

Since 1940

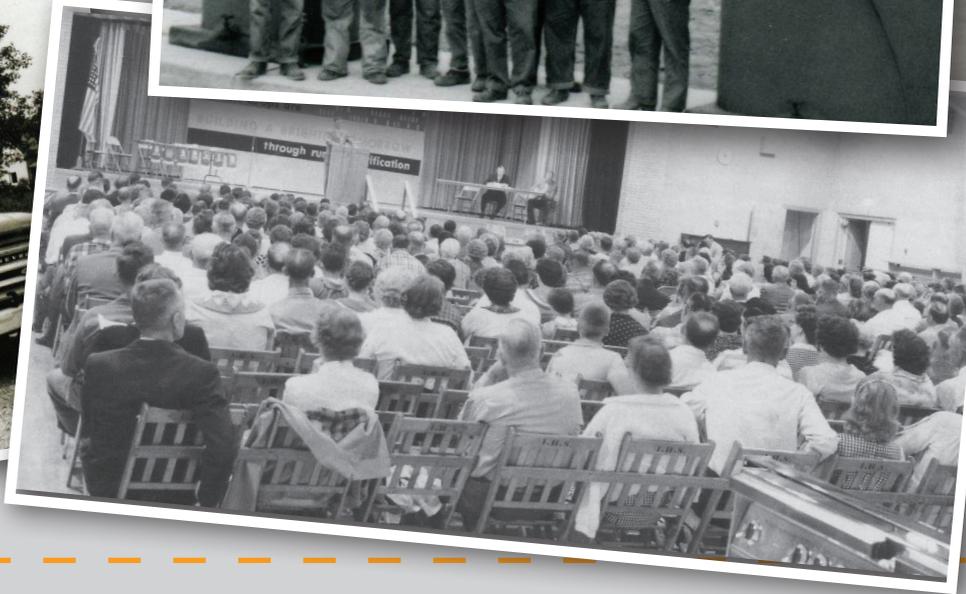
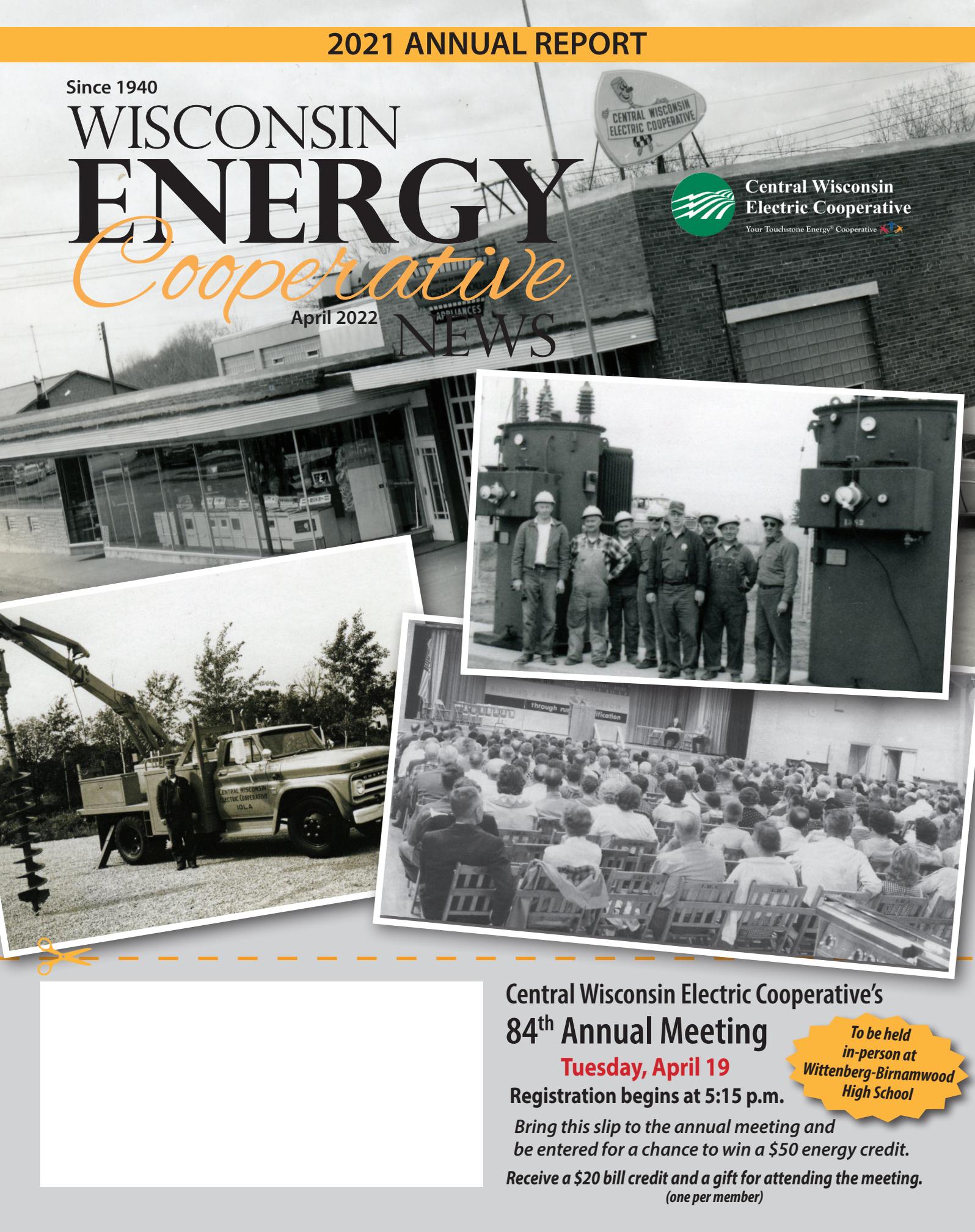
# WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

April 2022

## NEWS



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, April 19**

Registration begins at 5:15 p.m.

To be held in-person at Wittenberg-Biramwood High School

Bring this slip to the annual meeting and be entered for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit.

Receive a \$20 bill credit and a gift for attending the meeting. (one per member)

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
Rosholt, Wisconsin  
**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Members of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be held at the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, located at 400 W. Grand Avenue, Wittenberg, Wisconsin on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00 o'clock p.m. to consider and take action upon the following matters:

- I. Reports of Officers, Directors, Committee and Management.
- II. For all business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

In addition, a regular election will be held under the Bylaws to choose Directors from Districts 2 and 3.

In accordance with SECTION 6 of ARTICLE III, any member who is absent from any annual or special meeting of the members and who has filed a written request in advance for an absentee ballot may vote by absentee mail ballot upon any motion or resolution to be acted upon at any such meeting with respect to any action submitted pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, the Resolutions Committee or by petition of not less than ten percent (10%) of the members. A ballot, the envelope enclosing which is signed by the member, shall be deemed a signed ballot within the meaning of this section. The receipt of mail ballots at any such meeting shall not preclude the offer and adoption of germane amendments to any resolution to be acted upon at such meeting. The adoption or rejection of such amendments shall be determined by the majority vote of those members present and voting at such meeting. After the adoption of any such amendment - the adoption or rejection of the original resolution as amended shall be determined solely on the basis of the votes cast by members in attendance at such meeting.

Dated this 24th day of February 2022.

  
Lee Lehrer, SECRETARY

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
**84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE MEMBERS**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

**Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School  
400 W Grand Ave., Wittenberg, WI**

**Registration begins at 5:15 p.m.  
Light snack and refreshments**

**Business meeting begins at 6 p.m.**

- Receive a \$20 bill credit and a gift for attending the meeting (one per member).
- Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April issue of *WECN* will have the chance to win a \$50 energy credit. In addition to many door prizes, one lucky member will be drawn as the winner of a grand prize consisting of an electric grill. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present.
- Help fill our local food pantry shelves. Bring three or more non-perishable food items that are not expired, and you will receive a FREE LED bulb. (limit of three bulbs per family)

**Receive a  
\$20 bill credit  
for attending  
meeting**

**THIS SLIP COULD BE YOUR  
CHANCE FOR A BIG PRIZE!**

**Bring it for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit!**

Tom Smith  
Board Chairman

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

I am pleased to announce that Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will return to an in-person format for its 84th annual meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. It was always our goal to return to an in-person format for our annual meeting, and I look forward to seeing many of our members there.

Thank you to all of our customer-members for your support of CWEC in 2021. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as chairman of the board, and to support the communities of Central Wisconsin. In 2021, it was a year of change, challenges, and successes.

We had three long-standing directors—Anthony Buss Jr., Leonard Oppor, and Elaine Eckendorf—retire from the CWEC board. On behalf of all of CWEC, I thank Anthony, Leonard, and Elaine for their many years of service and dedication to the co-op.

At our director election in April 2021, we welcomed Ron Onesti and Lou Oppor as new additions to our board of directors. Ron previously served as the at-large director, while Lou is serving as a director for the first time. In 2022, we will be electing a new director to fill the seat left vacant by Elaine's retirement. I wish each of the new

directors my best and I know they will do a great job on behalf of our membership.

CWEC experienced two thunderstorms in July and a wind storm in December that knocked down trees and broke power poles because of high winds. Power was restored as quickly and as safely as possible in each instance. With the extensive damage after the July 28 storm, CWEC sent out a request for assistance through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Clark Electric Cooperative, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, and Taylor Electric Cooperative each sent a crew to help restore power. In addition, two CWEC contractors also sent crews to help.

I'm pleased to report that we once again experienced zero lost-time accidents in 2021. This does not happen by chance and is evidence of the importance our employees place on safety. I thank our employees for doing their jobs safely and responsibly for the benefit of our consumer-members.

Financially, the co-op is well prepared for the future. We returned \$454,542 in capital credits back to the membership in 2021. Capital credits represent each member's equity in the cooperative. As the cooperative is financially able, it is a privilege to return a portion of your investment in the cooperative for you.

In 2021, our investment in the West

Riverside Energy Center helped reduce power costs to our members each month. Since West Riverside went into commercial operation in May 2020, CWEC has received over \$1.3 million in savings. A majority of these savings have been passed on to CWEC members directly each month, as we have been able to keep the power cost adjustment each month at zero or below.

I thank the Operations Round Up Trust Board, the Member Advisory Group, and the Nominations Committee for the outstanding assistance you provided to the cooperative in 2021. The strength of any cooperative is its membership and we are fortunate to have so many members who are willing to give of their time and talent to help keep our cooperative healthy and strong.

I appreciate the work of all of the employees at CWEC, and as we look forward to the future, we will continue to set the bar for others to follow. It is also a pleasure to work with all the other Directors. As a board, we bring all different levels of expertise and knowledge to the table and I thank them for that. We look forward to what 2022 has to offer, and continuing to provide our members safe and reliable energy. And I look forward to seeing you at our 84th annual meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The January regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on January 27, 2022 at 8:05 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the December 30, 2021, 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 reviewed the proposed changes to Board Policy 302 Board of Directors and CEO Relationship (Appendix) from the November board meeting and approved said changes. They also reviewed Board Policy 304-1 Employment of Close Family Members Other Than Spouses and Board Policy 304-2 Employment of Spouses and made no changes.
- The Board reviewed the co-op's cybersecurity policies at the request of the directors who attended a cybersecurity training class.
- The Board approved Brenda Mazemke as Acting President/CEO for 2022 in the event of an extended absence of the President/CEO to serve temporarily until the Board of Directors takes appropriate action.
- The Board approved the list of proposed 2022 donations from the Federated Youth Foundation Fund, along with those that qualify for the CoBank Sharing Success Program.
- The Board approved changes to the Energy Conservation Rewards Program

as presented by Ms. Mazemke.

- As part of the Tech Unit labor negotiations, the Board approved an increase to the employer 401(k) matching contribution from \$1,200 annually to \$1,260 annually.
- The Board approved a 2021 bad debt write-off in the amount of \$165,199.94 for the Iola Living Assistance (ILA) Economic Development Loan.
- The Board approved deferring \$150,000.00 of revenue from 2021 to 2022 into the Regulatory Liability Account.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported line crews are continuing to work on hazard recognition inspections. The committee working on the new shed project visited Oakdale Electric to look at theirs and are in the process of getting updated quotes. Mr. Kurtzweil commended the Operations Department for all the projects they completed in 2021.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower added that CWEC did not control heat in January due to the cold temperatures.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported Toys for Tots is officially closed for 2021, with numbers being down just a little from last year. The new Energy Specialist job position has been posted. Ms. Mazemke also reported on the services we are provided from our annual Touchstone dues.

Administrative Services – Ms. Patoka reported on the Emergency Response Plan meeting that was held earlier this week. Also reviewed were the KnowBe4 Cybersecurity Training scores that will be reported on each month and what the numbers represent.

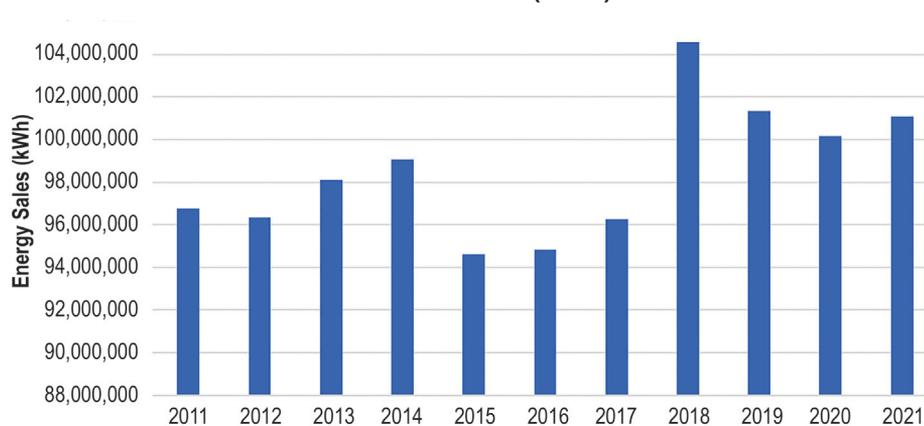
President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

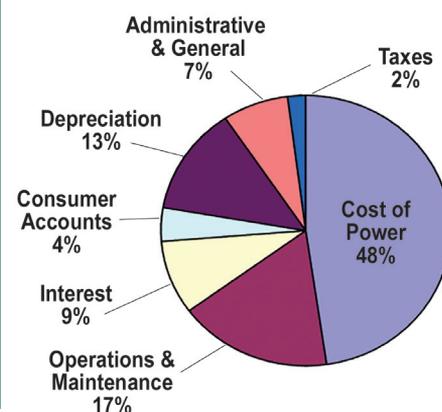
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

	<u>Unaudited</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>Audited</u> <u>2020</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>15,756,946</b>	<b>15,950,234</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Power Production Expense	(263,966)	(212,379)
Cost of Power	5,832,235	6,007,426
Transmission Expense - Operations	1,492,825	1,430,295
Distribution Expense - Operations	996,835	962,457
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	1,646,566	1,601,773
Consumer Accounts	550,636	559,192
Customer Service and Informational	235,258	233,749
Sales Expense	66,732	65,755
Administrative and General	1,131,764	1,058,966
Depreciation	1,977,564	1,929,134
Taxes	308,660	294,659
Other Deductions	56,090	49,538
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>14,031,199</u></b>	<b><u>13,980,565</u></b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>1,725,747</b>	<b>1,969,669</b>
<b>INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT AND LINE OF CREDIT</b>	<u>1,356,167</u>	<u>1,822,815</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>369,580</b>	<b>146,854</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS</b>	<u>188,479</u>	<u>160,188</u>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b>558,059</b>	<b>307,042</b>
<b>NONOPERATING MARGINS</b>		
Interest and Dividend Income	156,763	168,538
Other Nonoperating Income	117,744	300,641
<b>Total Nonoperating Margins</b>	<u>274,507</u>	<u>469,179</u>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b><u>\$832,566</u></b>	<b><u>\$776,221</u></b>
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$17,374,334</b>	<b>17,213,085</b>
Net Margins less Other Nonoperating Income (Loss)	714,821	523,380
Capital Credit Retirement	(454,542)	(416,339)
Other Equity Changes	-	54,208
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL - END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$17,634,613</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,374,334</u></b>

HISTORICAL ENERGY (KWH) SALES



2021 EXPENSES





# BALANCE SHEETS

## December 31, 2021 and 2020

	<b>Unaudited 2021</b>	<b>Audited 2020</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>		
Plant in Service	69,497,799	67,403,028
Riverside Plant Assets Not In Service	125,392	94,212
Construction Work in Progress	510,611	487,855
Total	70,133,802	67,985,095
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(22,294,268)	(20,489,288)
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>47,839,534</b>	<b>47,495,807</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS</b>		
Investment in Associated Organizations	8,290,658	8,175,492
Other Investments	8,472	8,473
Notes Receivable, Net	800,958	878,685
Nonutility Property, Net	-	-
<b>Total Other Assets and Investments</b>	<b>9,100,088</b>	<b>9,062,650</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	525,655	672,835
Accounts Receivable, Net	2,190,160	2,043,630
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	163,499	197,225
Materials and Supplies Inventory	583,694	311,211
Other Current and Accrued Assets	187,739	176,785
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,650,747</b>	<b>3,401,686</b>
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>	<b>199,932</b>	<b>230,210</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$60,790,301</b>	<b>\$60,190,353</b>
	<b>Unaudited 2021</b>	<b>Audited 2020</b>
<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>EQUITIES</b>		
Patronage Capital	17,634,613	17,374,334
Other Equities	3,024,892	2,885,488
<b>Total Equities</b>	<b>20,659,505</b>	<b>20,259,822</b>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT (Less Current Maturities)</b>	<b>35,426,418</b>	<b>33,961,297</b>
<b>OTHER NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accumulated Employee Benefits	41,279	40,029
<b>Total Other Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>41,279</b>	<b>40,029</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	1,632,000	1,475,000
Notes Payable - Line of Credit	340,000	2,215,966
Accounts Payable	1,058,357	1,371,565
Consumer Deposits	63,466	52,015
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	848,096	719,295
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3,941,919</b>	<b>5,833,841</b>
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>	<b>721,180</b>	<b>95,364</b>
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<b>\$60,790,301</b>	<b>\$60,190,353</b>

## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative • Rosholt, Wisconsin

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES • APRIL 27, 2021

President and CEO Mike Wade welcomed the membership to the 83rd Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 6:00 p.m., which was being held virtually due to COVID-19. Mr. Wade began the meeting with a safety message, provided reminders to the membership of the new meeting format, and introduced the speakers.

Board Chairman Anthony Buss, Jr. called the 83rd Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to order. Elaine Eckendorf, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative, kept the minutes thereof. Director Buss began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, an invocation, introduced the Board of Directors, and announced the retirement of Leonard Oppor and himself from the Board of Directors.

Cooperative Attorney Drew Parrish of the law firm of Wheeler, Van Sickle and Anderson announced that in accordance with the Cooperative by-laws, sufficient members had registered and were logged into the meeting to constitute a quorum. Official registration counts totaled 254 registrants, with 197 logged in virtually in attendance. Mr. Parrish indicated the Rules of Order, the Notice of Meeting, and the Minutes of the 2020 meeting documents were available in the resources section of the program format for viewing. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2020 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Lila Shower, VP of Accounting and Finance, gave the Treasurer's Report, focusing on key statistics and highlights from 2020. Despite a slowdown in the early stages of the pandemic, 2020 ended with strong energy sales. Net margins came in at \$776,221. Our utility plant increased by \$6.5 million which represents new line extensions, system upgrades and conversions, capital expenditures, and the addition of the West Riverside Energy Center. Our current equity ratio is 34.02%. We retired \$415,838 in capital credits as approved by the Board of Directors in 2020.

Chairman Buss gave the Chairman's Report. We saw the completion of the West Riverside Energy Center in Rock County, Wisconsin, and have begun passing on savings to our consumer-members on monthly electric bills. As part of our commitment to communities, we provided \$2,000 donations to the Rural Health Initiative, the Town of Grant Fire Department and the Hatley Area Fire Department. We are very proud of our young people in our community. Tyler Tautges from Birnamwood was elected to be on the 2020 Youth Leadership Congress Board, and was also selected to be the 2021 NRECA State Representative. Alexander Lutz was the recipient of our \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. The Operation Round Up committee awarded \$12,450 in scholarships to area students.

Mr. Wade started his CEO's Report by thanking the

dedicated employees during the pandemic challenges in 2020 and all their efforts to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to the membership. Employees have worked over 446,000 hours since our last lost-time accident and have driven over 1.2 million miles since our last vehicle accident, which shows the commitment of the employees to do their jobs safely. Mr. Wade thanked Mack Yarbrough and Nate Singer for their assistance to help Alger-Delta Electric Cooperative during an early spring snow storm in the Upper Peninsula, a true meaning to Cooperation Among Cooperatives. The tie-line project between the Iola and Tigerton substations has been completed. We have joined forces with other Wisconsin cooperatives as well as Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois to develop an electric vehicle charging network. The group is called CHARGE EV. Mr. Wade ended his report by thanking the retiring directors Leonard Oppor and Tony Buss for their contributions to the co-op and wished them well in their retirement. He also thanked the members for their continued support of the Cooperative and the work that we do in the community.

Attorney Drew Parrish gave the results of the 2020 Director Election as follows:

District 1	Ron Onesti	154 votes
District 2	Lou Oppor	204 votes
District 2	Gregory Loeser	170 votes

Elected to three-year terms were Ron Onesti – District 1 and Lou Oppor – District 2.

Director Buss entertained any new business. Attorney Drew Parrish informed the membership of a change in Wisconsin State Law that allows cooperatives to hold their member meetings by virtual means and to allow them to pass "emergency bylaws" during times of crisis. He referenced the Resolution that was passed by the Board at their March meeting.

Director Buss thanked everyone for attending and reminded the membership that the drawing of door prizes would take place after the meeting and those winners will be posted on the Facebook page and in the June issue of the magazine. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m. Motion carried.

This concluded the 83rd Annual Meeting of the membership of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Lee Lehrer, SECRETARY/TREASURER

APPROVED:  
Tom Smith, CHAIRMAN



# MEET THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

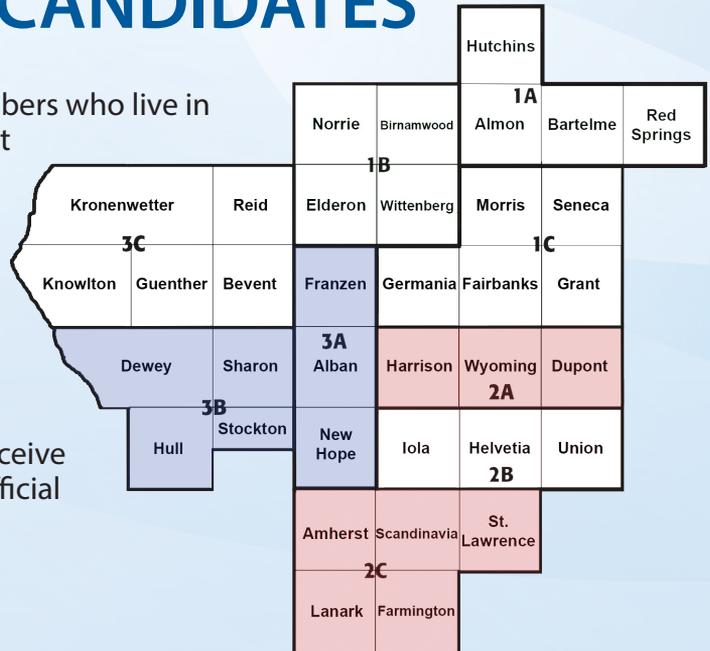
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) members who live in District 2 and District 3 have the opportunity to elect a new director in April to represent them.

Current Director Lee Lehrer is running for reelection and is unopposed in District 2.

The seat to represent District 3 is currently vacant. Rhonda Hollfelder and Allen Zander are facing each other in the election to fill the District 3 seat.

CWEC members in District 2 and District 3 should receive information on how to cast a ballot, as well as the official ballots, in the mail in early April.

Below is information about the candidates.



## DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE

**Lee J. Lehrer**  
Town of Harrison



Lee Lehrer has been serving the Cooperative as a director since 2008. Lee, who has been in the area with his wife Jan, since 1992, retired from Kaukauna Utilities in 2001 as a substation and power plant technician. Lee has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Program certificates. He is past President of the Kaukauna Kiwanis club and is active in his church. Raised on a farm, Lee has a keen interest in restoring old farm equipment and belongs to the local restoration clubs. Currently a Tree Farmer in Waupaca County, Township of Harrison, Lee is active in the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association and was president for the Wolf River Chapter. He is past president and vice president of the Iola Conservation Club, and helps at the Rosholt Food Pantry and St Joseph's Catholic Church.

## DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES

**Allen Zander**  
Town of Alban



Al Zander has been a member of CWEC for nearly 39 years and lives in the Town of Alban, Portage County. He retired from Coca-Cola in the spring of 2021 after 31 years of service. During his employment with Coca-Cola, he served as a route driver, service technician, warehouse manager, and distribution manager. Al is currently a member of the Rosholt Booster Club and was recently elected to a term on his church's council. His past service includes 18 years as a volunteer with the Rosholt Fire District and 16 years with the Rosholt First Responders. Al and his wife of 38 years, Janet, have two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys boating, working in the woods, making maple syrup and spending time with his family.

**Rhonda Hollfelder**  
Town of Dewey



Rhonda Hollfelder lives in the Town of Dewey, Portage County with her husband Tim and their two dogs Raven and Freddie. Her educational background includes a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota and an M.B.A. from Lakeland College. Rhonda joined Covance (now LabCorp) in 2001 and has steadily taken on new roles with added responsibilities which led to her current role as a proposal manager in clinical labs. In this role she collaborates globally across operations, finance, and sales in order to accurately estimate the time and cost of proposed research. Rhonda has served on the board of directors of Heartland Credit Union (a financial cooperative) for 11 years, including 9 years as the chair. For the last year she has also served on the Dewey Planning Commission. Outside of work Rhonda enjoys foraging, hunting & fishing, volunteering for local non-profits, reading, and getting her hands dirty in the garden.



# PROUD TO POWER OUR COMMUNITY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



**Lenore Peterson**  
Billing Coordinator  
44 years



**Dennis Magee**  
Assistant Operations Manager  
31 years



**Lila Shower**  
V.P. of Accounting and Finance  
28 years



**Lisa Hardel**  
Operations Support Specialist  
21 years



**Kevin Kurtzweil**  
V.P. of Operations  
19 years



**Patrick Ostrowski**  
Electrical Technician  
19 years



**Michelle Tessen**  
Plant Accounting Specialist  
17 years



**Stacy Claussen**  
Accounting Coordinator  
15 years



**Brenda Mazemke**  
Manager of Member Relations  
13 years



**Lori Elmhurst**  
Member Service Representative  
9 years



**Gabe Pospyhalla**  
Utility Technician  
9 years



**Mike Wade**  
President and CEO  
9 years



**Larry Hull**  
IT Coordinator  
8 years



**Lori Patoka**  
Manager of Administrative  
Services  
4 years



**Bert Lehman**  
Member Relations Specialist  
3 years



**Margaret Napiwocki**  
Billing Assistant  
1 year



# THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

## *Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11*

**Y**ou've likely noticed Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. The job requires technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience, and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, CWEC's lineworkers are

committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their homes and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. CWEC has seven lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,443 miles of power lines across four counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11.

### THANK A LINEMAN FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK!

Our linemen endure some pretty tough weather conditions to restore your power, but that doesn't stop them from restoring your power during an outage.

We celebrate our linemen who put their lives at risk to keep the power flowing through our communities. Thank you!



(Pictured L-R) Mack Yarbrough, 8 years, Operations Crew Leader; Nate Singer, 3 years, Apprentice Lineman; John Bestul, 12 years, Service Foreman; Jarret Brow, 1 year, Journeyman Lineman; Chris Tuszke, 30 years, Lineman; Josh Wick, 3 years, Apprentice Lineman; Wyatt Phillips, 1 year, Journeyman Lineman.

# CWEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,  
Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

www.cwecoop.com

Follow us on Twitter   
and Facebook

**Mike Wade, President & CEO**  
**Bert Lehman, Editor**

## Board of Directors

### District 1

Ron Onesti  
715-551-9257

Tom Smith  
Chairman  
715-701-2051

### District 2

Lee Lehrer  
Secretary-Treasurer  
920-851-4545  
715-677-3850

Lou Oppor  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
Vice Chairman  
715-370-1378

### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053

## Our Mission

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



**District 3**  
Sue Rombalski



**District 1**  
Ron Onesti



**District 1**  
Tom Smith  
Chairman



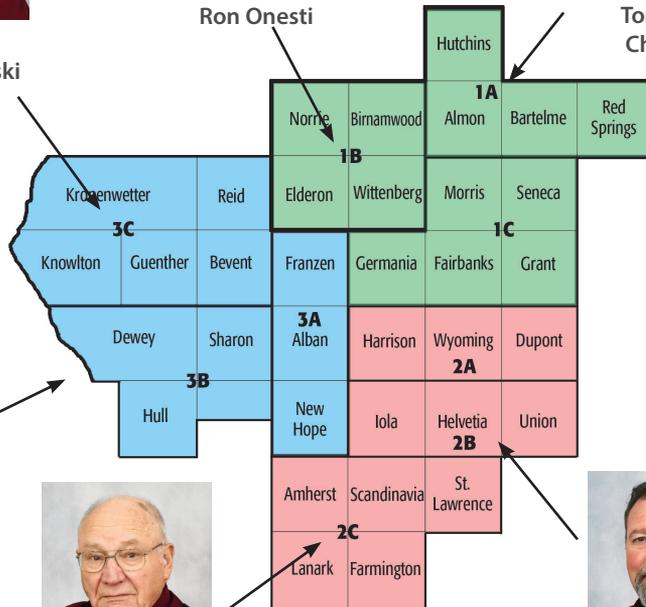
**At-Large Director**  
Michael Schultz  
Vice Chairman



**District 2**  
Lee Lehrer  
Secretary-Treasurer



**District 2**  
Lou Oppor



## MEETING RULES FOR 2022 IN-PERSON MEETING

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised edition.
2. Only members and duly recognized guests will be recognized by the Chair. Members will be recognized by their voting cards received at registration for the meeting.
3. Members should give their name and township when speaking. Each member's comments will be limited to three minutes with any rebuttal limited to two minutes.
4. Members will be limited to one question. If time allows, members may ask additional questions.
5. Questions and comments from members will be in order only during the unfinished and new business sessions, and at the conclusion of the officer reports, if invited.
6. Any advisory resolution a member wishes to propose at the Annual Meeting must be submitted no later than 90 days before the meeting so that the Resolutions Committee may review the proposed resolution.
7. All voting will be by delegate voting card; there will be no voice voting.
8. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the Annual Meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the Cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the Cooperative supports or opposes any resolution.
9. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

# CWEC MOVING TO NEW METER SYSTEM

In Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) continued commitment to provide safe and reliable power to its members, it will be moving to an updated metering infrastructure (AMI) system in the coming year.

For the past year, a committee consisting of CWEC employees, has been meeting and researching the metering change.

Switching to an updated AMI is needed because CWEC's current system is more than 10 years old and is becoming obsolete. A new AMI system will be more efficient and require less maintenance in the field than the current system.

The committee researching the project chose a system that includes

meters that use radio frequency. The new system will allow CWEC to read all of its meters without having to physically send a CWEC employee to read the meters where they are located.

"It's going to save money based on less labor time needed to read meters," said Kevin Kurtzweil, vice-president of Operations for CWEC.

He added that changing the AMI system is needed for the co-op to move forward with new technology, which helps provide safe and reliable power to members.

"We have to keep up with the times," Kurtzweil said. "The system we have now, the infrastructure is becoming obsolete. There is new, more advanced infrastructure that we're moving towards

to be able to easily read meters and gather more important data."

The new system will also allow CWEC to see real-time meter outages, which will help pinpoint where power outages are.

The new radio frequency system will require that all the CWEC meters be replaced with new meters. A date when this will happen has not been established yet. Prior to a full rollout of the new system, a pilot program will be done using a limited number of new meters to make sure the system is working properly.

Timeline updates for the project will be shared in WECN, as well as on the CWEC website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) and CWEC's Facebook page.

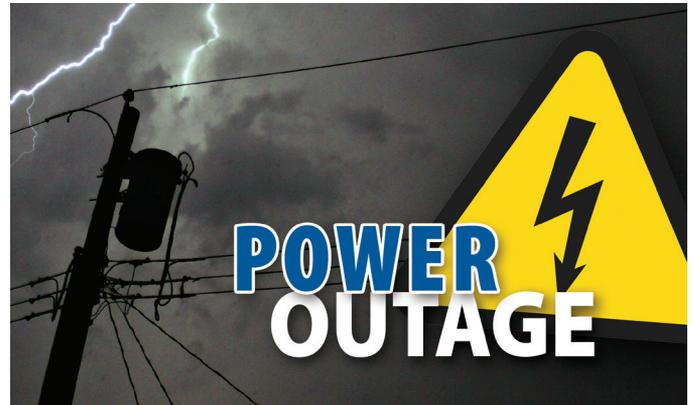
## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) does everything it can to avoid interruptions in your electric service. Unfortunately, sometimes there are situations beyond our control that cause power outages—severe weather such as lightning storms, high winds, freezing rain or snow; vehicle accidents; unforeseen equipment failures; tree branches touching power lines; and critters, to name a few.

Follow these steps when you think there may be an outage:

1. Check to see if electricity is off across your entire premises.
2. Check to see if there is power to your meter by physically walking out to your meter(s). If your meter has no digital display, then your power is out and you need to contact CWEC at 715-677-2211 or 1-800-377-2932. If the meter has a digital display, then you have power to the meter and the problem is within your electrical wiring and an electrician will need to be contacted to fix any problems on your side of the service.
3. If you have a circuit breaker system, check that the breaker is not tripped. Push handle to "Off" position before flipping it to the "Reset" position.
4. Check if fuses are blown and that they are secured in the holder.
5. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity.

If you determine that you are experiencing a power outage that is not because of something inside your residence, call



CWEC at 715-677-2211 or 1-800-377-2932. This number is available to call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please don't wait for someone else to report their power is out. Each call will help us accurately assess the situation and help us fix the outage faster. When calling CWEC to report an outage, it will be helpful if you have the following information available: name and address the CWEC account is under, your CWEC account number, and the cause of the outage if known.

Having current information is invaluable when reporting a power outage or other emergency. To help ensure all member information is up-to-date in our system, we encourage all CWEC members to notify us with any changes that need to be made to their account information.

Do not use Facebook to notify CWEC about a power outage, as the CWEC Facebook page is not monitored after hours or on weekends. Please report all power outages by calling 715-677-2211 or 1-800-377-2932.



# SNAPSHOTS OF 2021

## Commitment to Community



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

