



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



As we enter the holiday season, it is time to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for. I am especially grateful to be associated with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative and the role it plays in supporting our local communities and providing our members with safe and reliable electric energy. The cooperative has had a productive year and we are expecting great things in the new year.

This summer CWEC applied for two grants from the federal government's Grid Resilience Program. The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin has approved our initial application and has forwarded our application to the federal Department of Energy (DOE). The grant is for two separate projects that will strengthen our electrical grid and resilience. The total cost of both of these projects is \$1,939,509. The grant will pay \$1,293,006 of the projects, while CWEC's share will be \$646,503. We hope to have final approval very soon and we plan on beginning construction in 2025.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Member Appreciation Breakfast. The turnout exceeded our expectations and we had the highest attendance ever; it was a huge success. It is always fun to catch up with friends while enjoying pancakes and

sausage, coffee, milk or juice and cake. Yes, cake, how can you have a celebration in Wisconsin without cake. A huge thank you to the kids! We had many kids participate in the costume contest and they all enjoyed the bounce houses, fun games, and goodie bags. It is a joy to see the kids laughing and playing and having fun.

I also want to thank all the vendors who came to this event, I personally was successful in purchasing some Christmas gifts. And of course, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our employees and board of directors who make this fun event possible each year. It is a bit of work, but we enjoy the annual event and the chance to show our appreciation to our members, the owners of our cooperative.

I want to take a moment to thank our Member Advisory Group (MAG). These folks meet twice a year at our headquarters. The purpose of MAG is to improve communication between the membership, the board of directors, and employees, while obtaining member input regarding CWEC's services and programs. We met on Nov. 7, and with input from this group, you will see a new look on your electric bills starting in the spring of 2025.

Our Toys for Tots campaign is underway and now is the perfect time to donate a toy at one of our local drop locations. These toys will help the children in our communities have a merry Christmas, and your donations are very much appreciated. For a list of toy donation sites, please check our website at www.cwecoop.com for details. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

Although not one of my favorite topics, but definitely one I feel I need to address is a small rate increase scheduled for January 1, 2025. You receive your January bills in mid-February. We are increasing your monthly basic charge by \$1 per month, and the Power Supply will include an additional .0025 per kWh. This comes to a 1.7% increase in your bill. As an example, if your bill is \$120.00 your bill will now be \$122.04. We work very hard at keeping your rates as low as possible.

From all of us at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, we are proud to be of service to you. We hope that you and your family are healthy and safe during this holiday season. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 8:10 a.m. on September 26, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting, 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.
- Board Policy 108 – Director Election and Policy 108 addendum – Director Election – Membership List Agreement was reviewed.
- Director Allen Zander was chosen as the voting delegate for the WECA Annual Meeting in November 2024.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. Swamp Road overhead conversion is scheduled to be completed in October. A meeting was held to work on a 10-year work plan. PSE and Alliant personnel participated in the discussion. This will include

future upgrades to the distribution system.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. There were 39 disconnects in August. The PCA for August was 0.01830. All capital and expense budgets were due to Accounting and Finance on Friday, September 20, 2024. Accounting and Finance will be working on the budget process.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke submitted a written report. 21 vendors are signed up to be at the Member Appreciation Breakfast. 70 photos were submitted for the calendar contest. The calendar has been sent to the designer. The Village of Rosholt USDA RED Loan has been closed. The cooperative sponsored the Welcome Dinner on September 16, 2024, for approximately 140 search dog handlers representing 27 states.

The Fall Member Advisory Group will meet on Thursday November 7, 2024.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products.

This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CWEC MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



This year's Member Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Rosholt on October 26, saw a record turnout. Breakfast was served to 605 people. We thank everyone who attended.

In addition to a pancake breakfast, there were plenty of activities for attendees. There was a Halloween costume contest for kids, games to play, and each child received a goodie bag.

The annual CWEC Marine Toys for Tots campaign was launched at the breakfast. We received 150 toys, stocking stuffers, and books donated by members.

Non-perishable food items were also collected. Our generous members donated 488 items, which were then donated to area food pantries.

A special thank you to Northwest First Responders for providing blood pressure checks. They provided blood pressure screenings to around 30 attendees.

Door prize winners included: Evan Bestul, Shawa Tischer, Don Langdok, Royce Moericke, Gerald Burmasch, Kari Goldsworthy, Nancy Hamm, Michael Miller, and Reita Paulson.

The two winners of a holiday inflatable were Ken Damask and Elaine Filtz. A girls and boys 20-inch bike and helmet were also given away. The winners were Audrey Zubella and Noah Gollon.

Winners of the Halloween costume contest for kids included: Madalynn Ott, Isabelle Galloway, Sadie Goldsworthy, Huxley Schnobrich, Elliott Habeck, Elsie Vanderkooy, Catera Grunewald, and Phynn Waltenberg.



Clockwise, starting above: A record number of attendees attended the 2024 Member Appreciation Breakfast held Oct. 26; CWEC Director Sue Rombalski serves breakfast sausages; Elsie Vanderkooy (left) and Elliott Habeck (right) won the best Halloween costume award for ages 5-6 years old; there were many activities for kids; CWEC Director Ron Onesti serves coffee; members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative enjoyed a tasty breakfast at the Member Appreciation Breakfast.





ENERGY-SAVINGS TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- 1 Deck the halls with LED holiday lights.
- 2 Use a timer to turn off holiday lights at night when you're sleeping.
- 3 Lower the thermostat when guests arrive.
- 4 Close the fireplace damper when a fire is not burning.
- 5 Ask Santa for a smart or programmable thermostat.
- 6 Heading out of town? Unplug appliances and electronics.
- 7 Gifting new electronics, gadgets, or appliances? Look for the ENERGY STAR logo.
- 8 Keep the winter chill outdoors by sealing air leaks around your home.
- 9 Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural sunlight warm your home.
- 10 Consider rechargeable batteries and chargers. They make great stocking stuffers!
- 11 Cooking a holiday feast? Use the oven light to check the progress of your dish instead of opening the door.
- 12 When your holiday tree is lit, turn off lamps and enjoy the cozy ambiance.

Correction

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DISTRICT 2

In the November issue of *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, we included information about Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Director Lee Lehrer retiring from the board when his current term ends in April. Some of the townships that we listed that he represents in District 2 were incorrect. The correct townships that he represents include: Harrison, Wyoming, Dupont, Iola, Helvetia, and Union. CWEC is looking for qualified candidates from those townships to seek election onto the CWEC Board of Directors. For more information about the eligibility and qualifications to be a director, as well as the nominating process, visit www.cwecoop.com. Under the About Us tab, click on Board of Directors. Call the CWEC office at 715-677-2211 with any questions.

GIVE THE GIFT OF POWER!



Don't know what to give someone for Christmas? Why not give them the gift of power? Gift certificates are available at the CWEC office or online at www.cwecoop.com. Under the Member Services tab, click Gift of Light.

RECYCLE YOUR BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

When you put up your Christmas lights this year did you find any strings of lights that didn't work? If you did, bring them to our headquarters in Rosholt to have them recycled. Only strings of Christmas lights can be brought to the office for recycling.



CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS REVEALED!

The 2024 Member Photo Contest capturing "Life in Rural Wisconsin" is now complete, and the 22 winning photos have been revealed. The selected photos will be featured in the 2025 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Calendar, which was first available at the CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast.



With 72 entries this year, the judges had their work cut out for them.

CWEC thanks all of the members who participated. Information for the 2025 contest will be available in February 2025.

You can view all the winning photos at www.cwecoop.com. The 2025 CWEC calendar is available at the CWEC office.

Submitted photos that were chosen include:

- Benjamin Flanscha, Iola – cover
- by Donn Lord, Tigerton – January
- Lisa Vele, Bowler – February
- Brooke Allred, Iola – March
- Karley Poppe, Tigerton – April
- Mary Ellie, Iola – May
- Greg Loescher, Iola – June
- Ken L Hynek – July
- Autumn Koback, Stevens Point – August
- Jeanne Jurkiewicz, Iola – September
- David Appleby, Amherst Junction – October
- Dan Toftum, Amherst – November
- Catelin Fischer, Ogdensburg – December
- Kimberly Schreiber, Bowler – January 2024

HONORABLE MENTION

- Benjamin Flanscha, Iola
- Diane Hintz, Custer
- Autumn Koback, Stevens Point
- Vicki Allred, Iola
- Martha Skierka, Custer
- Julaine Haroldson, Rosholt
- Deb McCue, Iola
- Jane Yenter, Rosholt

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNCLAIMED PATRONAGE CAPITAL FUNDS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has unclaimed patronage capital funds for former members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

Funds for these people have been unclaimed for three years. In accordance with cooperative bylaws, after 60 days from this publication, the unclaimed funds shall be forfeited from the cooperative to be used for educational loans, scholarships, or charitable purposes.

The listing of names is published on our website: www.cwecoop.com, on the main page under About Us select Capital Credits. This will take you to a page that includes two buttons. As the buttons indicate, one will take you to a list sorted alphabetically by last name and the other button will take you to a list sorted by the city of residence of the past member. If you do not have ac-

cess to our website online, you may request a listing by contacting our office during regular business hours.

If you know the whereabouts of these former members, please ask either the individual member or the estate executor to contact us at 800-377-2932. When writing to us, please include information to verify the person is the same one we are trying to locate. A previous mailing address, service address, street, road, or fire number where service was received would be helpful.

Regular business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Friday. If you prefer e-mail, address your message to cwec@cwecoop.com.

We respond to all inquiries; however, due to the large volume of inquiries please be patient as we do our best to serve you, our member.

HEY KIDS, GET OUT YOUR CRAYONS!

We are bringing back a Christmas coloring contest this year.

The contest is open to all kids ages 10 and under. Draw a picture of something related to Christmas, and mail or bring it to:

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
PO Box 100
10401 Lystul Road
Rosholt, WI 54473

On the back of the picture, please include the name of the child, the age of the child, the name of the child's parents, and a phone number for the child's parents.

The contest is open to the children of CWEC members only. When children drop off the picture they colored at our office, they will receive a free gift and will be entered into a contest with the chance to win one of three prizes.

Those who submit a Christmas drawing



will be entered into a drawing to win a grand prize of a large filled stocking. A second and third place prize of lesser value will also be awarded. Prize winners will be chosen through random drawings. Entries must be received by Friday, Dec. 13. Winners will be notified by CWEC and prizes must be picked up at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt.

Winners will be chosen by random drawing only, written content or coloring will not be considered or judged.



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

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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.

