



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

May is known for its beautiful weather and spring flowers, but it is also National Electrical Safety Month. Each of us relies on electricity to power our homes and businesses, but we should remember to be safe around electrical equipment and power lines. By taking simple precautions, everyone can avoid electrically related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss. Contact us if you have questions about your electric service or if you see hazardous situations involving our lines and equipment.

Although we may get April or even May snow from year to year, it is officially spring and I hope you are beginning to enjoy spending time outside. For many of you, spring means planting your favorite flowers and working in the yard after the long winter. If your work involves digging, be reminded that electric, gas, cable, or other utility lines may be lurking beneath the surface. Before you dig that hole or cut that trench, call 8-1-1 to request

that these lines be marked. This is a free service that is easy to use and will help keep you safe.

As a reminder, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has a community room which is available to rent at our headquarters outside of Rosholt. The room can handle 99 occupants and is available during business hours, on weekends, and after hours. Several businesses and the Town of Alban use the room on a regular basis, but the room also sees its fair share of wedding and baby showers as well as birthday parties. If you have a need for the room for your event, call Lori Patoka at 715-677-2211 to learn more.

Once again, we are asking our members to contribute photos for our 2023 co-op calendar. We have an exceptionally talented group of members who take some amazing photographs. It's time to search those photos and enter your best into our calendar contest. We have more information on our calendar contest in this edition of the magazine.

In honor of Memorial Day, I want

to thank all of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. We are especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours. Please join me in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just this month, but every month.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The February regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on February 24, 2022 at 8:02 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. The Governance Committee did not meet this month.
- c. The board reviewed Board Policy 401 – Financial Oversight and Reporting and had no recommended changes.
- d. The board approved the Capital Credit Estate Retirement discount rate for 2022 of 3.86% as presented by Ms. Claussen and Mr. Wade.
- e. The board approved revisions to meter pedestal pricing in Appendix A-Schedule of Fees and Deposits as presented by Mr. Kurtzweil.
- f. Mr. Kurtzweil gave a presentation to the board on the process and procedures currently in place for our vegetation management chemical spraying program.

- g. The board reviewed the process for evaluating the CEO's performance.
- h. Mr. Wade reviewed the Business Processes documentation project the management staff has been working on with regard to the strategic goal for succession planning.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported crews are continuing to work on hazard recognition inspections and replacement of high-pressure sodium lights to LED. The new cold storage building committee is waiting to get the final bid in and will present the information at the March board meeting.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Claussen reported we did not control load in January due to the cold temperatures.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported we are scheduling interviews for the energy specialist position the week of March 14.

Administrative Services – Ms. Patoka reported the vendor contracts project is close to completion. With the help of Mr. Wade, Mr. Kurtzweil and the attorney, final contracts for our service contractors are on file and will be monitored prior to the expiration dates for renewal.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

TIGERTON RECEIVES ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARD FOR LED LIGHTS

With the help of a donation from the Estate of Marlene Hoeft Hyer and an energy conservation reward from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), the village of Tigerton embarked on a light project that replaced the city's current lights with LED lights.

Jon Witter, director of public works for the village of Tigerton, said the light project was originally proposed to the village by the Tigerton Main Street program. Both the Main Street program and the village had received a donation from the Estate of Marlene Hoeft Hyer with the stipulation that the donation be used throughout the community.

"Our lights have been in need of an

update and the LED lights brighten up our downtown," Witter said.

The LED lamps were purchased through a vendor who was able to provide lamps that fit with the existing fixtures. Village employees were able to install the new lamps with minimal difficulty.

"We have received many favorable comments," said Trisha Hoffman, clerk/treasurer for the village of Tigerton. Witter said the new LED lights will provide several benefits to village residents.

"Not only are they cost effective, but they provide a better quality of lighting and lower our energy usage, which will help in regards to the village budget and the amount of tax dollars spent



on street lighting," Witter said. "The lights eliminate a brighter direct light versus a glowing light which provides less shadows and helps increase safety throughout the community."

The conservation reward provided by CWEC was an important part of the project because it helped lessen the electric costs burden, Hoffman said.

"The village has numerous electric bills and our street lights are one of the most expensive. This conservation award has helped tremendously," Hoffman said.

Witter added, "The village of Tigerton and Tigerton Main Street are forever grateful for the generosity of Marlene Hoeft Hyer and we look forward to future improvements that we normally would not have been able to afford."

CWEC RESUMES IN-PERSON ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

Prior to COVID-19, during Electrical Safety Month each May, linemen from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) would share their unique skillset and electricity safety tips with elementary school kids at elementary schools in the CWEC service area. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, CWEC will resume its in-person electrical safety demonstrations for fourth graders at area elementary schools.



The demonstrations are done in the classroom, and show students how electricity flows via powerline to buildings, the dangers that revolve around powerlines, and how to be safe around electricity.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to view some of the tools that linemen use on the job, and items

they wear, such as a hard hat and gloves. The demonstrations are designed to teach students how our system works and educate them on the safety aspects of it. The linemen energize the mock lines to show students what happens when a tree falls across a line or when an energized line makes contact with a vehicle.

As part of the demonstration, students will also receive a booklet about electricity safety, as well as a small gift.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS SET FOR JULY

If you'll be a high school sophomore or junior in the fall, this conference is for you. This three-day, all-expense-paid program is jammed with fun, hands-on activities and seminars designed to help you identify and develop your leadership skills. It is planned by high school students just like you and features nationally recognized speakers.

This year's event will return to an in-person event, and will be held at a new location. YLC is scheduled for July 12-14 at UW-Stout.

If you are interested in being a sponsored representative of CWEC, please contact your high school guidance counselor or Bert Lehman at 715-677-2220 or bert.lehman@cwecoop.com.

Memorial Day

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

★★★★★

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Day holiday. Regular business will resume on Tuesday, June 1. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.



2022 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is holding our annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2023 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.



- Photos must be taken within the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.)
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Contest will run until August 22, 2022; however, submitted photos can be taken during anytime of the year.

Photo Contest Entry Options:

Email: Bert Lehman at bert.lehman@cwecoop.com

Mail: PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

Online: www.cwecoop.com/member-photo-contest

Drop Off: Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Office – 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt. (Photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website at: www.cwecoop.com

KEEP POWER POLES FREE AND CLEAR

We want to remind all our members that nothing should be placed on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative power poles. This includes, but is not limited to: posters, flyers, decorations, birdhouses, lights, etc.

The poles need to be clear of items because sometimes CWEC linemen need to climb the poles, and items on the poles can make that task more difficult and dangerous.



CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **May 31, 2022**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:



Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association

- 1st place – Chromebook**
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card**
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card**

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) will also offer a \$25 check to one local winner, a \$15 check to a local second place poster, and a \$10 check to a local third place poster. Registration forms and eligibility details can also be found on the CWEC website at www.cwecoop.com under the "News" tab.

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Contact your local electric cooperative or go to www.weca.coop for registration forms.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Now that the weather has finally warmed up, it's time to get moving on the yardwork that needs to be done. Some of this yardwork may include the need for digging on your property. If that is the case, property owners need to take proper safety steps.

The first step to ensure safe digging is to call Diggers Hotline at 811. Diggers Hotline is a free service that must be used if you plan on doing any kind of digging in order to avoid damaging underground lines. A property owner must call Diggers Hotline at least three working days before they start digging.

Wisconsin Statute 182.0175 requires that property owners notify Diggers Hotline before they excavate, grade, trench, dig, drill, augur, tunnel, scrape, plow cable or pipe.

When a property owner calls Diggers Hotline, they will need to provide the following information: your name, mailing address, phone number, email address, as well as the name of the person who will be doing the digging and their phone number. Diggers Hotline will also need to know the

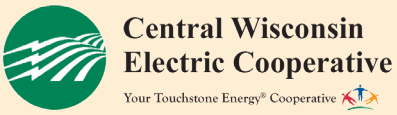
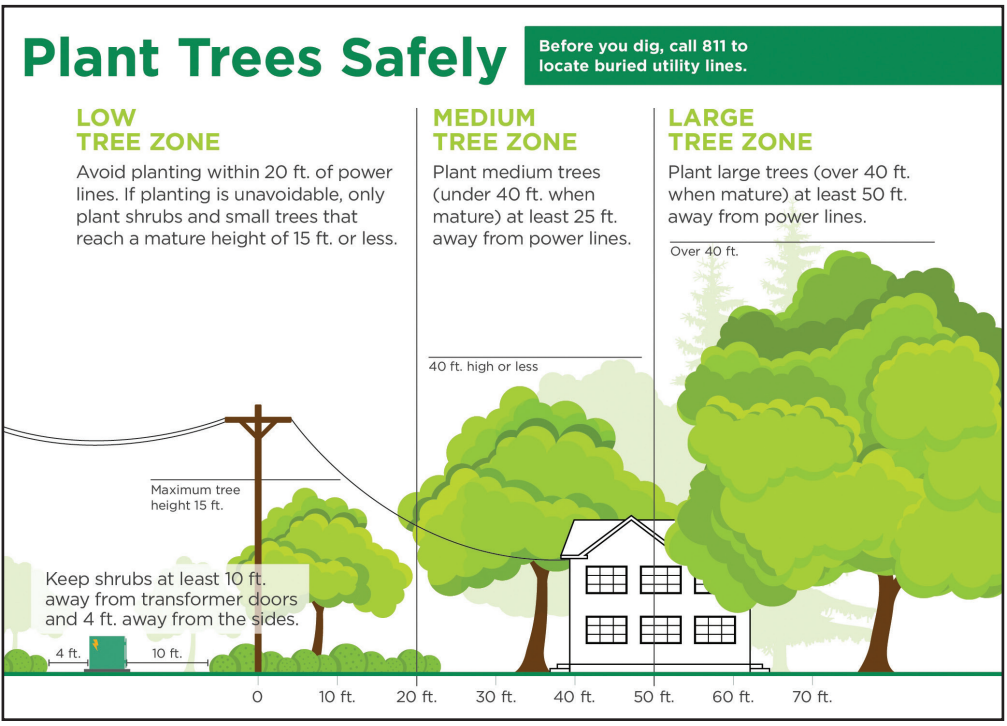
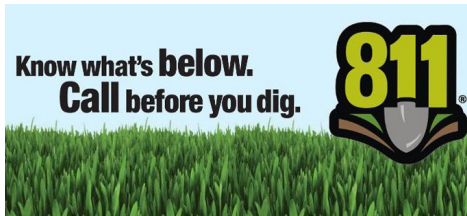
city, township, or village your work will take place in, the address of the dig site, and the name of the side street your dig site is on and the nearest intersecting road.

Dig site information will also need to be provided. This includes the start date of the dig project, the type of project you are doing that requires digging, as well as marking instructions on how you will mark the area in which underground lines need to be located in.

After the call to Diggers Hotline is completed, they will coordinate between excavators and the



owners of the buried lines on the property. The owners of the lines will mark the locations near your job site with paint and/or flags. Property owners need to be aware that private lines are considered the responsibility of the landowner and will not be marked by Diggers Hotline. A locating company can be hired to mark private lines.

Since locating underground lines is not an exact science, the actual location of the lines could vary from the position of the marks. Because of that, state law mandates an 18-inch buffer zone on each side of the marks indicating an underground line.



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