

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

April 2024 NEWS

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**WE ARE YOUR TRUSTED ENERGY PARTNER AND PROVIDER OF VALUED COMMUNITY SUPPORT**



## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 18

To be held at Iola-Scandinavia High School

- Registration begins at 5:15 p.m.
- Bring this slip to the annual meeting and be entered for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit.
- Receive a \$20 bill credit for attending the meeting. (one per member)

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative  
Rosholt, Wisconsin

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

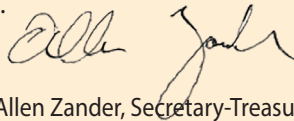
The annual meeting of the Members of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be held at the Iola-Scandinavia High School, located at 540 South Jackson Street, Iola, Wisconsin, on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 6:00 o'clock p.m. to consider and take action upon the following matters:

1. Reports of Officers, Directors, Committee and Management.
11. 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 1 and 2.

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 15th day of February 2024.



Allen Zander, Secretary-Treasurer

## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**Iola-Scandinavia High School  
540 S Jackson Street, Iola, WI**

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

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

- Receive a \$20 bill credit for attending the meeting (one per member).
- Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April 2024 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 the  
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

# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

It is with great pleasure that I am able to pen the “Year 2023 in Review” for our membership. It

has been a challenging and rewarding time for the Board of Directors and our cooperative family. We all worked diligently to set goals and achieve those things necessary to serve our members.

One of the most important duties a board is faced with is upholding the fiduciary responsibility of leadership to its members. “Fiduciary responsibility is the obligation to treat the resources of the organization as a trust, and the responsible Board will ensure that these resources are utilized in a reasonable, appropriate, and legally accountable manner.”

Due to the absence of a CEO for part of the year, many necessary responsibilities became apparent to the Board of Directors. Among those responsibilities were many hours of lengthy discussions and decision-making processes for the following:

- Appointing and hiring a new CEO for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.
- Creating an updated strategic plan for the cooperative moving forward.
- Reviewing and setting expectations

for future expenditures because of inflation.

- Setting a fiscally responsible budget.
- Keeping informed through WECA/NRECA (state and national) of changes in the electrical industry.

While CWEC was without a CEO, Lila Shower and Kevin Kurtzweil stepped up during that time to serve as co-interim president and CEO. The board thanks both Lila and Kevin for assuming that responsibility while moving the cooperative forward.

During the year, CWEC embarked on many projects, including:

- 68 new connections
- Replacing 3.4 miles of #6 solid overhead conductor
- Grounding and adding gravel to the Almon Substation
- Replacing unjacketed single-phase and three-phase cable
- Replacing poles that inspections showed needed to be replaced
- Hazard recognition of all overhead lines
- Replacing the automated meter infrastructure (AMI)
- Brush and tree trimming of 120 miles off the Iola Substation circuits
- Underground cable inspections
- Preventative maintenance inspection of the Tigerton Substation
- Oil circuit recloser maintenance

Speaking of our new AMI system, after a delay due to supply-chain issues, work continued in 2023 on replacing the meters the cooperative uses. The new meters are required for an updated metering infrastructure system CWEC is moving toward as part of a commitment to provide safe and reliable power to its members. As of this writing, we have completed 94% of the project.

Other noteworthy items regarding the cooperative from throughout the year included:

- Sending two linemen to work on the Navajo Nation lighting project.
- Increasing the monthly facility charge of \$5—a slight increase to the demand charge and a slight increase to the kilowatt hour charge.
- Retirement of capital credits.
- No major storms.

As 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 to the cooperative.

We look forward to 2024 and will strive to continue to provide our members safe and reliable energy. I look forward to seeing you at our 86th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:52 a.m. on January 25, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the December 28, 2023 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. The Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The board approved the following meeting date changes: The August, November, and December 2024 meeting dates are as follows: August 21, 2024, November 21, 2024, and December 19, 2024.
- The Nominations committee approved the following candidates for the 2024 election: District 1, Ron Onesti, unopposed;

- District 2, Nathan Reichle and Louis (Lou) Oppor-Incumbent.
- The Public Monthly Benefit charge was changed from \$1.67 to \$1.33.
- Several board members and staff attended the premier of the Mohican 2022 Storm Documentary in Bowler.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil gave an update on the HVAC and humidifier systems. Allegiant is handling member complaints regarding the installation of the new meters.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. All documentation has been sent to the auditors. Inventory was conducted in January with no issues.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported there are still a few openings for the MAG Board. The Toys for Tots Campaign helped 1,133 area children. The new meters for the solar demo output have been installed. 2024 Operation Round Up is on the website.

President and CEO – Lila Shower, CEO, reported on her submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

# BALANCE SHEETS

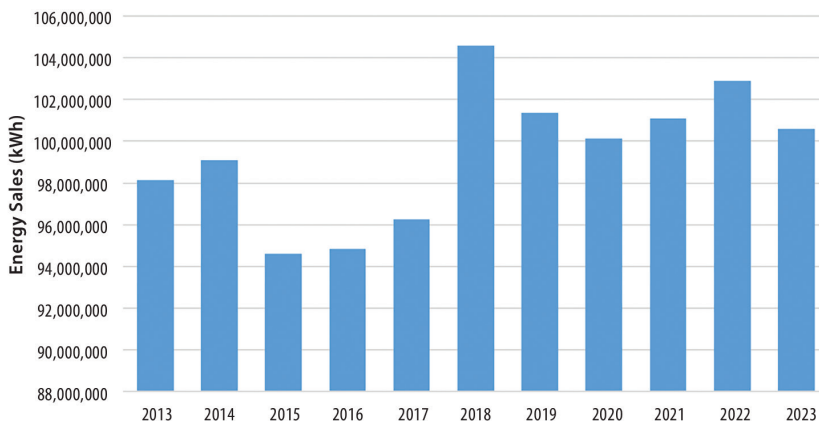
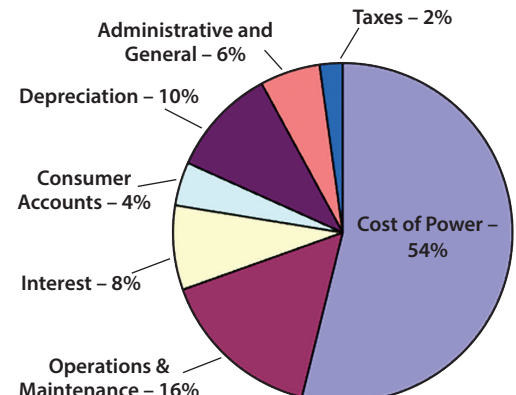
## December 31, 2023 and 2022

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Unaudited 2023</b>	<b>Audited 2022</b>
<b>UTILITY PLANT</b>		
Plant in Service	73,130,180	71,795,903
Riverside Plant Assets Not In Service	64,179	13,962
Construction Work in Progress	3,622,778	536,146
Total	<u>76,817,137</u>	<u>72,346,011</u>
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(25,712,254)	(23,909,499)
Net Utility Plant	<b>51,104,883</b>	<b>48,436,512</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS</b>		
Investment in Associated Organizations	9,141,409	10,099,104
Other Investments	8,473	8,473
Notes Receivable, Net	418,938	605,628
Nonutility Property, Net	—	—
Total Other Assets and Investments	<u><b>9,568,820</b></u>	<u><b>10,713,205</b></u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,127,038	771,671
Accounts Receivable, Net	2,553,524	2,489,282
Current Portion of Notes Receivable	175,819	172,022
Materials and Supplies Inventory	849,175	891,004
Other Current and Accrued Assets	205,691	207,952
Total Current Assets	<u><b>4,911,247</b></u>	<u><b>4,531,931</b></u>
<b>DEFERRED DEBITS</b>	<u><b>89,274</b></u>	<u><b>137,337</b></u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>\$65,674,224</b></u>	<u><b>\$63,818,985</b></u>
<b>EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>Unaudited 2023</b>	<b>Audited 2022</b>
<b>EQUITIES</b>		
Patronage Capital	20,431,066	18,125,741
Other Equities	3,572,823	3,379,181
Total Equities	<u><b>24,003,889</b></u>	<u><b>21,504,922</b></u>
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT (Less Current Maturities)</b>	<b>36,912,807</b>	<b>36,856,014</b>
<b>OTHER NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accumulated Employee Benefits	53,283	50,834
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	<u><b>53,283</b></u>	<u><b>50,834</b></u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	1,910,000	1,868,000
Notes Payable - Line of Credit	—	855,000
Accounts Payable	1,002,460	1,284,683
Consumer Deposits	46,914	48,314
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,049,985	981,982
Total Current Liabilities	<u><b>4,009,359</b></u>	<u><b>5,037,979</b></u>
<b>DEFERRED CREDITS</b>	<u><b>694,886</b></u>	<u><b>369,236</b></u>
<b>Total Equities and Liabilities</b>	<u><b>\$65,674,224</b></u>	<u><b>\$63,818,985</b></u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL**

Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<b>Unaudited 2023</b>	<b>Audited 2022</b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>19,349,766</b>	<b>18,109,724</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Power Production Expense	(244,621)	(358,522)
Cost of Power	7,646,941	7,847,110
Transmission Expense – Operations	1,554,599	1,533,696
Distribution Expense – Operations	1,144,913	1,118,150
Distribution Expense – Maintenance	1,531,442	1,496,418
Consumer Accounts	622,229	549,814
Customer Service and Informational	315,591	327,602
Sales Expense	87,248	89,469
Administrative and General	979,489	1,263,512
Depreciation	1,766,377	1,846,299
Taxes	374,517	310,011
Other Deductions	47,236	57,279
Total Operating Expenses	<u>15,825,961</u>	<u>16,080,838</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>3,523,805</b>	<b>2,028,886</b>
<b>INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT AND LINE OF CREDIT</b>	<u>1,374,228</u>	<u>1,401,194</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>2,149,577</b>	<b>627,692</b>
<b>OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS</b>	<u>240,504</u>	<u>207,324</u>
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b>2,390,081</b>	<b>835,016</b>
<b>NONOPERATING MARGINS</b>		
Interest and Dividend Income	213,979	205,401
Other Nonoperating Income	288,637	256,642
<b>Total Nonoperating Margins</b>	<u>502,616</u>	<u>462,043</u>
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b><u>\$2,892,697</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,297,059</u></b>
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$18,125,741</b>	<b>17,634,613</b>
Net Margins less Other Nonoperating Income (Loss)	2,655,491	983,064
Capital Credit Retirement	(428,284)	(491,936)
Other Equity Changes	–	–
<b>PATRONAGE CAPITAL – END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$20,352,948</u></b>	<b><u>\$18,125,741</u></b>

**HISTORICAL ENERGY (KWH) SALES****2023 EXPENSES**

## Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative • Rosholt, Wisconsin

# ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES • APRIL 13, 2023

Board Chairman Tom Smith welcomed the membership to the 85th Annual Meeting of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative at 6:00 p.m., which was held at the Rosholt High School Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a recognition of all veterans and service personnel. Reverend Michael Peuse gave the invocation. The Board of Directors was introduced to the membership.

Kevin Kurtzweil, Co-Interim CEO/VP of Operations, provided a safety message. Chairman Smith introduced the special guests. The meeting was then called to order by Chairman Smith.

Director Lehrer announced that in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws, we have sufficient members in attendance and registered to constitute a quorum. A correction was announced regarding the Official Notice of Annual Meeting that was printed in the magazine, noting the Director candidates were from Districts 1, 3 and Director-At-Large, and not District 2. Motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Notice of Meeting as presented. Motion carried. Motion was then made and seconded to close the balloting. Motion carried. Motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the April 19, 2022 minutes. Motion carried. Motion was then made and seconded to approve the April 19, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Attorney John Behling of the Weld Riley S.C. Law Firm reviewed the Proposed Bylaw Amendment. Chairman Smith called for approval of the Bylaw amendment. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Bylaw amendment as presented. Motion carried.

Kevin Kurtzweil, Co-Interim CEO/VP of Operations, gave his Operations Report, focusing on the outage recap numbers for 2022, the causes of them and the storms. 2023 distribution inspections were also reviewed along with vegetation management dollars. Photos were shared of the Dewey Substation improvements. Also reviewed were the projects completed in 2022. We are experiencing supply chain challenges and seeing price increases of 62%-65% for padmount and overhead transformers, and a price increase of 74%-96% for primary cable, all with a 1-1/2 year lead time for delivery.

Lila Shower, Co-Interim CEO/VP of Accounting and Finance, gave the Treasurer's Report, focusing on key statistics and highlights from 2022. Net margins came in at \$1,297,059. Total utility plant is at \$72,346,011 which represents new line extensions, system upgrades and conversions and capital expenditures. Electric utilities are very capital intensive and we have \$36 million in long-term debt. Our remaining unretired capital credits are \$17.1 million, giving us an equity ratio of 34.02%. In 2022, the

Board of Directors approved retiring \$491,936 in capital credits. The rate increases that went into effect on March 1, 2023 and the investment in West Riverside Generation Plant were also reviewed.

Chairman Smith gave the Board Chairman's Report, noting the co-op completed several projects in 2022 in an effort to improve service reliability and safety. Supply chain issues have delayed the new metering system that was to be installed this year, the project will move forward when all supplies are received. Several of our member businesses and dairy farmers took advantage of the energy conservation rewards and received rebates from completing energy efficiency projects. We continue to be involved with our communities. We have participated in CoBank's "Sharing Success" charitable contribution program and introduced a new STEAM Grant Program to help extend resources to area schools to support science, technology, engineering, art and math projects. In closing, Chairman Smith thanked all the employees and the Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication to the co-op.

Attorney John Behling of the Weld Riley S.C. Law Firm gave the results of the 2023 Director Election as follows:

District 1	Tom Smith	235 votes
	Michael Schultz	130 votes*
	(Director-At-Large)	
District 2	Michael Schultz	196 votes*
	(Director-At-Large)	
District 3	Sue Rombalski	275 votes
	Michael Schultz	179 votes*
	(Director-At-Large)	

\*Total all 3 Districts for Michael Schultz 505 votes

Elected to three-year terms were Tom Smith – District 1, Michael Schultz – District 2 Director-At-Large, and Sue Rombalski – District 3.

Director Smith entertained any unfinished or new business. None noted. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Motion carried.

This concluded the 85th 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 1 and District 2 have the opportunity to elect a director in April to represent them.

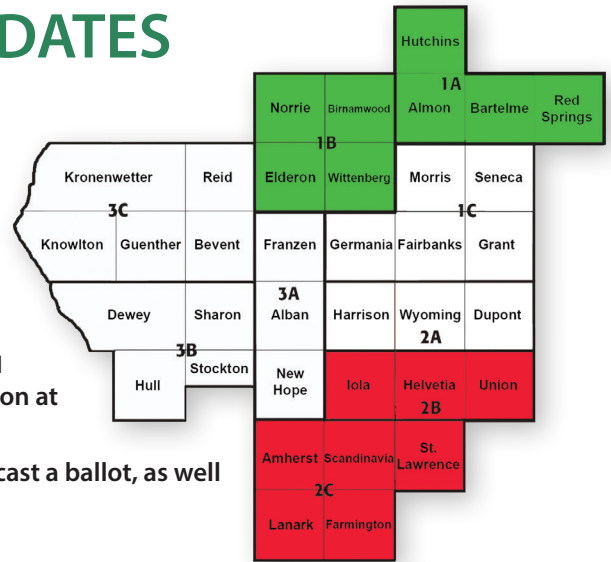
Current Director Ron Onesti is running for reelection and is unopposed in District 1.

The seat to represent District 2 is currently held by Lou Oppor. Oppor is being challenged by Nathan Reichle for the District 2 seat.

Since the District 1 race is uncontested, CWEC members in District 1 will not receive ballots in the mail. Those members will vote in-person at the CWEC Annual Meeting on April 18.

CWEC members in District 2 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 1 CANDIDATE

### Ron Onesti, Town of Almon



Ronald Onesti, a cooperative member who has lived in Shawano County in the Township of Almon with his wife of 54 years, Patricia, since 1969, has served as a director for the cooperative for 12 years. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Program certificates and has completed his gold status. He has farmed in the area all his life. In 1998 he sold his cows and went into custom crop work and is semi-retired. Twelve years ago, he sold part of his farm, but still custom crops his remaining land and is a seed salesperson for Legacy. He was town supervisor for 16 years. Ron enjoys working in the woods, bowling, woodworking, and spending time with his family, which includes three grandchildren.

## DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

### Louis (Lou) Oppor - Incumbent, Town of St. Lawrence



Louis (Lou) Oppor and his wife, Michelle, live near Scandinavia in the Township of St. Lawrence. Lou was elected to the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 2021, now completing his first term and seeking a second term. Lou is currently vice president of the Board of Directors. Prior to being elected to the board, Lou was a member of the cooperative's Member Advisory Committee for three years. Lou states, "The co-op has many challenges ahead of us in the coming years such as hardening our electrical grid, preparing for the increase of electric vehicles, which will put a heavier burden on our system, adapting to green energy, and continuing to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective services to our members." As a member himself, he recognizes the value of keeping the lights on. Lou retired from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services in 2015, where he was responsible for the administration of statewide mental health and substance abuse services (Behavioral Health Services). Lou has received numerous state and national awards for his outstanding service in promoting behavioral health throughout the nation. In addition, Lou is vice president of the Wisconsin Behavioral Health Association. Lou would like to continue to use his administrative skills to improve services for cooperative members.

### Nathan Reichle, Town of Helvetia



Nathan Reichle has been a pastor since 2006 and at St. Paul, Manawa, since 2015. His career has been spent serving on boards for not-for-profit organizations. His expertise at searching Scripture to learn what it means equips him for the work of understanding the information necessary to make wise decisions for the operations of the cooperative. While his degrees are not in finance or engineering, the members of St. Paul, Manawa, are references for Pastor Reichle's capabilities. Since 2010, Pastor Reichle has been entrusted to support and build up new pastors and their families, which shows his value as a leader and contributor to community health. Reichle is interested in the factors that determine the cost of electricity and exploring opportunities that will improve the reliability of electric service. Since 2016, Nathan, his wife of 20 years, and their four children, have lived in Helvetia where they raise chickens and beef cattle.

Jarret Brow, 3 years, Journeyman Lineman; Alex Lutz, 2 years, Apprentice Lineman; Mack Yarbrough, 10 years, Crew Foreman; Josh Wick, 5 years, Journeyman Lineman; Alex Cronk, 2 years, Apprentice Lineman; Nate Singer, 5 years, Journeyman Lineman; Gabe Pospyhalla, 11 years, Journeyman Lineman; Chris Tuszke, 32 years, Journeyman Lineman; and Wyatt Phillips, 3 years, Journeyman Lineman.



## WHATEVER IT TAKES: Lineworkers Power Life

**C**entral Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) lineworkers work every day in all weather conditions to make sure our community has the power to live their lives. It's hard work, but it's very rewarding. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, we hope this will give you a better look into what the lineworkers face and more importantly, why they do it.

**The Danger** A lot of people know linework is dangerous because lineworkers work near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. They have to be aware of their surroundings and the safety of the person next to them. They often work on energized power lines, and they can't always tell the lines are energized by just looking at them. They work with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because when you need power most is usually when the weather is worst. Lineworkers often work in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what they're trained to do.

Many may not realize it, but lineworkers undergo years of training before they can officially be called a lineworker. They typically start as a groundperson, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe, then transition to apprentice status, which typically spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under their belts, they transition to journeyman lineworker status—that's when they're considered officially trained in the field.

But the education is ongoing. Lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

**The Physical Demand** The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any complaints about that. They know what they signed up for—loading heavy materials, climbing poles and in and out of buckets. A lot of times, they go places the trucks can't, such as hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment. But that's the job. Most are just glad to be outside.

**The Sacrifices** There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. They are often first on the scene of an emergency. They don't know what type of situation they're going to face or when they're going to face it. They get calls at all hours and in the middle of the night. They miss family events, but their families are very supportive, and it pays off in the end. They make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

**It's Worth It** One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. The co-op is their second family, and the line crews are a brotherhood. In this work, they have to depend on the person beside them in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork, and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside them safe and the lights on for everybody else.

They have a lot of pride in their work. Even when it's cold and wet, they know they're working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone yell "Thank you" from the window after the lights come back on or seeing people flipping the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored.

We thank the CWEC lineworkers for all they do.





# AREA COMMUNITIES RECEIVE MORE THAN ELECTRICITY FROM CWEC

The number one goal of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is to provide electricity to its members as efficiently, safely, and cost-effectively as possible. While CWEC strives to achieve that, the co-op also strives to help and support the communities that it serves in other ways.

The co-op believes that providing electricity and support to the communities in its service territory go hand-in-hand. That importance is reflected in the CWEC mission statement, which states “We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.”

Concern for Community is also one of the seven principles that CWEC follows.

There are many ways in which CWEC provides support in the communities it serves.

## Energy Conservation Rewards

In order to make energy projects more affordable for its members, CWEC offers rebates for all sorts of upgrades. This includes lighting, power strips, water flow restrictors, heating and cooling, energy audits, weatherization, household appliances, and electric water heaters. There are also energy conservation rebates available for agriculture, commercial, and industrial customers.

As of January 1, 2024, many of these offerings have increased for energy efficiency purchases including home heating and cooling fixtures, insulation, and Energy Star rated appliances.

**Operation Round Up** Operation Round Up is a program designed to raise funds for charitable organizations, individuals in need, and educational purposes. As the name suggests, participating members’ bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar. These funds are then administered by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, which is comprised of CWEC members. One hundred percent of the money collected is given to local concerns with no funds used for electric bills, administrative costs, or political purposes.

Operation Round Up funds are also used to provide scholarships to CWEC members or their dependent children who are attending college, vocational, or technical college.

Since the inception of the program, almost \$650,000 has been donated.

**Small Business Loans** In an effort to enhance the economic well-being of the communities CWEC serves, the co-op offers a couple of different financing options for new and expanding businesses.

The funds for this program are received from USDA’s Rural Economic Development program, and used as a Revolving Loan fund (RLF) established by CWEC. Low-rate loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 are available to qualifying businesses for expansion projects and start-ups. Loans are subject to credit approval and fund availability.



Operation Round Up provides funds for local groups, such as the Iola-Scandinavia Forest/Jorgens Park Reserve.

**STEAM Grants** Knowing the value of education and training, as well as understanding that classrooms may have limited funding to pursue the projects needed to educate students in local communities, CWEC offers STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) grants to local schools. Area public schools that are eligible to

apply include Bowler, Iola-Scandinavia, Rosholt, Tigerton, and Wittenberg-Birnamwood. Public charter, private, and home schools within the townships that CWEC serves are also eligible to apply.

A total of \$5,500 has been given to area schools through STEAM grants since the program began in 2022.

**Food Pantry Donations** Each year CWEC hosts two donation drives for non-perishable food items. The collected items are then donated to local food pantries. The first donation drive is at the CWEC Annual Meeting held each April. The second donation drive is at the CWEC Annual Member Appreciation Breakfast. At these events, CWEC members who donate three non-perishable food items receive a free LED light bulb.

The co-op also periodically makes monetary donations to local food pantries.

## Safe Electricity Demonstrations

Each May, in conjunction with National Electrical Safety Month, linemen from CWEC conduct electrical safety demonstrations for fourth-grade students at six elementary schools in the CWEC service territory. Elementary schools include those located in Birnamwood, Bowler, Iola, Rosholt, Tigerton, and Wittenberg.

The demonstrations show students firsthand the dangers that could occur if they aren’t safe around electricity.

CWEC also has an electricity hotline setup built on a trailer geared for electricity safety demonstrations at high schools and for community groups.

**Toys for Tots** For more than 20 years CWEC has partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to organize a Toys for Tots campaign in the CWEC service area each Christmas. Through the campaign, CWEC provides help to area families in need by supplying donated toys to the families, so they can give their children Christmas presents. Each year the campaign provides toys to more than 1,000 area children.

# CWEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**District 3**  
Sue Rombalski



**District 3**  
Allen Zander  
Secretary-Treasurer



**District 1**  
Ron Onesti



**At-Large Director**  
Michael Schultz



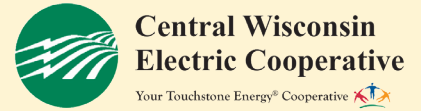
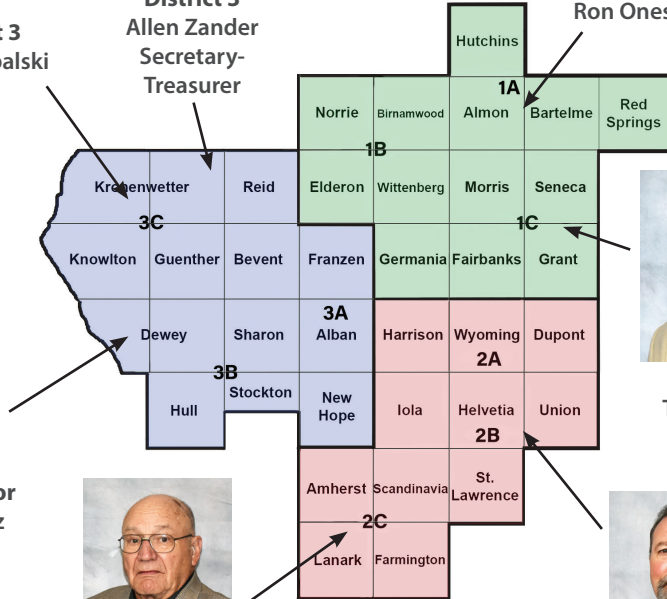
**District 2**  
Lee Lehrer



**District 1**  
Tom Smith  
Chairman



**District 2**  
Lou Oppor  
Vice Chairman



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

www.cwecoop.com

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**Lila Shower, 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  
920-851-4545 – cell  
715-677-3850 – home

Lou Oppor  
Vice Chairman  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
715-370-1378

**District 3**  
Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053 - cell  
715-341-4571 - home

Allen Zander  
Secretary-Treasurer  
715-630-8239

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

## ANNUAL MEETING RULES AND VOTING PROCEDURES

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 officer reports and the unfinished and new business sessions.
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.

# PROUD TO POWER OUR COMMUNITY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



**Lenore Peterson**  
Billing Coordinator  
46 years



**Dennis Magee**  
Assistant Operations Manager  
33 years



**Lila Shower**  
President & CEO  
30 years



**Lisa Hardel**  
Operations Support Specialist  
23 years



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



**Patrick Ostrowski**  
Electrical Technician  
21 years



**Michelle Tessen**  
Plant Accounting Specialist  
19 years



**Stacy Claussen**  
Manager of Accounting & Finance  
17 years



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



**Lori Elmhurst**  
Member Service Representative  
11 years



**Bert Lehman**  
Member Relations Specialist  
5 years



**Margaret Napiwocki**  
Billing Assistant  
3 year



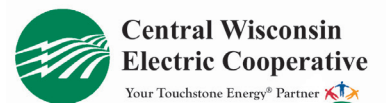
**John LaValley**  
Energy Specialist  
2 year



**Jodi Brumer**  
Administrative Assistant  
1 year



**Tyler Tautges**  
Line Design Technician  
1 year





# SNAPSHOTS OF 2023

## Commitment to Community



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

