



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

OPERATION ROUND UP HELPS CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES

Ready or not, a new school year is fast approaching. It feels like summer had just begun, and here I am talking about kids heading back to school.

This includes students who will be attending technical schools and colleges. And thanks to the generosity of members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), some of those students heading off to technical school or college will be receiving some financial assistance in the form of CWEC Operation Round Up scholarships. The scholarships are paid with funds collected from CWEC members who elect to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next dollar. On average, this rounding up averages out to around \$6 per year, but it has a huge impact on our scholarship recipients.

Operation Round Up is a program designed to raise funds for charitable organizations, individuals in need, and educational purposes, with 100% of the funds given to local charitable organiza-

tions, individuals in need, and educational purposes. None of the funds are used for electric bills, administrative costs, or political purposes. The CWEC Operation Round Up Trust Board oversees the funds, and decides how the funds will be disbursed. The board meets quarterly during the year to review the applications for Operation Round Up funds, including scholarship applications.

As we do each year in the August issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, we are sharing information with our members about those who were awarded CWEC Operation Round Up scholarships for the first time. This includes a photo of each student, where the student plans to attend school, and what area of study the student is planning to pursue. Each of the students were awarded a \$500 scholarship. See pages 16 & 17 for the list of first-time CWEC Operation Round Up scholarship recipients.

Thank you to all of our members who are enrolled in Operation Round Up for helping these students work toward their academic goals.

Speaking of going back to school, let's not forget the elementary, middle school, and high school students who will be heading back to school the end of August. August is Back-to-School Safety Month, so let's remember to play it safe as we begin a new school year. A friendly reminder to slow down as you drive through residential areas and school zones.

While the end of the summer may be in sight, we are working hard in an effort to complete projects within the co-op's electric grid. Summer is a time when the cooperative gets much of its construction and inspection work completed. Our line crews and contractors are busy extending new electric service to our members and performing needed maintenance work.

Our vegetation management contractor is clearing around our overhead facilities so that we can access the lines during storms and bad weather. In many cases, our line crews and contractors are working along town and county roads. If you see our crews working along the roadside, remember their safety and slow down or move over.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 8:00 a.m. on May 29, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of April 24, 2025, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- The Board approved the 2024 Audit.
- Chairman Zander was chosen to be the delegate voting for the CFC Forum and Lila Shower is the alternate.
- Director Pamperin was chosen to be the delegate voting for the WECA District 4 Meeting.
- Directors Oppor and Schultz were chosen to be director nominees for the Badger Power Annual Meeting with Chairman Zander as the alternate.

Operations and Engineering—Mr. Kurtzweil reported on his submitted report. Sannes Substation work is complete. Kevin requested the board to change the charge for replacing meter poles from \$600 to \$800. The board approved this change it will be in effect on July 1st.

Accounting and Finance—Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for January was -\$0.00000. On May 16th 288 disconnect notices were sent out.

Member Services—Lila Shower reported on the submitted Member Services Report. The electric safety poster winners were chosen. Safety Electric Demonstrations were held at area schools for all 4th grade students. All the Operation Round Up scholarships awarded to high school seniors were presented to them at their respective senior award ceremonies.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

Congratulations!

TO OUR 2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kyle Brady



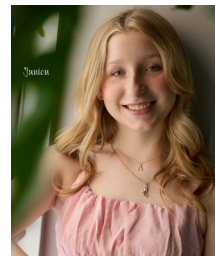
Gabriel Dahlstrom



Owen Dickman



Baylee Donovan



Alina Firkus



Evelyn Fletcher



Ava Graff



Deryck Graham



Kayla Hintz



Abby Jackan



Caydence Johnson



Daniel Kurszewski

With donations from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's members through the Operation Round Up program, \$22,900 has been awarded to students pursuing a post-high school education. Of that total, \$16,500 was approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board to be awarded to first-time scholarship applicants who will be attending a technical college or university. The 33 students who will be receiving a \$500 scholarship are listed below.

CWEC also awarded \$200 Operation Round Up scholarships to 32 repeat scholarship applicants.

We thank our members who participate in the Operation Round Up program.

Trinity Bestul, Iola, Fox Valley Technical College, Veterinarian Technician

Kylee Beversdorf, Wittenberg, Viterbo University, Nursing

Kyle Brady, Tigerton, Fox Valley Technical College, Diesel Equipment Technology

Gabriel Dahlstrom, Tigerton, Northcentral Technical College, Criminal Justice

Owen Dickman, Eland, Fox Valley Technical College, Mechanical Design

Baylee Donovan, Scandinavia, UW-Madison, Biology (Pre-Medicine)

Alina Firkus, Mosinee, UW-Milwaukee, Occupational Therapy

Evelyn Fletcher, Wittenberg, UW-La Crosse, Exercise Science (Pre-Professional Athletic Training)

Ava Graff, Eland, UW-River Falls, Animal Science

Deryck Graham, Tigerton, UW-Stevens Point, Political Science

Kayla Hintz, Mosinee, UW-Madison, Elementary Education

Abby Jackan, Eland, UW-Stevens Point (Wausau), Electrical Engineering

Caydence Johnson, Iola, Northcentral Technical College, Radiography

Daniel Kurszewski, Rosholt, Northcentral Technical College, Electromechanical Engineering

Thomas Lemaczyk, Rosholt, Northcentral Technical College, Wood Science

Evan Loiselle, Scandinavia, Northern Michigan University, Pre-Dental

Maverick Maas, Tigerton, Mississippi State University Online, Geosciences

Cody Mlodik, Wittenberg, Three Rivers Community College, Welding

Addison Niemuth, Ogdensburg, Fox Valley Technical College, Master Esthetician and Entrepreneurial Studies

Keegan O'Donnell, Rosholt, Ripon College, Business/Finance Analytics

Kylie Ostrowski, Eland, UW-Oshkosh, Nursing (Photo not available)

Ava Paiser, Bowler, UW-Eau Claire, Science of Nursing

Makenna Probyn, Custer, UW-Stevens Point, Pre-Physical

Therapy

Mara Raddatz, Amherst Junction, UW-Stevens Point, Biology

Vivian Resch, Eland, Ripon College, Exercise Science and Sports Management

Ethan Schmidt, Eland, Mid State Technical College, Mechanical Design Engineer

Dakota Schreiber, Birnamwood, Northcentral Technical College, Master Auto Mechanics

Rae Ann Strehlow, Tigerton, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Nursing

Paige Treptow, Bowler, Northcentral Technical College, Dental Hygiene

Trekk Tubbs, Amherst Junction, Hamline University, Political Science

Charles Vater, Iola, UW-La Crosse, Computer Science

Bailey Walejko, Iola, UW-River Falls, Animal Science

Isabell Zychowicz, Tigerton, UW-Stevens Point, Natural Resources



Thomas Lemanczyk



Evan Loiselle



Maverick Maas



Cody Mlodik



Addison Niemuth



Keegan O'Donnell



Ava Paiser



Makenna Probyn



Mara Raddatz



Vivian Resch



Ethan Schmidt



Dakota Schreiber



Rae Ann Strehlow



Paige Treptow



Trekk Tubbs



Charles Vater



Bailey Walejko



Isabell Zychowicz

SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB TODAY

SmartHub is the revolutionary way to track and manage your electric bill. You can access this application both online and through your mobile device. SmartHub allows you to: track daily and monthly energy usage, view past bills, compare average monthly usage, compare usage by month, receive notifications from the co-op, view and pay your bill online, and sign up for outage texting. Creating an account is simple, and takes under three minutes. Simply enter your information, choose your provider, and you're ready to begin. Additionally, SmartHub is safe and secure; you won't have to worry about any issues between your bank and the application. SmartHub is available for download on both Apple and Android.



**SAVE THE
DATE!**

The CWEC Member
Appreciation Breakfast
will be held
Saturday, Oct. 25

**DON'T MISS
the DEADLINE**

PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to enter photos in the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's annual "Life in Rural Wisconsin" photo contest is Aug. 25. Photos from the contest will be featured in the 2026 CWEC calendar.



Photo Contest Entry Options:

Email: Bert Lehman at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com

Mail: PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

Online: www.cwecoop.com/member-photo-contest

Drop Off: Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Office – 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size if dropped off at our office.)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website at: www.cwecoop.com.

10 SIMPLE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY IN HOMES

1. UNPLUG UNUSED APPLIANCES

Do you really need that second refrigerator or freezer? A second refrigerator can cost \$60 to \$200 per year to run, and a second freezer typically costs \$50 to \$175 per year.

2. PROGRAM YOUR THERMOSTAT

Set your thermostat to the coolest temperature in the winter and the warmest temperature in the summer that keeps you comfortable — the smaller the gap between your thermostat setpoint and the outdoor temperature, the more you'll save. You may also benefit from a programmable or smart thermostat if your ducts have been sealed. If you have a heat pump, consult with an HVAC contractor to confirm that an outdoor thermostat is wired to the unit to help save more money during the heating season.



3. SET YOUR HVAC FAN TO "AUTO"

Putting your thermostat fan setting on "auto" rather than "on" ensures that your heating and cooling system runs only when it needs to rather than all of the time. Using the "auto" setting can save up to \$300 to \$400 per year.

4. REPLACE YOUR MOST FREQUENTLY USED LIGHTS

A 15-watt light-emitting diode (LED) produces the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb while using 75 percent less energy and lasting longer. Get started by replacing your most frequently used lights with ENERGY STAR certified LED lightbulbs. These bulbs are energy efficient, produce quality light and will last for years. As an additional way to save, remember to turn off lights whenever possible. Energy-saving tip: Add motion sensors on outdoor security lights.

5. INSTALL A LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEAD

Showers make up about 17 percent of all indoor water use. Replacing a 2.5-gpm showerhead with a low-flow 1.5-gpm showerhead could save 40 percent in water consumption as well as energy used for heating water. Look for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense labeled showerheads, which use less water while maintaining a quality spray that easily removes bathing products. Be careful not to twist off the pipe coming out of the wall when replacing the showerhead.

6. REPLACE OLD APPLIANCES

When preparing to replace aging appliances, consider ENERGY STAR certified products. ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators can save you more than \$200 over their lifetime, while ENERGY STAR certified clothes washers should save more than \$500 and use 30 percent less water. In addition, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative offers Energy Conservation Rewards to its members who purchase appliances that are ENERGY STAR certified.

7. INSULATE YOUR ATTIC

Attic insulation can be a cost-effective option to help save energy and improve home comfort. To add insulation, ensure that the total insulation depth meets the local building code or has a recommended depth of 12" to 15". Consider air sealing before insulating your attic to help save money.

8. CONSIDER AIR SEALING

Air sealing gaps, cracks and holes between your conditioned living space and an unconditioned attic will stop heated and cooled air from leaving your home, but adding insulation alone will not. A certified BPI or RESNET contractor will point out air sealing opportunities and also consider combustion safety and potential moisture concerns. Air sealing before insulating your attic will help you save money and improve comfort.

9. CHECK FOR AND REPAIR LEAKY DUCTWORK


It is not unusual for 20 percent of all heating and cooling energy to be lost through leaky duct joints. That means for every \$5 spent on heating and cooling, \$1 is wasted due to air leakage. You can enjoy the benefits of a good duct system by sealing your ducts with mastic instead of duct tape. Mastic is a gooey paste that can be slathered on ductwork joints in your system. You can check the ductwork closest to your furnace or heat pump fan to see if mastic is used. If it is not, have an HVAC contractor familiar with ENERGY STAR compliant ductwork apply it properly. Repairing leaky ductwork can improve indoor air quality by reducing the risk of pollutants entering ducts and circulating in your home.

10. SMART POWER STRIPS

Turning off your television, computer and video game consoles when not in use can save you up to \$80 per year. However, electronics may continue to draw power even when powered "off." Consider unplugging these or using smart power strips to completely turn off unused electronics while leaving memory-based home entertainment systems in sleep mode.



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Our Mission

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