



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## SUMMER WRAP-UP; SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

Depending on where you live, the start of the school year could be any day now. And that means buses will be traveling on our rural roads to take our children to school. If you have children, educate them on staying away from traffic while waiting for the bus. And if you are a driver, be on the lookout for children and do not pass buses that have stopped. It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load and unload children. Let's work together to ensure our children stay safe this school year.

While I know you do not like to see a high electric bill, our energy (kWh) sales have been up sharply this spring and summer. We saw record snows in April, and May through July have been warmer than average. These weather conditions have meant more electric usage and

increased sales for the co-op. Although we love strong sales as it helps our rates remain stable, we understand our members need to keep their electric bills affordable and we embrace the conservation efforts that our members observe. If you have not done so, go to our website and select the Member Services tab to find rebates available for many of the energy efficient products you buy.

Several of our electric system inspection programs are underway. We are currently performing an annual inspection and treatment of a portion of our wood poles. This inspection program allows us to identify poles that are ready for retirement and to treat poles so that we can extend their useful life. A properly maintained pole will retain its original strength for many additional years and will help overhead lines perform as designed during extreme weather events.

In addition, we are inspecting a por-



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tion of our pad-mounted equipment used with our underground electric cable. The inspection will include examining the interior of each cabinet, reapplying the safety and warning decals, and clearing away vegetation from the outside of the equipment. These measures will ensure that the equipment performs as required and can be easily seen by CWEC personnel and the public.

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

### TIP OF THE MONTH

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**Sharing the Road with School Buses**

If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:57 a.m. on June 28, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the May 31, 2018 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. The board approved revisions to Board Policy 501 – Inspection of Books and Records, Board Policy 503 – Dispute Resolution, and approved new Board Policy 604 – Information and Cybersecurity Program.
- c. The board approved the third American Transmission Company (ATC) capital call of 2018.
- d. The board approved proposed changes made to the Electric Utility Worker Scholarship Guidelines.
- e. The board reviewed the breakout of the cost summary for our 2018 annual meeting, noting expenses were incurred for both the original meeting date which was postponed due to snowstorm and the rescheduled meeting.
- f. The board approved all directors as attendees to the Badger Power Cooperative Annual Meeting in August.
- g. The board approved all directors' attendance for the WECA Energy Issues Summit in August.

Operations and Engineering – The radio system continues to perform well. Twenty new connects and conversions have been staked so far this year and line crews continue working on new connect/conversion terminations and maintenance items. Idle service inspections and retirements are in progress.

Accounting and Finance – Attendance at an informational seminar regarding rural broadband provided what is involved with starting a broadband project, including feasibility studies, financing options, partnering with others, and estimated costs of a project.

Member Services – Members will be notified of our change to the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Low Income Assistance Program by a bill stuffer in bills mailed in July. We will also update our website with the new information and post information on social media.

President and CEO – We are beginning to review the reporting and investigation process we employ when a safety incident or accident has occurred.

The board reviewed the written report of Economic Development Activity for May 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



# Life on the Lines

Electricity has become a staple of our lives. Electricity powers our homes, devices, and appliances. We get our power in a complex manner that requires hard work, precision, and fearlessness. Linemen risk their lives daily to power homes across the country. In order to get a better understanding of what this job entails, I decided to tag along with the linemen at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative for a day out on the lines.

Linemen install equipment to allow the distribution of electricity. Linemen climb powerlines and use mounted truck buckets to reach high-voltage equipment in the skies. They identify electrical problems such as defective fuses, switches, and wires. They also inspect and test powerlines using special reading devices.

Additionally, linemen install the overhead power in your area. If a member has an outage, linemen venture to their residence and work to solve the problem. Linemen have to be precise in order to keep members happy. Electricity is complicated. Fortunately, we have linemen to lend a helping hand.

Electricity comes from steam that is



Gabe Pospyhalla climbs an electric pole via harness in order to remove guards that protect cables and wires from the elements.

generated at power plants through the burning of fossil fuels. Electricity can also be generated through hydropower, nuclear, wind, solar, and geothermal technologies. Burning fossil fuels creates steam that propels a turbine to spin magnets inside of copper wiring. The current is pushed out through the wires into high-voltage transformers that allow the electricity to be sent longer distances.

Electricity is transported to local power substations where the voltage is lowered and sent along distribution lines. The distribution lines carry electricity through a series of transformers before eventually arriving to your meter, signaling that you are receiving power.

This particular day's events took place in Peru, a small community located between Rosholt and Iola. One of the wooden powerline poles had recently failed its testing inspection and needed to be replaced.

Electric poles fail inspections for a bevy of reasons, including pole rot and split tops. This pole in particular was in the early stages of rotting, so it was best that our linemen replaced it before it became a more serious problem.

The first order of business was disconnecting power to the pole. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative sent out two linemen, Gabe Pospyhalla and Jason Walter, and equipment operator, Dell Olson. Jason and Dell disconnected power from the junction box, which feeds the main powerline through an underground cable. While they were doing this, Gabe began to hand-dig an area for the new pole to be placed. The crew positioned the new pole next to the old one, making the transfer of wires and cables much easier.

Once the power was shut off, Jason grounded the overhead wires to guaran-



Jason Walter grounds overhead lines to prevent shock when the linemen work on the line.

tee that no electricity would be present while they work. Jason also placed a hold card on the junction box to ensure that power would stay grounded. CWEC linemen put a major emphasis on safety.

"We've shut the power off already, but grounding the wires is an extra safety precaution that we take," Gabe said.

Gabe climbed the pole with help from his harness and pole gaffs (spiked boot guards that aid in climbing) and Jason used the mounted bucket to remove the u-guards from the primary cables. The next step was to drill the new hole. CWEC's trucks come equipped with a variety of features, one being a giant drilling tool. Dell, who has 37 years of experience at CWEC, operated the drill from a hand held device.

After the hole was dug, the linemen then used the lifting wench to raise the new pole up and into the hole. The new pole is held down by metal anchors attached to the ground. The linemen then fastened the wires and cables from the old pole to the new one. As for the old pole, they again used the lifting wench attachment to lift the pole out of the ground and set it on the truck.

The final step was to reinstate the power. They return to the junction box, remove the hold card, and restore power to the neighboring homes. The entire pole replacement process took about eight hours.

The biggest takeaway from my day with the linemen was how safe and precise they were through every step of the process. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative linemen make the best of their training to benefit our members.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

# AN APPLE A DAY

Family is everything, which is likely why Wilson Creek Orchard is so successful.

In 2013, Alex Brauer and his father-in-law, Terry Nillissen, planned to plant 200 apple trees on Terry's old corn field. Two hundred soon turned into 5,000, and now they have a stunning orchard rich with healthy apple trees.

Alex and Terry are not alone, though. Their operation's success is due in large part to the help of their friends and families.

"Running an orchard isn't a job for just two guys. It would be impossible to go at it alone, and we're fortunate to have people we know and trust to help us out," Alex said.

Growing the apples is the first step of a long process designed to get apples from the tree to the customers' hands. Luckily, Alex and Terry have taken classes related to growing apples in order to increase their chances of having fruitful harvests.

The apple trees take years to mature, and constant maintenance over the trees is required. The orchard has built in an irrigation

system to manage the trees during dry seasons.

Once the apples are finally ripe, Wilson Creek has a small window of time to pick and sort them. To determine if an apple is ripe, Alex and Terry cut the apple in half and examine the seeds. If they're green or white, the apples are not ready to be picked.

The apples at Wilson Creek are not organic, but are considerably close. Alex and Terry monitor weather patterns to determine times where insects will be more active. When there is a chance of high insect activity, Alex and Terry spray insecticides and pesticides on the trees. Unlike some apple farms, Alex and Terry only spray when necessary.

The impressive 10-acre orchard is typically home to 42 different species of apples, with 24 of them being available this fall. Guests can expect to enjoy Honey Crisp, Candy Crisp, McIntosh, and a variety of different apples upon their visit.

In addition to apples, Wilson Creek Orchard has converted 10 acres of their land into pollinator habitats, so they can naturally house two pollinators: bees and monarch butterflies.

On September 29, Wilson Creek Orchard will host an open house to kick off the fall season. The event will feature live music, food, cider drinks, and tractor rides.

Whether you're looking to buy apples or just enjoy beautiful scenery, Wilson Creek Orchard has got you covered. If you'd like to learn more, stop in person at W16836 Wilson Creek Lane, Wittenberg, WI 54499, or check them out on Facebook at Wilson Creek Orchard, LLC.



## 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 MEMBER SURVEY

We just want to remind you that you may be selected as part of the small group of members to participate in this survey. Please be as open and honest as possible, as all of your answers will remain strictly confidential. The total survey will take approximately five minutes to complete.

The information you provide will help us plan for the future as we strive to serve our members better.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Member Appreciation  
Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday,  
October 27, 2018  
8-11 a.m.**

*Watch for more  
information in the  
October issue*





## DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

**Office Closed Monday, September 3**  
In honor of Labor Day

**Embarrass River Lions Fall Rummage & Bake Sale, and Luncheon**

**September 7-8**

7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Morris Town Hall, Hwy J, Tigerton. For more information call 715-535-2098.

**Hitterdahl Church Annual Golf Outing**

**Sunday, September 9**

1:30 p.m. For more information call 715-445-4253.



**St. Johns Church Dinner**  
**Sunday, September 9**

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Swiss steak and broasted chicken, homemade pie. For more information call 715-535-2282. Tigerton.

**Norske Needlers Quilt Show**  
**Saturday, September 15**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Over 200 quilts, wall-hangings, and other handmade articles, vendors, resale area, and club member boutique. Food available. Lola Car Show Activity Building, Lola. For more information contact Dianne at 715-677-4683.

**7th Annual Glacier Ridge Antique Tractor Club Show**

**September 15-16**

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Displays, demonstrations, flea market & swap meet. Free admission. For more information visit Glacier Ridge Antique Tractor Club Facebook page or call 715-572-1548. Corkey's Bar in Shantytown.



**Gospel "How Great Thou Art"**  
**Presented by: Daddy D Productions**  
**Thursday, September 20**

5:30 p.m. open, 6:30 p.m. family-style dinner, 8 p.m. showtime. Daddy D's and the Marion Lions Club bring you an inspirational evening of music, food, family, and comedy. Appropriate for all ages and sure to move your spirit. \$35 per person reserved seats. Northwinds Banquet Hall, Marion. For tickets call Todd at 715-853-8346.

**Annual Taste of Tigerton Apple Fest**  
**Saturday, September 22**

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Apple pies baked and unbaked for sale, demonstrations, vendors, contests, and music. Community Park in Tigerton. For more information call 715-535-2110.



**Rosholt Threshermen Rippin Thru Rosholt**

**Saturday, September 29**

Black top tractor pull on Main Street Food, music, drink, and tractor raffle drawing, Rosholt. For more information call 715-869-7653.

**Walls of Wittenberg Annual Fall Art Show: "The More the Merrier"**  
**September 22 - October 7**

Runs on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to [www.wallofswittenberg.com](http://www.wallofswittenberg.com).



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



## HARVEST SAFETY

Making proper use of your time during harvesting season is imperative to your crop's success. However, it is during these times of pressure and stress that we as human beings tend to make more mistakes. Farming in general provides a bevy of potential dangers, and when the clock is winding down during your harvest, you become more susceptible to injury. Before you begin your fall harvest, keep these safety tips in mind.

The harvesting months bring worse weather, so first make sure all your electrical boxes, circuits, and connections are all properly sealed, making them waterproof. Furthermore, ensure that they are all properly grounded.

Next, keep an eye on conduits and exposed wiring. Keep your conduit sealed from the elements. When examining your farm and fields, make sure you cover up any exposed wiring. Exposed wiring can lead to electrocution.



Before you operate machinery, make sure that it is clean and clear of any debris. Due to both fuel and electricity within your equipment, debris creates a fire hazard. By cleaning off your equipment, the risk of a fire occurring goes down dramatically.

When moving between fields, understand the clearance your equipment has between the ground and any overhead wiring. If any of your equipment touches the overhead wiring, call the police and your electric cooperative. Leaving the equipment could lead to a fatal shock. If you must exit the vehicle, jump out with both feet together, and hop to safety. An approximately safe distance is considered to be, at minimum, 20 feet from the equipment.

Electricity has made farming so much easier, but with these advancements, we run the risk of greater danger. Keep these tips in mind while you are harvesting your crops. You can be both cautious and efficient.

**Mike Wade, President & CEO**


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**Brenda Mazemke, Editor**



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