



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

Thank you to everyone who attended our 86th Annual Meeting in April at the Iola-Scandinavia High School. The meeting was well attended, and we appreciated the opportunity to discuss the

business of the cooperative from the previous year. We gave away a lot of door prizes, along with a grand prize, and every member who attended received a \$20 bill credit on their May bill.

Also, thank you for your participation in this year's director election. Ron Onesti and Lou Oppor won their respective races and were seated as directors at the conclusion of the meeting. Service as a director is a challenging, but extremely rewarding experience. Our success depends on engaged and committed members willing to serve on our Board of Directors and our member committees.

Our member committees fill a vital role in the operation of our cooperative. Our Nominations Committee seeks qualified candidates to run in the director elections. It is important for this group

to reach out to interested individuals and help guide them through the nomination process. The Operation Round Up Trust Board reviews applications and ensures that our fund dollars make their way to individuals and organizations who need our help. The Operation Round Up program has been a powerful force to help our communities and those who have a special need.

Also, our Member Advisory Group meets several times per year to discuss co-op programs and services and to provide valuable feedback on how best to serve our members. We thank all of our committee members for their service to our cooperative.

With summer upon us, whether we like it or not, it means the threat for severe weather is also here. While we do our best to make sure electricity keeps flowing to your property, there are times when Mother Nature has other ideas. When power is knocked out due to severe weather, our linemen work as fast and safely as possible to restore power. Please remember, when you experience a power outage, it is imperative that you call your outage into the office. The

phone number to call is 715-677-2211 or 800-377-2932. Do not post your outage to our Facebook page or email us, as those are not monitored 24/7 and we will not know you are experiencing an outage.

Summer is also a busy time for our linemen to complete projects pertaining to our overhead and underground power lines. This means there is a greater chance that you will encounter a CWEC truck parked along the side of the road with orange cones around it. We ask that you please provide our linemen plenty of room to do the work they need to do. If we all work together, we can keep everyone safe and avoid injuries.

June is Dairy Month and we want to thank the dairy farmers in central Wisconsin and those served by our cooperative. You have been a part of the cooperative since our creation 86 years ago and we appreciate the value that you bring to our community and our state. I encourage our members to pay tribute to our dairy farmers and support them by purchasing dairy products found at our local merchants.

Lastly, enjoy your summer; the warm weather has arrived, and I hope you are able to spend plenty of time outdoors.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:58 a.m. on March 28, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the February 29, 2024, meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. The Finance Committee reviewed checks written, the board expenses, and CEO expenses.
- The Annual Meeting agenda was approved.
- Several board members attended Financial Training for Directors at ACEC.
- Directors and staff attended the Legal Updates in Eau Claire, WI.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil gave an update on the HVAC systems. The removal of the water heater LMRs continues with over 200 removed. Hazard recognition will wrap up on March 28, 2024.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. Disconnects for non-payment will begin on April 15, 2024. CliftonLarsonAllen, LLC will present the final audit at the April 29, 2024, meeting.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the ballots have been mailed to members in District 2. The Preventing Outages and Enhancing Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants have moved onto phase 2. The MAG meeting will be held on May 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the community room at CWEC.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air-conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

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

ALMOST 250 MEMBERS & GUESTS ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING

The 86th Annual Meeting for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) was held April 18 at Iola-Scandinavia High School in Iola. There were 236 members and guests in attendance, with 177 of them registered members of the co-op.

For the safety message, Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of operations for CWEC, told those in attendance that only CWEC personnel are qualified to remove an electric meter. If a member needs a meter removed for any reason, the member should contact CWEC to have a lineman come remove the meter.

Kurtzweil also provided an update on the installation of CWEC's new meter system. The project is 95% completed,

Kurtzweil also spoke about the co-op's vegetation management program. The CWEC budget includes \$490,000 on right-of-way clearing.

Brenda Mazemke, manager of member relations for CWEC, shared information about the numerous ways in which the co-op provides assistance to communities the co-op serves.

Information about the Energy Conservation Rewards program offered by CWEC was also reviewed by Mazemke. This included a list of projects and products that are eligible for rewards. Information about the process members must follow to obtain those rewards was also shared.

Key statistics for 2023, the statement of operations, and the balance sheet for the co-op were presented by Stacy Claussen, manager of accounting & finance for CWEC. Members were also informed about how CWEC's investment in the West Riverside Power Plant has been beneficial.

During the Chairman's Report, Board Chairman Tom Smith shared information about the transition to renewable sources of energy, and the impact it is having on the co-op and its members.

CEO & President of CWEC Lila Shower shared information about the Light Up Navajo Project, in which CWEC sent two linemen to Arizona in May 2023 to help bring electricity to members of the Navajo Nation. She explained that this was done because Kurtzweil became aware of the project and presented a plan to the CWEC Board of Directors to get CWEC involved in the project. The ensuing publicity helped spark interest in the project, and



(L-R) Tom Smith, CWEC board president, and Lila Shower, CWEC president & CEO, present a Certificate of Appreciation award to Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of operations for CWEC, in recognition of Kurtzweil's involvement in bringing awareness to the Light Up Navajo Project.

more Wisconsin co-ops will be sending linemen to help on the project in 2024. CWEC will once again send two linemen this year to help on the project.

To recognize his efforts for developing a plan for CWEC's involvement in the project, Kurtzweil was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation award at the Annual Meeting.

Director Ron Onesti was unopposed in his reelection bid and was reelected. Director Lou Oppor was challenged by Nathan Reichle. Oppor was reelected after receiving 251 votes, while Reichle received 121 votes.

A total of 27 door prizes was given away during the Annual Meeting.

Members also donated 241 non-perishable food items for area food pantries.

After the Annual Meeting, the CWEC Board of Directors met to elect the officers. Tom Smith was reelected as chairman, while Lou Oppor was reelected as vice chair, and Allen Zander was reelected as secretary-treasurer.



CWEC President and CEO Lila Shower addresses the CWEC members.

with only 459 meters remaining to be installed. Kurtzweil also highlighted the annual inspections that were completed in 2023, as well as work plan projects that were completed.

A recap of the outages in 2023 was also reviewed. The number of outages decreased from 512 outages in 2022 to 318 outages in 2023.



Left to right: CWEC employees Lori Elmhurst, Lenore Peterson, and Margaret Napiwocki (left of table) register members attending the 86th CWEC Annual Meeting; members had the chance to enjoy refreshments and visit prior to the start of the meeting; CWEC Director Lee Lehrer visits with members.



ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Helen & Gerald Basinski – \$50 electric bill credit, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

Dick & Donna Golomski – \$100 Amazon gift card, Altec Industries

Janet Hoks – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company

Margaret Jordan – Waterproof Bluetooth Speaker, The Benefit Works

Steven Marquardt – \$25 BP/Amoco Gas gift card, AJ Construction of Wisconsin

Jorja Zoromski – Husqvarna Chainsaw, Zielie's Tree Services

Vernon Bricko – Collapsible Backpack Cooler, NISC

Barbara Marks – 6-quart Digital Air Fryer, RESCO

David & Barbara Kurszewski – Hooded Sweatshirt/Golf Balls, Irby Utilities

Geoffrey Anderson – \$50 BP/Amoco gift card, Utility Sales & Service

Randy Torzala – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, Recloser Services, LLC

Jennifer Henselin – \$100 Kwik Trip gift card, Weld Riley, S.C.

Steven & Diane Henry – \$25 BP/Amoco Gas gift card, AJ Construction of Wisconsin

Clare & Leonard Oppor – "Travel Pack" (\$50 Kwik Trip gift card & Goodies), Alliant Energy

Alan & Lynn Tesch – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company

David & Kimberly Paulson – \$50 VISA Debit Card, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

Elizabeth Giese – Yeti Rambler Bottle, Bell Lumber & Poll

Virginia Wentzel – Free Oil Change, Schierl Tire & Service

Zufriedenheit Farms – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company

Brittany Falkvage/Matthew Cisewski – Yeti Rambler Bottle, Bell Lumber & Poll

Chris & Jennifer Brindley – \$30 Kwik Trip gift card, Complete Office

Jon & Danette Dalton – \$50 VISA Debit Card, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

Debra & Michael Omernik – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, American Transmission Company

Norman & Susan Groshek – \$50 Kwik Trip gift card, Recloser Services, LLC

Glen Wiza – \$50 Service & Repair Gift Certificate, Gordy's 66 Service & Towing

Jessica Zoromski – \$100 Amazon gift card, Altec Industries

Roger Worzalla – Gift Basket, Bank First

Rhonda Hollfelder – Electric Grill, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative

We thank all the vendors for their generous door prize donations to the 2024 CWEC Annual Meeting. We also congratulate the winners of those door prizes.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

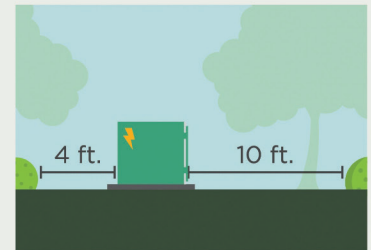
Here's how you can help:



1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40 ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).

2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers.

Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.

Trimming improves safety for all. Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.



Stormy Weather

**REPORT OUTAGES
BY CALLING:
715-677-2211 or
1-800-377-2932**

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, in recognition of the Independence Day holiday. From everyone at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July holiday.

GOING STRONG MORE THAN 100 YEARS LATER



While already operating a successful logging company in 1999, Darrell and Kim Javorek decided to take on an additional challenge by purchasing the family farm from Darrell's dad.

Purchasing the family farm, which had sat idle for a couple of years, wasn't necessarily the original plan the couple had, but they had a good reason for their action. Darrell said his dad was going to start splitting the farm into pieces and selling it. That's something Darrell said he just couldn't bear to see.

"So, we bought cows," Darrell said. The cows didn't come right away, though, as the couple spent a year updating the farm in preparation for cows. The tie-stalls in the barn were replaced, and a milking parlor was added.

"We remodeled it and got our first batch of cows out of Canada," Darrell said. "Those were hard to come by back then, so we bought a herd of registered Holsteins out of Canada. That was the foundation for the herd."

They milked cows for the first time on the updated farm in May of 2000, with 80 cows in the herd.

It was the start of a new chapter for the family farm, which originally began around 1918 when Darrell's grandpa settled on the land the farm sits on, after immigrating from Slovakia. Darrell's dad eventually took over the farm before Darrell and Kim purchased it.

Kim said several Czechoslovakian families settled in the area, including her great grandparents and grandparents.

Not only does the current family farm, known as Johnson Creek Dairy, include the original farm that Darrell's grandpa started, it also includes land that was purchased from Kim's family.

"Like I said, I wanted the land to stay in the family," Darrell said. "Then we bought her grandpa's farm. That land, some of it has been in the family for more than 100 years."

Kim said her great grandparents settled that land around 1910.

"The last thing I'd ever want to do is sell the land," Kim said.

The farm consists of just shy of 500 acres, of which, 150 are tillable acres. They rent land from neighbors, though, so around 1,300 acres are planted with crops each year.



Darrell and Kim Javorek have owned and operated Johnson Creek Dairy since 1999.

Since 1999, Darrell and Kim have increased the number of cows on the farm. The first increase saw the cow total increase to 200, which was later increased to its current number of a little more than 400 cows.

Darrell said increasing the size of the herd those two times

was necessary for the survival of the farm.

With 400 milking cows, the farm also has around 450 heifers and calves.

Darrell and Kim employ 10 people who work on the farm.

"We wouldn't still be doing it (farming) without our workers," Kim said.

It's no secret that technology has rapidly changed all of society, and farming has not been immune from the rapid changes. This has led to the formation of "mega" farms.

"It's amazing what we've seen change," Kim said.


Darrell added, "We weren't a huge farm, but one of the bigger farms when we started. Now we're one of the smaller farms."

They may have a smaller farm when compared to some of today's farms, but that doesn't make the history or success of the farm any less remarkable.

"It's been a good ride. It (farming) gets in your blood," Darrell said.



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Our Mission

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