



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

THOUGHTS OF GRATITUDE THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON

The end of another year is getting closer, and I don't know about you, but this year has flown by for me. This was a fun and rewarding year at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC). As we close the books on this year, I can't help but reflect on the events that unfolded during my first year as CEO of CWEC, and how thankful I am to be part of this cooperative.

The first thought that comes to mind is how thankful I am for the opportunity to serve each and every one of our members. We would not be here if not for your membership and for those who started the cooperative 87 years ago. That vision of improving life in rural America is still alive and well today. All our services and projects are offered with that vision in mind.

I am also thankful for the great employees we have here at CWEC. They are community leaders, volunteers, and of course, family. Some are also members of our cooperative. I can tell you they are a dedicated bunch, whether they're restoring power at 3 a.m. or getting you connected for the first time. They do it

with a commitment to you, the member.

Deer hunting season in Wisconsin is just around the corner so it's time to sight in your rifles and get ready for the big hunt. Hunting is a sacred tradition in Wisconsin, and I have fond memories of getting up early on opening day, heading out to the woods with my dad and my brothers, and waiting (sometimes maybe dozing) for the deer to come by my stand. This was a time I looked forward to each year. As the hunting week went on, we would get together with friends and walk the woods and fields to drive the deer towards the hunters. It was so much fun and the stories, oh my. I'll finish by adding, stay safe out there!

At the October CWEC board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$250,000. Capital credits are the margins distributed to the members of the cooperative based on their energy purchases from the cooperative in previous years. The capital credit retirement this year will be made by applying 70% of the retirement to the oldest year on record and 30% of the retirement to more recent years. This method provides a fair

retirement rotation and allows us to clear older years off the books.

When we retire capital credits, a small number of former members cannot be located and their retired capital credit amount is unclaimed. Per Wisconsin statute, we are able to use our unclaimed capital credits for charitable giving and scholarships. We donate our unclaimed dollars to Federated Youth Foundation in accordance with the provisions of our bylaws, and those dollars are available to CWEC to help our local communities and students achieve their goals. This has a tremendous impact on our rural communities.

One of the most beneficial and rewarding community service programs we participate in is the Toys for Tots program. Your generous donation of toys has put smiles on the faces of thousands of children since the program began. With Christmas just around the corner, our Toys for Tots campaign has begun. These toys will find their way into the hands of deserving children in our area. Thank you for continuing to support our local families.

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you, and be safe and stay healthy as you enjoy this holiday season. Have a great month.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs, and gaming consoles.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:52 a.m. on August 21, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the July 25, 2024, meeting, 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.
- Board Policy 107 – Committee Assignments were reviewed.
- Director Allen Zander was chosen as the voting delegate for the NRECA District 5 regional meeting. Votes will be cast for Shane Larson, Director Candidate, and William Roberts, At-Large Candidate.


Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil submitted a written report. The new bucket truck was delivered. Weekly meetings are being held with Eaton to troubleshoot issues we are still having with the AMI meters. Water heater LMR removals continue with a total of 711 removed as of August 15, 2024.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. There were 39 disconnects in August. The PCA for June was 0.00822.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke submitted a written report. The opening on the MAG Committee for Sub-District 3c, townships of Kronenwetter, Reid, Knowlton, Guenther, and Bevent has been filled. There will be a Joint Committee Dinner on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.



A handler with her search and rescue dog searches for a "missing" person during a training session, with other dog handlers

SEARCH & RESCUE TRAINING HELD IN ROSHOLT

For four days in late September, around 140 search and rescue dogs and their handlers converged on the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt for search and rescue training sessions. The event, with participants from 27 states, was hosted by the Illinois Wisconsin Search Dogs (ILLWIS) organization, which has been around for 38 years.

"They're coming from Washington, California, Florida, Texas, so we pretty much have all corners of the country represented," said Dennis Schenk, K9 handler with ILLWIS, who is also a past president of the national organization of canine search and recovery.

Schenk, who resides in Rosholt, helped plan this year's annual training event. It was the third time the training was held in Rosholt. The event was also held in Rosholt in 2011 and 2016.

With the help of volunteers, who were strategically placed throughout the 440 acres of camp property, the K9 handlers and their dogs used the scent of the volunteers for the dogs to search for and rescue the volunteer victims. The training was meant to simulate a search and rescue operation a handler and their dog would have with law enforcement, fire departments, and other rescue groups in locating missing people.

"It's (training) important because of what we do," Schenk said. "It's life or death basically. It's important for even an experienced dog to keep up their level of training. It's just as important for a beginning dog to build a solid foundation."

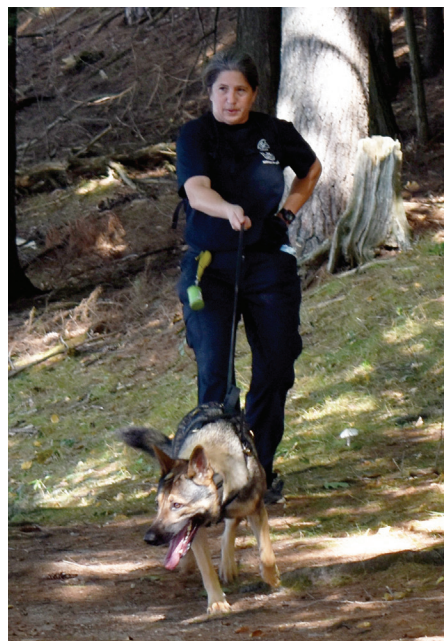
Jodi Brumer, an administrative assistant at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), was one of the

volunteer victims. She worked with the advanced search and rescue teams for building searches. She pretended to be missing in a dark building with no windows for one search. In another search she hid on top of items in a building because the instructor wanted the dogs to search for someone who wasn't on the ground.

"I felt grateful to play a small part in the training of these dogs for one of the most important jobs they could ever do," Brumer said. "I was very impressed at how the handlers worked with their dogs. They each had their own way of communicating. I learned that dogs use their sense of smell more than their eyesight. As the dogs got closer to me their breathing changed. I enjoyed being found/rescued to see how much hard work goes into training the dogs."

Al Zander, a board director for CWEC, also volunteered to be a "missing" person. Zander spent two days working with a group of two instructors and eight dogs and their handlers. He hid in the woods, pretending to be missing.

"I gained a huge appreciation for what they do; all were volunteers and they never charge for their services," Zander said. "I assumed when I was told I was working with a group of scent trackers it would be hounds but was



A handler and her search and rescue dog search for a "missing" person during scent training in the wilderness.

surprised at the variety of dogs used.”

Search and rescue dogs and their handlers do need to be certified, Schenk said, adding that the annual training event is meant to help prepare them for their certification testing.

“The mission of the national organization is to provide quality training and networking,” Schenk said.

The different types of search and rescue training that took place at the event included tracking, air scent in the wilderness, cadaver, and land and water.

In addition to training taking place on the Wisconsin Lions Camp property, Schenk said local rural property owners

allowed training to take place on their properties. The Portage County Fairgrounds in Rosholt was also used for the training event.

“The feedback I’ve been getting has been fantastic for the training,” Schenk said.

Not only was Schenk thankful for all the facilities that were used for the training, but he said sponsorships were also important for the success of the training.

“It’s expensive putting something like this on,” Schenk said. “We try to keep the registration fees low because everyone is a volunteer, so it’s all on their own dime.”

CWEC was one of the sponsors, as it sponsored the welcome dinner the Sunday night prior to the start of training.

“Community support has just been tremendous,” Schenk said. “Not only the camp and the staff here, but just community support has really been great, and it really helps the event go smooth.”

Phillip Potter, hospitality director for the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, said having the event at the Wisconsin Lions Camp helps fund the activities held at the camp for children and adults with disabilities, but it also allows networking to take place.

“A lot of what we do at the foundation here is service oriented,



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) President & CEO Lila Shower presents a check to Dennis Schenk with the Illinois Wisconsin Search Dogs (ILLWIS) organization. CWEC sponsored the welcome dinner for the search and rescue dog training event in late September hosted by ILLWIS.

so people are also learning about what we do here, which is fabulous,” Potter said.


He added, “The Wisconsin Lions Camp, we work with five different disabilities. We work with children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, children and adults who are blind or vision impaired, children and young adults with intellectual disabilities or autism, children with epilepsy, and children with diabetes. All of our campers come here completely free, so there is no cost for any of our campers to come here. One of the ways we raise revenue is by holding events and rentals, retreats and conferences. By the search and rescue team choosing our location, it’s helping to send more campers to camp.”



The “missing” person is found during one of the scent in the wilderness training sessions.

DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DISTRICT 2

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) Director Lee Lehrer has decided to retire from the board when his current term ends in April. He represents the following townships in District 2: Harrison, Wyoming, Dupont, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. CWEC is looking for qualified candidates from those townships to seek election onto the CWEC Board of Directors. For more information about the eligibility and qualifications to be a director, as well as the nominating process, visit www.cwecoop.com. Under the About Us tab, click on Board of Directors. Call the CWEC office, 715-677-2211, and ask for Jodi with any questions.



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular business will resume on Monday, December 2. From everyone here at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday.

REMINDER:

Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 3. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.



AREA KIDS NEED OUR HELP!

Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, and goodwill. It is a time of giving and helping those who are less fortunate, especially children. In our effort to accomplish the above, we are happy to once again partner with the U.S Marine Corps to make Christmas a little brighter for area children through the Toys for Tots program. We know that this year will once again be challenging to collect toys for area children.

Last year we were able to provide more than 3,500 toys to more than 1,100 area children. All indications are we will need at least the same number of toys again this year. As you can imagine, it is a pretty



daunting task to collect enough toys for that many children. This is where CWEC members can help. Help us spread a little Christmas joy this holiday season by donating a new unwrapped toy. All of the toys we collect are distributed locally.

To find the collection site nearest you, please see the accompanying list. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, you can make a check payable to Toys for Tots and mail it to us at: Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, PO Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473. If you would like to donate online, go to <http://iola-wi.toysfortots.org>

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas.

Toy Collection Sites-Final Toy Pick-Up Tuesday, December 3, 2024

BIRNAMWOOD

Banner Bank
416 Main St.
Birnamwood, WI 54414
715-449-2556

Dollar General
472 US-45
Birnamwood
715-449-6705

BOWLER

Bowler Schools
500 S. Almon St.
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-4101

1st National Bank
102 E. Railroad
Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-5200

CLINTONVILLE

Mills Fleet Farm
500 S Main Street.
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-6571

IOLA

Bank First
295 E State Street
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-3211

**Iola-Scandinavia
Elementary School**
450 E Division St
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2411

**Iola-Scandinavia
High School**
540 S Jackson St
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2211

**Iola-Scandinavia
Community
Fitness &
Aquatic Center**
445 S Jackson St
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-2411

Iola Village Library
180 S Main
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-4330

**Premier
Community Bank**
505 E State Drive
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-4700

MANAWA

**Manawa
Elementary School**
800 Beech St.
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2524

Little Wolf High School
515 E 4th Street
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2525

**Premier
Community Bank**
341 S Bridge St
Manawa, WI 54949
920-596-2531

MARION

Dollar General
213 Industrial Drive
Marion, WI 54950
715-793-0110

Family Dollar
1110 N Main Street
Marion, WI 54950
715-201-2505

ROSHOLT

**Central Wisconsin
Electric Co-op**
10401 Lystul Rd
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211

**Community
First Bank**
275 W. Grand Ave.
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4523

Dollar General
436 W Grand Avenue W
Rosholt, WI 54473
414-239-9449

**Rosholt Middle
School/High School**
346 Randolph St W
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4541

**Rosholt
Elementary School**
346 Randolph St W
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-4543

SCANDINAVIA

Silver Lake Lanes
N6311 State Road 49
Scandinavia, WI 54977
715-467-2700

TIGERTON

1st National Bank
140 Cedar St.
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2291

Anita Haircut
309 Cedar Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2245

**Premier
Community Bank**
112 US-45
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-3300

Tigerton Library
221 Birch Street
Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2262

WAUPACA

Mills Fleet Farm
2016 Farm Drive
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-3851

**RE/MAX Lyons
Real Estate**
206 W
Fulton St
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-9565

WITTENBERG

Associated Bank
501 S. Webb St.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2127

Banner Bank
202 S. Westgor Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2999

Dollar General
309 N Genesee Street
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-449-6740

**Northcentral
Technical College**
402 N Genesee Street #3
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-3500

**Wagner's Shell
Food Mart**
504 E. Grand Ave.
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-6231

Wittenberg Shell
413 N. Genesee
Wittenberg, WI 54499
715-253-2888



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Our Mission

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