



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

BE SAFE: ALWAYS STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

Serving our members is the top priority of everyone who works at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, including myself. While serving our members, though, doing it in a safe manner is another top priority.

Our linemen take many precautions when they work around power lines. This includes wearing flame-retardant clothing, hard hats, and safety glasses. In addition, they wear special rubber gloves for their hands and rubber sleeves over their arms to help protect themselves from the electricity flowing through power lines.

With safety a top priority for the co-op while we serve you, everyone here at CWEC encourages our members to also be safe around downed power lines. Downed power lines are not limited to the summer months, as weather conditions and car accidents that take down power lines can happen anytime of the year.

If you come upon a downed power line, please stay away from it. Even if

the downed power line is not smoking, sparking, or on fire, the power line could still be energized. For that reason, it is imperative that you not touch a downed power line, and do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.

We recently had an incident in which a tree fell on a power line, and by the time one of our linemen arrived at the scene, somebody had cut up the tree while it was still on the power line. In this situation, the power line was not smoking, sparking, or on fire. But when our lineman got there, he found that the downed power line was still energized. Luckily, even though the power line was energized, the person who cut up the tree was not injured. Eventually luck can run out, though.

We have great members, and we understand that they like to be as helpful as possible and may have the urge to remove a branch or tree that has fallen on a power line. If you encounter a branch or tree on a downed power line, don't go near it. Instead, call the co-op at 800-377-2932 or 715-677-2211. We will send a lineman to

the scene. Once on the scene, the lineman will be able to assess the situation and make sure the power line is not energized, and then remove the branch or tree. By handling the matter in this way, we help make sure that our members are protected, and the situation can be rectified as safely as possible.

This is such an important thing to remember that we emphasize it during the classroom electricity safety demonstrations we do each year for fourth-grade students at the elementary schools in the CWEC service area. Just as I want all our employees to be safe, I also want all of our members to be safe around electricity. This is why I am asking everyone to stay away from downed power lines.

In closing, be safe as you celebrate our nation's independence on the 4th of July. Enjoy the festivities and remember the debt we owe to all of those who came before us to protect our freedom. Enjoy your summer.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:51 a.m. on April 24, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of March 27, 2025, minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting held on April 10, 2025, the minutes of the regular board meeting-officer elections held on April 10, 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.
- Jim Halvorsen from Clifton Larson Allen, LLP presented the 2024 final audit report.
- A Revolving Loan Fund Request from Lashua Automotive was approved.
- Board Policy 304-1 – Employment of Close Family Members Other Than Spouses and Board Policy 304-2, Employment of Spouses were reviewed. They will be sent to the Attorney for further review.
- The next Member Advisory Meeting will be held at the Rosholt Headquarters on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Operations and Engineering – Lila Shower presented on Mr. Kurtzweil's submitted written report in his absence. The operation crews have been working on #6 solid replacements, new connections and pole changes. The new H-Structure Switch was installed at the Sannes Substation.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. The PCA for January was -\$0.00000. 555 past due notices were sent out on April 7.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke submitted a written report. The 87th CWEC meeting was held on April 10, 2025, where 220 food items were collected, and they will be delivered to the Wittenberg and Tigerton Community Cupboard Food Pantries. Operation Round-Up awarded 65 scholarships. Bowler High School Received a STEAM grant to purchase items for their Math and Science Teaching Resources courses.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

BOWLER SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED \$900 STEAM GRANT

The Bowler School District has received a \$900 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be used for purchasing calculators to be used by middle and high school students for science and math classes.

Kathleen Hansen, high school science teacher in the Bowler School District, said many students in the district do not have their own calculator.

"A lot of times it's on the teachers to provide the calculator for the class," Hansen said. "This way, everyone has one available. We're not scrambling around looking for a calculator that actually works."

The funds will be used to purchase 100 calculators, as well as miscellaneous paper supplies to be used by the science and math classes. The calculators to be purchased will be more advanced than a basic four-function calculator, but won't be a highly-advance calculator. They will be used in the following classes: 7th and 8th grade math, pre-algebra, integrated math, biology, ecology, chemistry, physics, and science for grades 7-9.

"We're in the technology age and we have to learn how to use it, so this will be helpful," said Tracy Laude, middle school and high school science teacher in the Bowler School District.



Member Relations Specialist for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Bert Lehman (center) presents a STEAM Grant check from CWEC in the amount of \$900 to (L-R) Tracy Laude, middle school and high school science teacher in the Bowler School District, students Willow Van Ark, Tashyla Mohawk, Nautika Miller, and Kathleen Hansen, high school science teacher in the Bowler School District.

Even though there will be calculators available for students to use, Laude said the district will continue to teach manual methods for solving problems, such as mental math, measurement with a ruler, and reading a thermometer.

"By combining traditional hands-on activities with modern tools, students can develop a more well-rounded skill set," Laude said.

The calculators will be available to be used by students in grades 7 through 12,

and will be used for multiple years.

Without the grant, both Hansen and Laude said not as many calculators would have been able to be purchased at this time.

"We really, really appreciate it," Laude said. "It really means a lot when people from the outside help us."

Hansen added, "I'm glad that we were made aware of this (STEAM grants), because I was not aware of this until last year."

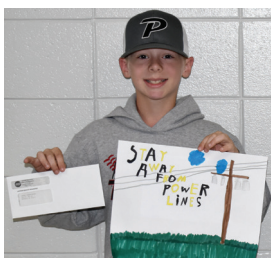
ELECTRICITY SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the top three students, and thank you to all the students who participated. Some of the posters submitted for the contest are on display in the lobby at CWEC headquarters in Rosholt.



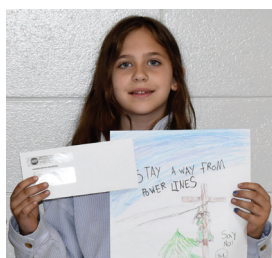
First Place
Lilly Eckardt

Tigerton Elementary School;
\$25 prepaid debit card from Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) and a check for \$25 from CWEC.



Second Place

Lukas Rzentkowski
Rosholt Elementary School;
\$15 check from CWEC.



Third Place

Natalie Rzentkowski
Rosholt Elementary School;
\$10 check from CWEC.

METER POLE REPLACEMENT FEE TO INCREASE JULY 1

Beginning July 1, the amount that Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will charge to replace a meter pole on a member's property will increase from \$600 to \$800.



FOURTH-GRADERS LEARN ABOUT ELECTRICITY SAFETY

To help promote Electrical Safety Month in May, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) once again provided electricity safety demonstrations to fourth grade students at six elementary schools in the CWECC service area. Elementary schools included those located in Birnamwood, Bowler, Iola, Rosholt, Tigerton, and Wittenberg.

The demonstrations were conducted by CWECC linemen, and showed students firsthand the dangers that could occur if they aren't safe around electricity. Students got to see some of the safety equipment a lineman has to wear when they work around power lines. They were also shown examples of what overhead and underground power lines look like, and why they are constructed the way they are. Linemen also showed the students what happens if a tree branch, kite string, and fishing line come in contact with a power line.

"It's important for students to understand how dangerous electricity can be, and that they should never go near a downed power line or something that is in contact with a power line," said Bert Lehman, member relations specialist at CWECC. "During the classroom demonstrations, students see smoke and sparks,



After their classroom electricity safety demonstration, the fourth-grade class at Tigerton Elementary School had their picture taken with CWECC linemen Jarret Brow (far right) and Alex Lutz (far left) in front of a CWECC digger truck.

which help to reinforce that they need to stay away from power lines."

To help convey how dangerous electricity is, one of the demonstrations used a hot dog to simulate what would happen if a human body contacted a power line.

"Students are always amazed by the hot dog portion of the demonstration," Lehman said. "They generally have a lot of questions about electricity after that."

Finally, students were 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.

"Our linemen enjoy giving back to the community by providing these demonstrations to students," Lehman said. "They feel it is important for kids to know why linemen take so many precautions when working around power lines, and why the public needs to stay away from power lines."



Top left: Fourth grade students at Bowler Elementary School look on as CWECC lineman Chris Tuszke uses a hot dog to cause flames when it touches a power line. Top middle: CWECC lineman Nate Singer tells fourth grade students at Rosholt Elementary School what comprises an overhead power line and how it is attached to power poles. Bottom left: CWECC lineman Gabe Pospyschalla shows fourth grade students at Birnamwood Elementary School what happens when a fishing line touches power lines. Bottom middle: CWECC lineman Chris Tuszke shows fourth grade students at Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School what happens when a tree branch falls on a power line. Far right: CWECC lineman Chris Tuszke uses a hot dog to show fourth grade students at Wittenberg Elementary School what would happen if a human body touched power lines.

MAZEMKE RETIRES FROM CWEC

Almost 16 years to the day of her first day working at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), Brenda Mazemke has retired from CWEC. Mazemke began her career at CWEC on May 1, 2009, and retired May 2 of this year.

In 2009, Mazemke started as a member relations assistant to Mark Forseth, who was the vice-president of Member Relations at the time.

"When he retired, I became the manager of Member Relations," Mazemke said. "I've pretty much worked in this area the entire 16 years that I've been here."

Prior to working at CWEC, Mazemke worked at F+W Publications in Iola, but things were changing in the department she worked in, so she pursued a position with CWEC.

While Mazemke said it was a hard decision to retire, it was also an easy decision. After all, her husband, Mike, retired in January after not running for another term as the register of deeds for Waupaca County.

"With him retired, we both knew we wanted to retire so we could enjoy traveling and our grandkids and life a little bit," Mazemke said. "That kind of made it a little easier. But it's scary."

Mazemke said she will miss helping the communities that CWEC serves, because of the strong principle ethics that the cooperative has helping out communities and helping its members.

"I really enjoy that, and I love working with the members in the communities and helping them and seeing their appreciation for everything we do for them," she said. "I think that I'll miss that the most, and of course, the employees and being around everyone here."

During her time at CWEC, Mazemke said she enjoyed interacting with CWEC members. This included helping with the expansion of the CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast when it moved from Iola to the new headquarters in Rosholt. This expansion saw the introduction of crafters setting up at the breakfast, and the addition of activities for kids to do during the breakfast.



CWEC President and CEO Lila Shower (left) and Brenda Mazemke (right) with the cake recognizing Mazemke's retirement.

The move to Rosholt also allowed the co-op to expand its Toys for Tots campaign because of the additional space at the new headquarters.

"We were able to call the schools and work with the guidance counselors and open that program up, and help different organizations, churches, and Waupaca County get toys for kids," Mazemke said. "That's been fun."

Helping area school districts is one of the memories that Mazemke said will stick with her. Mazemke helped CWEC launch the STEAM grant program. Under this program school districts in the CWEC service territory can apply for STEAM grant funds for items related to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

"That was a cool addition for something we can do for our schools," Mazemke said. "There are so many opportunities there to help our local schools and I encourage them to take advantage of that."

In retirement, Mazemke said she and her husband plan to travel, play more golf, and spend more time with family, including their six grandkids.

"Just doing whatever we want, when we want," she said.

She added that she also wants to spend more time helping her parents.

"They're getting up there in age and just to be able to go over there and help them, that is really what I want to do, just be there for my mom and dad," she said. "That will be nice."



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Our Mission

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

5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

1. **Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual.** Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. **Cook with smaller appliances** to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. **Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed** during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. **Use fans** to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to **off-peak hours** when demand is lower.