



## LINEMEN, LIGHTS, AND LEADERSHIP



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

Summer is a busy time for our members and the communities we serve. They are busy with family reunions, camping trips, and summer fun around the house. Your co-op is busy as well. We are performing maintenance, upgrading lines, and extending new electric service to new accounts. We are inspecting our underground facilities, testing poles, and trimming trees in our rights-of-way. You will see our trucks going to job sites in our service area, and many times you will see them parked alongside a roadway. If you see our line or contractor crews working along the roadside, be sure to slow down or move over. Do your part to help keep our crews and contractors safe as they sometimes need to perform difficult and dangerous work along our county and town roads.

One of our summer-fall 2019 projects

is replacing the HPS (high-pressure sodium) street and area lights in Tigerton with new LED (light-emitting diode) lighting. The new LED lights consume less electricity to operate and produce a superior light. The initial cost of LED lighting is higher than HPS, but the long-term benefits of LED lighting are many. Eventually, we will replace all HPS lights throughout our service area with LED lighting.

I am proud of our eight young people who will be attending the WECA Youth Leadership Congress at the UW-River Falls campus this summer. They will be joining over 100 students representing the electric cooperatives of Wisconsin. Their three-day experience will focus on leadership, understanding the cooperative business principles, and building relationships that will last a lifetime. This is an extremely valuable summer program for our youth that benefits our service area for years to come. Thank you to Brenda

Mazemke, our manager of member relations, for organizing and chaperoning our young people as they stretch their minds and imaginations during this event.

Be safe this summer as you travel around the state and spend time with your friends and family. Be conscious of the heat, drink plenty of water, and be safe with your outdoor fun. Mark on your calendar the date of our fall Member Appreciation Breakfast which is Saturday, October 26, 2019 at our office outside of Rosholt. I know it is a few months away, but I hope to see you there.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

#### Downed Power Line Safety

If you see downed power lines, or other damaged electrical equipment, notify the local electric utility as soon as possible because the lines could still be live.

MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 8 a.m. on May 30, 2019. Following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 25, 2019 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The board approved proposed fee changes to the disconnection/reconnection policies and approved the Schedule of Fees and Deposits.
- The board reviewed information on the early retirement of capital credits for deceased members and agreed to proceed with developing the necessary policies and procedures to allow for early retirement.
- The board reviewed and discussed the cost summary of the 2019 Annual Meeting with the last six years in comparison.
- The board approved the date for the 2019 Member Appreciation Breakfast to be Saturday, October 26, 2019.
- The board selected directors to attend the WECA District 1 Meeting as well as the voting delegate and alternate.

- g. Jim Halvorsen, CPA of CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the board with the 2019 financial audit results.
- h. As part of our internal controls, the board was presented with information on the year-end inventory process.
- i. The board cast their vote for Byron Nolde for the 2019 RESCO Wisconsin Manager-Director.

Operations and Engineering – Staking and new connect work has increased. Zielies is currently working our vegetation management projects.

Accounting and Finance – Reviewed the reports submitted. Employees are continuing their training on cybersecurity. We have switched to a new load control consultant.

Member Services – We continue to monitor our butterfly habitat. A CoBank Sharing check was recently delivered to the Kronenwetter Fire Department CWEC recently hosted a Wisconsin KEEP Workshop for area teachers.

President and CEO – Following up on the recent Strategic Planning Meeting, work will begin over the next few months to develop the goals and their action items. We will begin the hiring search to add a member service specialist to our team.

Directors presented reports for various meetings such as the NRECA Legislative Conference, safety meeting, strategic planning, WECA Legislative Committee, and WECA Education Committee meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.



Above: Shadows on the Wolf Habitat Committee had 21 hunters at their annual Learn to Hunt. The Learn to Hunt Program is dedicated to educating, informing, and involving youth and first-time hunters in wildlife conservation. Above right: Clifford Kessen, Operation Round Up board member, presents a check to Andrea Graham, Tigerton Main Street manager. Right: Marie Skowen (r), Operation Round Up board member, presents Diana Jones (l), Lola Lioness, with a donation for the lola-Scandinavia High School Post Prom.



## COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY: OPERATION ROUND UP DONATIONS AWARDED

The Operation Round Up Trust Board recently approved donations totaling \$1,950. Those receiving donations included: lola Lioness (Post Prom Party), Shadows on the Wolf Habitat-Clintonville Area Chapter (Annual Learn to Hunt program), Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Chorus Program, Tigerton Main Street (help fund new welcome sign), and one family hardship donation.

“We continue to be amazed by the amount of good this program does,” said Manager of Member Relations Brenda Mazemke. Funded by volunteer donations from co-op members, Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cas-

es, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. In addition, \$13,700 in scholarships was awarded to 53 college-bound students.

Members who choose to participate have their electric bill “rounded up” to the next highest dollar. For example, a \$95.52 bill becomes \$96.00. On average the amount contributed is 50 cents per month, or \$6 a year. The monies collected are turned over to a nine-member volunteer Trust Board (one member from each of the co-op’s nine sub-districts) who administer the program. Current Trust Board members are Marie Skowen, Sheri Beilke, Tammy Meverden, Gary Kolodziej, Renee Groshek, Maxine

Lemke, Bonnie Paulson, Sue Halverson, and Clifford Kessen.

“The success of Operation Round Up is due in large part to the volunteer efforts of the Trust Board,” said Mazemke. “On behalf of the co-op I’d like to thank all current and past board members.”

## LED LIGHTING UPGRADES ADD UP TO BIG SAVINGS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative continues its commitment to community by changing out street lights in the Vil-



Lineman John Bestul works to replace the street lights to energy efficient LED bulbs.

lage of Tigerton. CWEC is replacing the 150-watt high-pressure salt bulbs with energy efficient 82-watt LED bulbs.

The two-part project started with replacing 100 street lights. The lights are Department of Transportation approved, which means that the bulbs are designed to be used as streetlights, and cause fewer glares to drivers on the road. The second part of the project will be replacing 64 lights in the Stockbridge-Munsee housing.

LED lighting offers a clean and eco-friendly lighting that provides a significant electricity and maintenance savings to both communities and their residents.



## OUTAGE NOTIFICATION TEXT MESSAGES

At CWEC, our members’ safety is always a priority. With that in mind, we would like to offer you the opportunity to enroll in a free text message service to notify you of any outages that affect your meters. With your meter number or account information, we will be able to let you know if the power has gone out at your meter’s location. If possible, the text messages will also inform you of the reason for the outage and a potential time of restoration.

If you are interested in this service, you can enroll at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**RIVERS EDGE CAMPGROUND: SUMMER FUN FOR ALL!**

Nestled on the banks of the Wisconsin River is a spacious campground that has something for every camper. Rivers Edge Campground offers not only a beautiful place to camp, but also daily activities and events all season long. After an expansion, the campsite boasts 258 campsites, along with cabin and camper rentals.

Guests will never be bored while staying at Rivers Edge. The campsite has an arcade, playground, a jump pad, and a heated pool. Campers can also enjoy a WIBIT Water Park pond surrounded by a sandy beach. Thinking about bringing your boat? Rivers Edge has a boat landing allowing campers to enjoy the Wisconsin River.

Rivers Edge has everything you will need on vacation. They offer showers and laundry services. Don't feel like



Bullhead's Bar's deck doubles as a stage for concerts.



The WIBIT Water Park is a great way to cool off on hot summer days.

cooking? No problem, campers can enjoy a meal and a drink at Bullhead's Bar and Grill. Rivers Edge offers golf cart and bike rentals. The campground is also dog friendly, so there is no need to leave your furry family members at home.

Rivers Edge has a variety of events that span all the way into October. This year, Rivers Edge is hosting its first ever music festival during the last weekend of September. Guests will be able to enjoy original music performed by 14 different bands. The bands cover many genres so no one is left out of the fun. You don't need to be a camper to enjoy the music. Tickets can be purchased separately for the festival.

Whatever your perfect camping trip involves, Rivers Edge has something for you. For more information, visit them on Facebook at Rivers Edge Campground, visit their website at [www.riversedgewisconsin.com](http://www.riversedgewisconsin.com), or call at 715-344-8058.

MY CO-OP

**ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF THE AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN**



**Sign up and receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill!**

Credit is for the first-time participants only. The Automatic Payment Plan option allows transfer of funds from your checking, savings, or credit card account directly to Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's account to pay your electric bill. A direct withdrawal would be made on the due date of each month for the amount of your bill. If you are interested in participating in this convenient payment method, please fill out the form below and return it to our office with the required information.

**I want to participate in the Automatic Payment Plan**

Name(s) on CWEC bill \_\_\_\_\_ CWEC Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If your payment is to be charged to your credit card write your credit card number and expiration date below.

Your Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

If your payment is to be delivered from a checking account, enclose a blank check. Write VOID across it and DO NOT SIGN IT.

If your payment is to be deducted from a savings account, enclose a deposit slip that includes your account number. Please allow one month for the setup of the Automatic Payment Plan.

CWEC has the right to cancel use of the Automatic Payment Plan. I will write to CWEC if I decide to cancel my use of the Automatic Payment Plan.

Account Holder(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Only first-time participants are eligible for a one-time \$20 credit. Member must remain on the Automatic Payment Plan for a minimum of 12 months. Mail this form with your current payment or mail it separately to CWEC, P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. For more information, call 715-677-2211 or 800-377-2932.



## 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](http://www.cwecoop.com) or give us a call.



## CWEC OFFERS BUSINESS LOANS

Utilizing funds received from USDA's Rural Economic Development program Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op has established a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist with financing of new or expanding businesses. Low rate loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 are available to qualifying businesses for expansion projects or start-ups. Loans are subject to credit approval and fund availability. For more information please contact the co-op.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST

### Scandinavia Corn Roast Weekend

August 2-4

Music, food, 5K walk/run, softball tournament, chainsaw wood sculpting, truck pull, tractor pull, and more. Friday gates open at 4 p.m., free admission, music. Parade Saturday at 11 a.m.; Fireman's Dance presented by Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Dept. 8 p.m.–midnight. Craft fair Saturday 11 a.m.–8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Free corn Sunday only, starts at 11 a.m.; music all day. Ellison Memorial Park, Scandinavia. Sponsored by the Scandinavia Booster Club. For more information visit [www.cornroast.com](http://www.cornroast.com).

### 5th Annual Car Show

Saturday, August 3

Country breakfast served 8–10 a.m., car show from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Held at the Bowler Area Historical Society, 104 E Main St., Bowler. For more information call Pat at 715-793-4460.



### St Adalbert Parish Picnic

August 4

Outdoor Mass 10:30 a.m.; music from noon–4 p.m. by Cynor Classic Polka Band, and 4–8 p.m. by Gray Catz, family-style dinner from 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Raffle, kid's games, cherry tree, country store, mini raffle, bingo, rainbow snow and ice cream, food stand, and more. Rain or shine. Rosholt. For more information visit [www.rosholtcatholic.org](http://www.rosholtcatholic.org).

### Vacation Bible Day Camp

August 5-9

Monday–Thursday 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Friday

9 a.m.–noon. Faith Lutheran Church. Snacks and lunch provided daily. Open to all 1st through 6th grade children; all are welcome. For more information, visit [www.faithandnewhope.com](http://www.faithandnewhope.com) or call Faith Lutheran Church office, 715-677-4631. Rosholt.

### Iola Lioness Brat Fry

Saturday, August 10

10:30–3:30 p.m., Iola Sentry Foods.

### Iola Lion/Lioness Stuff the Bus

Saturday, August 10

9 a.m.–3 p.m. School supply drive, Iola Sentry Foods.



### 13th Annual "Drive your Tractor to Church"

Sunday, August 11

North New Hope & Faith Lutheran Churches invite friends and neighbors. New Hope Church – Junction Hwy T and MM or 845 Hwy T North. 8 a.m. early bird tractor parking and registration, 9:30 a.m. music, 10 a.m. outdoor church service, 11 a.m. auction, noon pig roast picnic lunch, 1 p.m. hay wagon rides and tractor displays. With good weather everything will be outdoors; if not there's room inside. Please bring lawn chairs.

### Walls of Wittenberg, "Second Tuesday Concert Series"

Tuesday, August 13

6–8 p.m. The Droovers, local group playing a variety of music. WOW Art Park 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. Free concert and ice cream. Support a local organization that will be providing food for purchase. In case of

rain concert held in WOWSPACE. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit [www.wallsowittenberg.com](http://www.wallsowittenberg.com).

### Bowler Area Fire District Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, August 17

2–5 p.m. Food, cornhole tournament, bucket raffle, ticket raffle. More information can be found on their Facebook page or by contacting Erica 715-253-2291.

### 31st Annual Rosholt Threshing Bee

August 17–18

Saturday opens at 10 a.m. Car show, craft show, horse show games, demonstrations and displays, much more. Sunday opens at 9 a.m. with a church service, craft show, demonstrations and displays, kiddie pedal pull, parade at noon, antique tractor and pickup pull at 3 p.m. Food and beverages sold, free parking. Rosholt Fair Park. For more information call 715-869-7653 or visit [www.rosholtthreshingbee.com](http://www.rosholtthreshingbee.com).

### Sacred Heart Parish Church Picnic

Sunday, August 18

10 a.m. Mass with music by The Choraleers, followed by a chicken and meatball dinner from 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., in an air-conditioned dining room. Noon–7 p.m. music by The Cynor Classics with the Ampol Aires. Food and refreshments, elephant ears, ice cream parlor, cherry tree, country store, cake walk, bingo starts at 1 p.m., basket and mini raffles, children's games, auction and rummage sale. Saturday and Sunday softball tournament, Sunday horseshoe tournaments and a \$4,500 cash

raffle drawing at 7 p.m. Polonia. For more information call 715-592-4221.

### Tigerton Lumberjack Days

August 23–25

Friday: Cosmic Bingo starts at 8 p.m. Saturday: corn roast, strongman/woman contest, human foosball, washer toss tourney, kids' bike give-away and bouncers. Sunday: parade at 1 p.m., amateur lumberjack contest, kids' activities. Bingo both days, live music, lots of food and pies. Tigerton Community Park. For more information call Diane at 715-535-3300 or Wally at 715-445-3165 or 715-459-6115.

### Hatch Lake Association Brat Fry

Saturday, August 31

9 a.m.–6 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods, Iola.

### Portage County Fair

August 30–September 2

Parade on Main Street at noon on Saturday. Rosholt Fair Park. For more information go to [www.rosholtfair.com](http://www.rosholtfair.com).

### Big Falls Free Corn Roast

Sunday, September 1

Parade at noon, live music 1 p.m.–midnight. Games and food stands. Food stands, raffles, free corn, games. Live music throughout the day. Village Park in Big Falls. For more information call 715-250-2032.



### Office Closed Monday, September 2 In honor of Labor Day

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211

## Mike Wade, President & CEO

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932 • [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com)

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## Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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