



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

JOIN US APRIL 18 FOR THE CWEC 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 18, to attend the 86th CWEC Annual Meeting of the membership. The meeting will take place at Iola-Scandinavia High School in Iola, and will provide members

a great opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors and learn more about the cooperative and the programs we offer. In addition, those who attend the meeting will have an opportunity to win some fabulous door prizes donated by our corporate partners.

Because of the generosity of our members, we are able to offer educational scholarships through our Operation Round Up program. I encourage all of our graduating high school seniors and young adults who will be pursuing an education beyond high school to apply for a scholarship.

In addition to the Operation Round Scholarships available to CWEC members and children of members who are pursuing a secondary education, CWEC is once again offering a \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship to assist a student pursuing a technical college education in an electric program that would lead to employment in the electric utility industry. We feel it is important to make students aware of electric utility careers, and to encourage them to pursue those careers if they choose.

Sometimes the recipients of this scholarship end up working at CWEC. Current CWEC lineman Alex Lutz is a past recipient of this scholarship.

More information about the Operation Round Up scholarships and the Electric Utility Worker Scholarship can be found on page 17 in this issue.

In February, CWEC board members and I spent a day in Madison talking with our legislators about unique license plates for electric vehicles, putting aside grant money for the Imagination Library – Dolly Parton’s dream program, green lights for our co-op trucks to make them more visible in bad weather, and allowing our ATV/UTV to drive on highways and freeways when restoring power. We also thanked them for their support of previous legislation that has been beneficial to electric cooperatives. We had very good discussions with our political leaders and we thank them for their service to rural Wisconsin.

I know you all have a very busy schedule, but I hope you will make time to come to our annual meeting in April at the Iola-Scandinavia High School. The meeting lasts about an hour and is very informative of what has and is happening at your cooperative. I look forward to seeing you there.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The December regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on December 28, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the November 30, 2023 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and the estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action items

- a. New Conservation Rewards. Because we will no longer have the water heater LMR program, there will be extra money added to our conservation rewards.
- b. New 2024 DG Rate Approved. The new voided cost for CWEC DG will be .04737 for 2024. Alliant had this approved by the PSC and will be effective January 1, 2024.
- c. West Riverside Energy Center. The percentages we receive from West Riverside will remain the same for 2024.

Accounting and Finance – Lila Shower reported on the submitted report in the absence of Stacy Claussen. All financials are looking good.

Operations – Kevin Kurtzweil gave an update on the generator and the HVAC system, both of which need repair. The 320 meters are still not in yet. He briefed the Board on injuries and what we will do to prevent them from happening in the future.

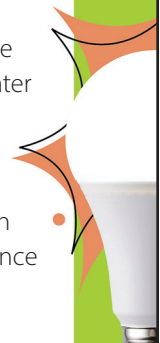
Member Services - Brenda Mazemke reported on her submitted report. She said there was an opening on the Round-Up Board which has been filled. She updated the Board on the grant funding. Director Zander saw firsthand the work involved in our Toys for Tots program and was impressed at the number of toys we distribute.

President & CEO Report – Lila Shower reviewed her submitted report. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening and use a vacuum to remove any lint that’s fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARDS INCREASED



By John LaValley
CWEC Energy
Specialist

Winter has been a little mild this year, but we still have a little time to enjoy the things we like most about the colder season before spring brings renewed life once again. Speaking of renewal, perhaps you have a project in mind for your home this year.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), your cooperative, offers energy conservation rebates through its Energy Conservation Rewards program.

As of January 1, 2024, many of these

offerings have increased for energy efficiency purchases including home heating and cooling fixtures, insulation, and Energy Star rated appliances.

For 2024, CWEC will no longer offer electric water heaters for sale to its membership. There have also been changes to the rebates offered for electric water heaters because of this.

The cooperative is currently offering the following incentives

for water heaters. To qualify for an incentive, the water heater must have a 50-gallon capacity.

- If you are constructing a new home or converting from a gas water heater to electric, you will now be eligible for a rebate that covers 50% of the new fixtures cost.
- If you are replacing your current electric water heater with another electric fixture, you will be eligible for a \$200 rebate with the cooperative.

If you have any energy efficiency projects in mind for your home or business, please call the cooperative for more information on how you can achieve savings through the Energy Conservation Rewards program. We will accept any purchase made within 2024, throughout the remainder of the year.

A current list of rebate offerings can be found by visiting the CWEC website at: www.cwec.com/energy-conservation-rewards, or we can send these to you upon request. If you would like further information, please call me personally at 715-677-2245 for more information. I would love to hear from you!

SINGER AND WICK COMPLETE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Nate Singer and Josh Wick, linemen at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, recently graduated from a four-year Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Electrical Lineworker Apprenticeship program offered through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay.

The program consisted of more than 7,360 hours of on-the-job training, and 640 hours spent in paid-related instruction. With the completion of the program, Singer and Wick have now achieved the status of journey electric lineworker.

They were recognized at a graduation ceremony at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, where they received their graduate certificate.

“I’m proud of Josh and Nate for their ded-

ication to the Apprenticeship Program and CWEC,” said Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of operations at CWEC. “The Apprenticeship program is lengthy, but requires work, training and personal life balance. I’m confident that Josh and Nate will be very safe and responsive linemen for the members of this co-op”

Congratulation, Nate & Josh.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative President and CEO Lila Shower (far left) and Vice President of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil (far right) with CWEC linemen Nate Singer (middle left) and Josh Wick (middle right) after Singer and Wick received their graduate certificates for completing the Electric Lineworker Apprenticeship program.

NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR PAY BY PHONE SERVICE

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has a new phone number to call for members who want to pay their electric bill through the Pay by Phone service. The new number is 1-855-963-3774.

The phone numbers to reach the CWEC office have not changed.





CWEC OPERATION ROUND UP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school bound students through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Operation Round Up program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Round Up. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors and online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for submitting completed applications is Monday, April 1, 2024.

Scholarship winners must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average



and full-time student equivalent during their first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school. Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college,

vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient will need to provide CWEC with a copy of their grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester.

Since the CWEC Operation Round Up scholarship program began in 2005 CWEC has provided more than \$312,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of its members is another.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.

2023 CWEC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We need your grades

Congratulations for concluding your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for the second semester to receive your scholarship money.

Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average, been a full-time student, and completed 12 or more earned credits during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. Grades and proof of second semester enrollment can be mailed to:

CWEC
Attn: Scholarship Program
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

Email:
brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY SCHOLARSHIP

To encourage students to consider a career at an electric utility, and to create an incentive for trained electric utility workers to seek employment with electric cooperatives or other utilities, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has established

a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship is intended to assist a student pursuing a technical college education in an electric program that lends itself to employment in the electric utility industry.

Traditional and non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants need not be a member of CWEC, but preference will be given to CWEC members. The scholarship is administered by the CWEC Operation Round Up Trust Committee. The committee will evaluate all applications and



essay responses. The selection criteria will be based on scholastic achievement, school and community involvement, work history, and essay submission.

Scholarship applications and guidelines can be found online at www.cwecoop.com (Member Services tab).

The deadline for submitting completed applications is Monday, April 1, 2024.

Scholarship winners will be chosen shortly after the deadline.

If you have questions please contact Bert Lehman at 715-677-2211, or by email at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME MARCH 10

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

CWEC 86th ANNUAL MEETING



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.

Thursday, April 18

Iola-Scandinavia
High School
540 S. Jackson Street
Iola, WI

Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Thursday, April 18, 2024, for our 86th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at Iola-Scandinavia High School.

Registration begins at 5:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served until the start of the meeting at 6 p.m.

President & CEO Lila Shower will keynote the meeting's business session, which begins at 6 p.m. During the business session, members will have the opportunity to

hear how their co-op is faring financially, learn details about various services offered by their member-owned power supplier, and receive updates on state and federal regulatory issues of importance to electric co-ops. An election of two board positions will be held.

As a member-owner of an electric cooperative, you can voice your opinions at the annual meeting, observing the annual meeting rules.

This is an advantage that cooperatives have over the investor-owned utilities, whose customers have no say in the management of the company and cannot vote for their board of directors.

Members who attend the in-person annual meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit. Members who bring the address slip from the front cover of the April 2024 issue of *WECN* will have the chance to win a \$50 energy credit. In addition to many door prizes, one lucky member will be drawn as the winner of a grand prize consisting of an electric grill. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present.

Help Fill Our Local Food Pantry Shelves

CWEC will be kicking off its food pantry drive at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Bring three or more non-perishable food items that are not expired, and you will receive a FREE LED bulb. (Limit of three bulbs per family)

Your generous donation helps fill the shelves of food pantries in our service area.

If you cannot make it to the annual meeting, we will be collecting food pantry donations at our office, located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, throughout the year, and you can still receive the free LED bulb.

For more information call 715-677-2211.

