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SAFETY AWARENESS IS IMPORTANT EVERYWHERE

at area elementary schools each May.

For these demonstrations, a miniature version of an electrical system at a farm setting is used to show students how electricity moves through various items they may encounter in their daily lives. This includes what they should do if they encounter tree branches, kite string, or fishing line on power lines. Students are shown what happens when those items touch a power line that is energized.

To help convey how dangerous electricity is, students were shown what would happen if a human touched a power line. A hot dog is used to demonstrate this.

Students were also informed about what to do if they were involved in a vehicle accident that resulted in a downed power line. And if need be, how to properly exit a vehicle in that situation.

The lineman doing each safety demonstration brings some of the safety items they wear when working around electricity, so the students are aware that the co-op practices safety around electricity.

Over the past year, we have built a larger version of an electrical system so we can do “hotline” demonstrations for

high school students and other community groups. In May, we used this larger system to do a safety demonstration for the electricity class at Iola-Scandinavia High School.

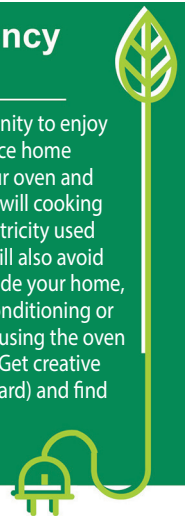
In late June CWEC will host a training session for area first responders. This training will help inform first responders how to be safe around electricity.

By doing these demonstrations we hope to provide valuable information that will help keep our communities safe when it comes to electricity.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



One of the things that we stress here at the co-op is safety. Whether it is a lineman out in the field or an employee in the office, a culture has been created in which every task done by co-op employees is done with safety as a top priority.

To help reinforce a culture of safety, we periodically host safety training sessions for employees. We also have a safety committee that reviews our safety policies and makes recommended changes to such policies. The committee also addresses safety concerns that employees have, as well as conducts inspections of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative facility to make sure there are no safety hazards present.

While we strive to promote the importance of safety with our employees, we also strive to promote to our members how important safety is. That is one of the reasons why we do classroom electricity safety demonstrations for fourth-grade students

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The April regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on April 27, 2023 at 8:08 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the March 30, 2023 meeting, minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting, 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 co-interim CEOs expenses.
- The board approved the Governance Committee's proposed changes to Section 2.5.8-Distributed Generation in the Service Rules and Regulations document.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 604-Information and Cybersecurity Program and made no recommended changes.
- Jim Halvorsen and Mickey Gosh, CPAs with the accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), presented the results of the 2022 Financial Audit.
- As part of the board's yearly review of Board Policy 401-Financial Oversight and Reporting, Lila Shower presented a newly implemented internal control on journal entries.
- Kevin Kurtzweil and Lila Shower presented the survey results of the non-union employees' flex working schedule trial period from the fall of 2022. The board approved a flex working schedule of four 10-hour days/week for the non-union employees beginning in May and going through the last pay period of August.
- The board approved extending the STEAM Grant Program for another year as presented by Brenda Mazemke.

- Brenda Mazemke reviewed information she received from CoBank's 2023 Sharing Success Program regarding a change in their funding limits. Further discussion on this will be continued at the May board meeting.
- The board approved the new meter pedestal pricing as presented by Kevin Kurtzweil.
- The board approved Lou Oppor's nomination submission for a director position on the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) Board of Directors.

Operations – Kevin Kurtzweil reported overhead and underground transformers were ordered on April 6, 2023, for delivery in 2024. Directors Smith and Zander shared information they learned at the Legislative Conference they recently attended on supply-chain issues. Kevin also reviewed cost-savings items from the Operations Dept.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower reported this month was the first month for disconnects following the moratorium. As of the board meeting date, there were 12 members currently disconnected. Also reviewed and discussed were the power bills from Alliant.

Member Relations – Brenda Mazemke handed out and reviewed the list of geothermal vendors that will service our members needs. John LaValley has submitted the REAP Grant, which is in the approval process. Scholarships were given to the Directors to hand out at the schools within their districts.

Administrative Services – Lori Patoka reviewed her submitted report and gave an update of the ECW board meetings recently attended. KnowBe4 training is not able to be completed by employees due to the changes with Marco. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Interim CEOs – Kevin Kurtzweil and Lila Shower reviewed their co-interim CEO submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

BRINGING ELECTRICITY TO THE NAVAJO NATION



During the first week of May, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative linemen Jarret Brow and Alex Lutz traveled to the Chinle District in Arizona on the Navajo Nation to take part in the Light Up Navajo IV Project to bring electricity to members of the Navajo Nation.

For Brow, the fact that some people in America don't have power helped draw him to volunteering for the project.

"It's something to go to another country and help them, but in America you'd think everyone should have power if they want it," Brow said. "So, waiting 30-some years or longer to get it, that's something that's unheard of in America. To do it in America kind of means more to me than elsewhere."

Lutz said he volunteered for the experience.

"And to bring power to people who have never had it, that's something that you don't get to see very often, especially to build brand new power lines is very uncommon as well," Lutz said.

Brow and Lutz were part of a pole-setting crew while working on the project. This included setting poles and helping put wires on the poles.

Both said the experience was mostly what they expected.

"Before we even went they tell you you're going to be hooking up new families, and we definitely got to do that," Lutz said. "We hooked up three families while we were there. We got to see them get electricity for the first time, and just to see their faces and to see how excited they were was cool."

Even though the experience was what they expected, Brow

said he was surprised by how poor the communities were. Lutz added that he was surprised by how desolate the area was, and how spread out the residents were.

"There was one mother there that we hooked the power to, and she said that her kids can now do school in the wintertime because they get snowed in and can't go to school," Brow said. "Now they can Zoom, now that they have electricity. She was really thankful. She took our picture and said she'd hang it up in her house. Her kids were saying thank you. It was a pretty heartfelt experience."

Lutz said he was surprised at how long the process takes for residents in the area to get their homes hooked up to electricity.

"They have to apply for it first," Lutz said. "And then they have to get their house wired up. They have to get that inspected. And then they go on a waiting list until it's their turn."

Lutz said some residents have been waiting almost their whole life to receive electricity.

"The first guy we got power to, he said he put his application in in 2001," Lutz said. "That was the same year I was born. That's what I kind of think about. I've done a lot in my life so far, and just to be sitting around waiting for electricity is crazy to me."

Brow added that for electricity to be brought to a resident's home, new rights-of-way for the lines need to be created.

"For them to get the rights-of-way you have to go through the government," Brow said. "It's a whole process that takes years because if they find one little fossil or anything they think is sacred, then they'll have to move everything and start over again. Like I said it takes years just to get the rights-of-way."

Despite having to wait a long time to get electricity, both

"The first guy we got power to, he said he put his application in in 2001. That was the same year I was born."

—Alex Lutz, CWEC lineman



Brow and Lutz said the residents weren't angry, and were very grateful when the electricity was hooked up.

"A lot of the homes that didn't have electricity also didn't have water," Lutz said. "For them to get electricity is just huge. They can have a refrigerator. They can have air conditioning, fans, lights, everything that we take for granted."

Brow added that the residents getting their homes hooked up to electricity can now get the internet and other utilities, such as running water.

"They're pretty grateful," Brow said. "The whole time you are there they express their gratefulness, every time you talk to an employee or anyone out there, they tell you how grateful they are while you're there."

While working on the project, Brow and Lutz said they were helping build a 12-mile line. That 12-mile line will service 13 customers. That gives you an idea of how spread out the residents are.

"We had poles all the way up to some people's houses, but they don't string anything until the whole line is done," Brow said. "So, people, even though they can see the brand-new poles, there is no wire or anything. They set all the poles, then they string, and then they do everything. They have to wait until that whole thing is done before they can get power."

The workday for Brow and Lutz consisted of meeting with the team at 7 a.m. each morning, and then traveling 90 minutes to the jobsite. They would work until 7 p.m., and then travel the 90 minutes back to their hotel.

Many assume that part of the United States is hot all the time, but Lutz said the temperatures weren't bad, with most days in the mid-70s.



Alex Lutz (left) spent a week in Arizona helping install power poles to bring electricity to residents of the Navajo Nation.

"Some of the places we were working in were very flat, and the wind kept the temperature down," Lutz said. "We had a rain storm move in and it actually got a little chillier. It was different. I for sure thought it was going to be hot when we got there."

Brow said they were working in an area with higher elevation, about 7,000 feet, which helped keep the temperatures down.

Lutz added that the scenery was different every day.

"We'd be up in the mountains one day and out in the middle of the desert the next," Lutz said. "It was pretty cool. You'd stop while you're working and kind of look around. It was pretty cool to see a mountain in the background, seeing as far as you can see."

Prior to making the trip, Brow and Lutz were informed about some of the different animals they could encounter. They said they were warned about packs of wild dogs, tarantula spiders, rattlesnakes, and lizards. They said they did see a lot of wild dogs, but none of the others, except Lutz saw a little lizard.

Both Brow and Lutz said the experience was very rewarding to help people better their lives by helping bring electricity to them.

"Having a kid of my own, it hits home a little bit harder," Brow said. "It's a real neat feeling."

Lutz added, "It was very rewarding just to see how different of lives they live. You grow up around here and everybody has electricity, you don't ever hear about anybody not having electricity. And it's just a totally different lifestyle."

Left to right: Jarret Brow operates a digger to dig a hole for a new power pole; Alex Lutz (seated on the truck) helps install a line of new power poles on the Navajo Nation; Jarret Brow does work at the top of a newly installed power pole that will be used to bring electricity to residents of the Navajo Nation; A line of newly installed power poles on the Navajo Nation that will bring electricity to the residents of the Navajo Nation. The work to install the poles was part of the Light Up Navajo IV Project.



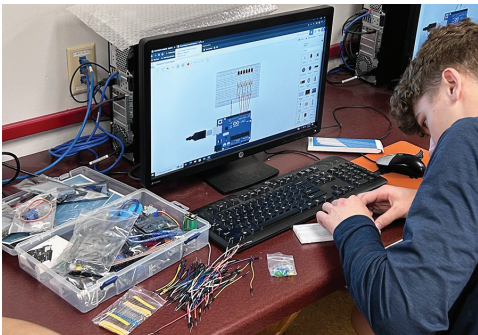
\$2,000 IN STEAM GRANTS AWARDED TO TWO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Iola-Scandinavia and Rosholt School Districts each received \$1,000 in STEAM grants to be used for projects and initiatives related to science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

IOLA-SCANDINAVIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Iola-Scandinavia School District received \$1,000 for the purchase of Smraza Electronics Kits.

The kits include electronic components and projects for students to complete. The components include a breadboard, power supply, LEDs, resistors, and other electrical components that can be used to design circuits.



An Iola-Scandinavia high school student uses one of the Smraza Electronics Kits that was purchased with STEAM grant funds received by the district.

Dave Jueds, tech ed teacher for Iola-Scandinavia High School, said the kits will be used by students who take the electricity class he teaches. The kits allow students to have hands-on opportunities with electronic circuits.

“They’ll learn about programming, about electronics and how to program electronics to talk to robots or to whatever they’re programming” Jueds said.

Jueds said the district would not have been able to purchase the kits without the STEAM grant from CWEC. Students used the kits prior to the end of the school year. He said the students were excited to use the kits and have been engaged while using the kits.

“We’re getting our hands in there trying to figure out what they’re capable of doing,” Jueds said. “The extra money gave me the opportunity to give everyone their own kit. Otherwise, with 18 of them at \$60-\$70 a kit, I wasn’t going to be able to afford 18 of them. And 2-3 (students) to a kit is not nearly as impactful as everyone having their own.”

Future students for Jueds’ electricity class will be able to benefit from the kits, as the kits are reusable from year to year.

ROSHOLT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Rosholt School District received \$1,000 for a Making Math Minds project, which will include professional development for teachers and the purchase of boxes of math materials for grades pre-K through 6th grade.

“When we think of math, a lot of us will think of the traditional, you sit and you get, but we’re hoping that by giving more manipulatives it will help with the progression of learning,” said Kimberly Habeck, 6th grade teacher in the Rosholt School District, who applied for the grant.

Mary Ann Cline, principal at Rosholt Elementary School, said the district immediately began implementing the Making Math Minds project once it found out it would be receiving the grant.

“Math fluency is really important for a good life foundation,” Cline said. “Being able to understand how numbers work. Being able to go to the grocery store and see a certain percentage off. We’re hoping that giving manipulatives and allowing kids to see math in a different way, that they’ll be able to transfer over those life skills.”

Both Habeck and Cline said funding for new projects and initiatives can be challenging for the district. There are times when teachers start such projects and initiatives by using their own money.

“Being able to get manipulatives in the hands of teachers without having them to have to dig into their pockets is amazingly gracious and generous of you guys (CWEC),” Cline said.

The materials that were purchased with the grant funds will be able to be used for multiple school years.





Mary Ann Cline (left), principal of Rosholt Elementary School and Kimberly Habeck (right), sixth-grade teacher, accept STEAM grant funds for a Making Math Minds project.



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