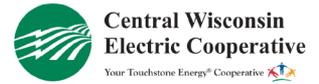




Al Zander Board Chairman

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



It is an honor to be able to share with you some of the highlights Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) experienced in 2025. With 2025 being my first year as the CWEC Board Chairman, it was great to see the co-op's employees complete a number of projects during the year.

One of the most exciting highlights of 2025 was the completion of a project that converted 2.5 miles of overhead powerlines to a three-phase underground line along Fairview Road in the townships of Bartelme and Almon in Shawano County. This line feeds the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Since this line is the only powerline feeding the area, there should now be less electricity outages due to natural hazards.

In 2024, CWEC applied for grant funds for this project and was eventually awarded a grant in the amount of \$405,339. We are fortunate to have been awarded this grant, as it allowed the co-op to complete this project sooner than originally planned.

Another project that was completed in 2025 that will benefit members of CWEC, was a transmission line upgrade from the Town of Harrison to the Groenier Substation. This project was completed by American Transmission Company (ATC), who owns the transmission lines.

In the past, we have experienced power outages due to deteriorating crossarms and poles along these lines. This project included the installation of new steel poles, as well as the addition of new transmissions lines. This should also reduce the number of outages in this area.

In conjunction with that project, ATC covered the expense for the co-op to bury roughly three miles of powerlines that were overhead lines on ATC poles. That work began in December.

As CWEC plans to ensure that it will be able to supply electricity to all its

members as safely and cost effectively as possible into the future, engineering work began in 2025 for the construction of a new substation. The plan is to construct a substation behind the current CWEC headquarters.

When Alliant Energy, who CWEC purchases its power from, decides to provide its power at a higher voltage, CWEC would need to convert that voltage to a usable amount. To do that, a costly upgrade would be needed.

Instead of paying for a costly upgrade, the construction of a new substation would allow CWEC to do that conversion, as well as reduce some of the demand off the other CWEC substations.

In 2024, the co-op wrapped up the new meter installation for its new AMI system. This is a project that began in 2023 to bring new technology to our meter system to make reading members' meters more efficient. I am happy to report that 99% of our meters can now be read from our office. There is no need to go to the physical location of the meter to read it.

While the co-op works to provide

its members with electricity efficiently and safely, it is our members who make our Operation Round Up program a success. Participating members have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. The funds collected are dispersed to charitable organizations, individuals in need, and educational purposes at the discretion of the Operation Round Up Trust Board.

Since Operation Round Up was introduced in 2004, \$383,664 has been awarded in donations and \$359,350 has been awarded as scholarships, for a total of \$743,014. This is all thanks to the generosity of our members, and I thank all of you for that.

Before I conclude this year in review, I'd like to thank all the CWEC employees for their commitment to our members. Your work does not go unnoticed! I'd also like to thank our membership for its support of the cooperative.

We look forward to providing your electricity needs through 2026 and beyond. I look forward to seeing you at our 88th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m.



In 2025, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative completed a project that converted 2.5 miles of overhead powerlines to a three-phase underground line along Fairview Road in the townships of Bartelme and Almon in Shawano County. The co-op had received grant funds for the project.