



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

WINTER IS PERFECT TIME TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC LINES



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

Welcome to the middle of winter! Okay, maybe not the greeting you were hoping for, but if it is the middle of winter, that means the end of winter is just a few months away. I hope you are staying warm and making progress on completing your winter bucket list. Spring will begin in the not-too-distant future so enjoy these winter months while you can.

In order to provide reliable power to our members, our electric distribution system requires a periodic inspection and oftentimes, maintenance is needed. Currently, our line crews are performing a visual inspection of our overhead lines and making repairs as problems are found. They are also installing wildlife guards where needed and taking down circuit breakers to be maintained at our office by one of our contractors. Winter is the perfect time for us to perform this type of work before the leaves are back on the trees and the busy summer construction schedule has begun.

At their December 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors approved our capital and operating budget for the new year. Included in the budget are projects to replace portions of underground primary cable as well as overhead lines that have reached the end of their useful life. These upgrades will help improve reliability and keep outages to a minimum. In addition, we will be installing a new automated metering system and making upgrades to our radio system in key areas. Vegetation management clearing will be performed along our rights-of-way in parts of Portage and Waupaca counties. As always, our focus will be to make improvements that enable us to better serve our membership and provide you with safe and reliable electric energy.

I encourage all of our members to be courteous and respectful to our line crews and contractors as they work on our system. If you have any questions about the work being done, do not hesitate to contact our office to get answers. Safety is our number one priority, so

let's all do our part to keep our employees safe on the job.

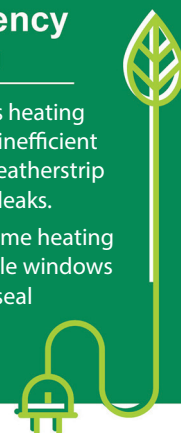
For anyone having difficulty paying an electric or heating bill this winter, I encourage you to reach out to resources that are available to help. Assistance is available through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program in each of the counties we serve in Wisconsin. Please look for additional information on page 18 in this edition of *WECN* magazine.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The November regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on November 30, 2021 at 7:56 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the October 28, 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 Board Policy 302 – Board of Directors and President/CEO Relationship & Appendix. CEO Wade will make minor changes and updates as noted and present to the board for approval.
- Krista Donahue, CPA from CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), presented the 2020 IRS Form 990 via conference call, which the board approved as presented.
- The board approved Mary Bohlman to fill the vacancy on the Nominations Committee and approved all other committee members.
- The board approved Kevin Mueller to fill the vacancy on the Operation Round Up Trust Board due to Clifford Kessen reaching his term limit.
- The board approved a Christmas gift for all employees.
- Mr. Kurtzweil gave a “virtual” board tour presentation to the board

on projects that were completed in 2021.

- Ms. Shower gave a presentation to the board on the procedure for performing remote reconnections.
- The board approved the representatives for the 2022 WECA Committees as follows: Director Rombalski – Legislative and Regulatory Committee, Director Lehrer – Education and Member Services Committee, Director Smith – JT&S Committee, and Mr. Kurtzweil – JT&S Apprenticeship Sub-Committee and JT&S Rules Sub-Committee.
- The board approved all interested directors to attend the WECA Education and Lobby Days on February 2 and 3, 2022 in Madison, Wisconsin.
- Mr. Wade gave an overview of the 2022 Annual Budget and Goals document for their review before the December 30 board meeting.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported that underground inspections are very close to being completed. Vegetation management work is continuing on County Y off the Groenier Substation.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the Toys For Tots campaign starts 12/1/2021. All collection site toys will be picked up on Friday (12/3) and sorted on Monday (12/6). Employees will begin picking and packing the toys next week.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

2021 TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

Once again, the generosity of the members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative and the communities they live in was on display as their monetary and toy donations helped make the 2021 CWEC Toys for Tots campaign a success.

More than 30 area businesses in Birnamwood, Bowler, Clintonville, Elderon, Iola, Manawa, Marion, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Waupaca, and Wittenberg volunteered to be toy donation drop-off sites to collect new, unwrapped toys for the campaign.

“For the second year in a row Covid presented challenges to the Toys for Tots campaign, but with the help of our members and area businesses we were able to overcome those challenges and make Christmas a little brighter for area kids,” said Bert Lehman, member relations specialist for CWEC.

By the time Christmas arrived, almost 3,000 toys were distributed to around 1,100 area children. These totals were on par with the totals from 2020.

“With the generous donations of toys and money, we are

able to help families in need this Christmas holiday. We are truly thankful for those donations,” Lehman said.

The success of the campaign was also aided by the involvement of all departments at the co-op.

For more than 15 years Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWE) has partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to organize a Toys for Tots campaign in the CWEC service area. 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.

Through this campaign, toys are donated at a variety of collection sites. The toys are collected, sorted, and then distributed to communities and families in the CWEC service area. This area covers parts of: western Waupaca County (including Iola-Scandinavia and Manawa school districts), northern Portage County (including Rosholt School District), southern Marathon County (including Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District), and western Shawano County (including Tigerton and Bowler school districts).

Clockwise, starting top left: Employees at Community First Bank in Rosholt with the toys collected at their branch; employees at Premier Community Bank in Tigerton with the toys collected at their branch; Silver Lake Lanes in Scandinavia collected a plethora of toys for Toys for Tots; Employees and some helpers from Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services receive a trailer full of toys to be distributed to area families; tables full of toys ready to be distributed to the Bowler Community.





WITH HELP OF CWEC MEMBERS, OPERATION ROUND UP KEEPS GIVING

During the fourth quarter of 2021, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program approved 14 grant applications and made three hardship donations for a total of \$6,700 in various types of community support.

Recent beneficiaries of Operation Round Up donations include:

- Toys for Tots – \$500
- Wittenberg Food Pantry – \$250
- Iola Food Pantry – \$250
- Scandinavia Food Pantry – \$250
- Manawa Food Pantry – \$250
- Rosholt Food Pantry – \$250
- TULP/Bowler Food Pantry – \$250
- Tigerton Community Cupboard – \$250
- TRACK Tomorrow River Food Pantry – \$250
- Marion Food Pantry – \$250
- Tigerton Food Pantry-St. Anthony's Church – \$250
- The Helping Foundation – \$250
- Project Back Pack/I-S District – \$250
- Embarrass River Lions Club – \$200

To date Operation Round Up has donated almost \$569,008 to families in need, charitable organizations, and students in the form of scholarships.

Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month. Electric bills are simply "rounded up" to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly "round up" could be as little as a single penny, but never more than 99 cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.

Thank you for your generous support.



TRACK Tomorrow River Food Pantry



The Helping Foundation



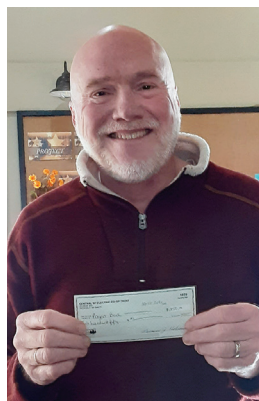
Marion Food Pantry



Rosholt Food Pantry



Wittenberg Food Pantry



Project Back Pack/I-S District



Scandinavia Food Pantry

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

Each winter, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative conducts hazard recognition inspections of its overhead powerlines throughout the entire CWEC service territory. This year's focus will be on the 7,200 high-voltage lines, but low-voltage lines will also be inspected. Some of the things CWEC personnel look for include: frayed conductors, low sagging spans of wires, and chipped insulators, just to name a few.

These inspections include visually looking at everything in the entire CWEC system, and making corrections as problems are found. The inspection process started in mid-January and is expected last around two months.

The goal of conducting these inspections each winter is to prevent power outages, and to promote safety of the CWEC membership and the public.

In addition to those inspections, wildlife guards are being installed to protect the electric poles and wildlife. Insulation cover up is also being installed on critical components.



**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.

BUDGET BILLING ALERT

Each January, the fixed monthly billing amount for CWEC members enrolled in budget billing is recalculated based on the member's remaining balance and the average bill of the previous 12 months. The first electric bill that will include the new amount owed each month is the January bill, which is sent out on February 10. Please call 800-377-2932 if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!

6 & under



First Place
Jasper Poppe



Second Place
Ethan Popp



Third Place
Rachel Anderson

7 to 10 years old



First Place
Morgan Kuklinski



Second Place
Isaiah Anderson



Third Place
Connor Kuklinski

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILLS?

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Commitment to Community Program is designed to help households with their energy costs, including electric bills. For many Wisconsin households, energy costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family budget. To better serve our members, CWEC is part of the Wisconsin Home Energy Plus (HE+) program.

This program is funded through public benefits and federal dollars to help eligible low-income households pay for home energy assistance and weatherization. Members may be eligible if they meet the HE+ program guidelines. Members should contact their local agency to determine eligibility.

County	Agency	Telephone Number
Marathon	Energy Services, Inc.	715-842-3111
Portage	Energy Services, Inc.	715-344-5999
Shawano	Dept. of Human Services	715-526-4740
Waupaca	Energy Services, Inc.	715-258-6820