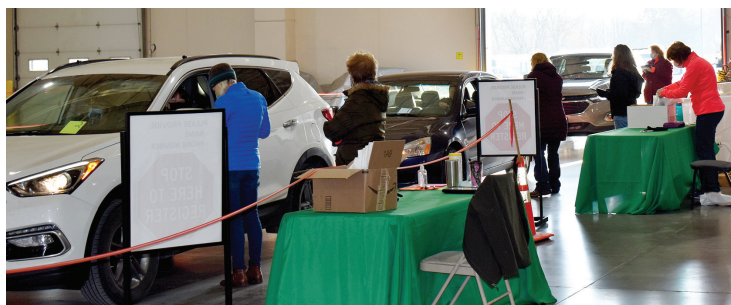
Members showed their generosity by donating 443 food pantry items. The Toys for Tots Toy Drive received donations of 90 toys, 22 stocking stuffers, and two books.

Members also had the opportunity to drop off confidential paper documents they wanted shredded.

“The turnout of our members and outpouring of donations went far beyond our expectations,” Wade said. “The employees did a wonderful job of efficiently moving the vehicles through our shop between the donation stations. I am very proud of each and every one of them.”

Door prize winners included:

- **Grand Prize – Electric Grill:** Dillon Zdroik
- **\$25 Bill Credit:** John Hoffmann, Hubert Rzentkowski, Russ Scharrer, Nicholas Myers, Matthew Mlodik, Victor Kowski, Mary Ziegenhagen, George Gabelbauer, Theodore Roeder, Chad Bestul.
- **Toys for Tots Door Prize Winner – \$25 Bill Credit:** Kenneth Breitenfeldt



MY CO-OP

RECYCLE YOUR BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

When you put up your Christmas lights this year did you find any strings of lights that didn't work? If you did, bring them to our headquarters in Rosholt to have them recycled. There is a collection box in our lobby where they can be placed.

GIVE THE GIFT OF POWER!

Don't know what to give someone for Christmas? Why not give them the gift of power? Gift certificates are available at the CWEC office or online at www.cwecoop.com.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILLS?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Commitment to Community Program is designed to help households with their energy costs, including electric bills. For many Wisconsin households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family budget. To better serve our members, CWEC is part of the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus (HE+) program.

This program is funded through public benefits and federal dollars to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy assistance and weatherization. Members may be eligible if they meet the HE+ program guidelines. Members should contact their local agency to determine eligibility.

| County | Agency | Telephone Number |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Marathon | Energy Services, Inc. | 715-842-3111 |
| Portage | Energy Services, Inc. | 715-344-5999 |
| Shawano | Dept. of Human Services | 715-526-4740 |
| Waupaca | Energy Services, Inc. | 715-258-6820 |



HEY KIDS, GET OUT YOUR CRAYONS!

It's time for our annual Christmas coloring contest. The contest is open to all kids ages 10 and under. The theme this year is a snowman.



Draw a picture of a snowman and mail or bring it to:

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473**

Please make sure to have your name, age, and phone number on the back of your picture.

We will award three prizes in two age groups: 6 and under and 7 to 10. The prizes will be 1st – \$25, 2nd – \$15, and 3rd – \$10.

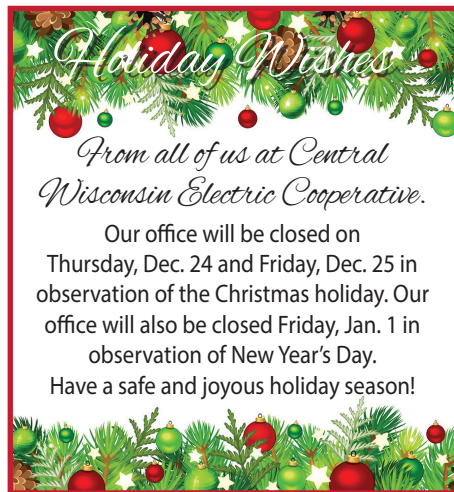
The contest is open to the children of CWEC members only. Pictures must be done in crayon only.

Deadline for the pictures is Monday, Dec. 7, so get started right away and good luck!

The drawings will be on display in the lobby at the CWEC office, so stop in and take a look at the beautiful pictures.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

Did you know your cooperative offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades? If not, we're pleased to inform you we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades including Energy Star appliance purchases, insulation, new windows, heat pumps, alternative water heaters, LED lighting and much more. For a detailed listing please visit www.cwecoop.com or give us a call.



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715-701-2042

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715-370-1378

District 3

Elaine Eckendorf
Secretary-Treasurer
715-701-2052

Sue Rombalski
715-701-2053

Our Mission

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

DO YOU DEPEND ON LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT?

While CWEC strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

We need to know the names and locations of members who depend on life-support equipment. We will make every effort to give priority to restore service to members on life-

support systems; however, being on our life-support list does not guarantee immediate restoration.

You should always have a plan for at least 24 hours without electric service for emergency situations.

If you or a family member depends on life-support equipment, please call us at 715-677-2211 or fill out the form below and mail it to us as quickly as possible.

Yes, I depend on life-support equipment...

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Location / Account No. _____

Type of Equipment _____

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?

YES _____ NO _____

If you're on oxygen, how many hours of back-up do you have? _____

Please return to CWEC, 10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473