



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

COOPERATIVES CELEBRATED DURING MONTH OF OCTOBER

October is Co-op Month, which has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964. This is the month that we acknowledge the benefits that cooperatives all across the country bring to their members and communities. It is a time for our co-op to reflect on the principles we share with other cooperatives and the value we provide. It is an honor and privilege to provide electric energy to our members and support the communities in central Wisconsin.

October is also the month that the cooperative returns to you a portion of your capital credits. Capital credits are the revenues that remain at the end of the year once all expenses are paid. These revenues, or margins, are then assigned to members based on the amount of energy they consumed during the year. Annually, the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) Board of Directors approves the retirement of a portion of these capital credits and members see a credit on their electric bill.

A couple of years ago, we started offering early retirement of capital credits

to estates. In the event that a CWECC member dies, the capital credits in the member's account become a part of the estate. Up until now, the member's heirs received the retired capital credits on the deceased's account on the same schedule established by CWECC for its members.

The CWECC Board of Directors recently changed this policy and is allowing for the early retirement of capital credits for the outstanding balance of a deceased member's capital credit account. The capital credits are discounted in order to balance the fairness between the estates and the other members of the cooperative, recognizing the time value of money (funds received today are worth more than funds received some time in the future).

The change was made to assist the member's heirs in closing the estate, as well as to provide a fair and equitable method for early retirement of capital credits for estates, heirs, and surviving spouses of deceased members.

For surviving spouses or other joint members with rights of survivorship, upon the death of one joint member, the surviving joint member will automatically become the sole owner of all capital cred-

its allocated to the joint membership. In this case, the surviving joint member can elect the early retirement of half the capital credits allocated to the joint membership.

For one-person memberships, the assignment or early retirement of a deceased member's capital credits shall only be made at the request of parties who are legally authorized to receive capital credits. It's just another way that cooperatives add value back to their members.

Plan to visit us on October 26 for our Member Appreciation Breakfast. The CWECC Board of Directors and employees of CWECC want to extend our thanks and appreciation for allowing us to provide electric service to you and to be an integral part of the communities in which we serve. We will have arts and crafts vendors, so bring your wallet and start your Christmas shopping early. For the kids, we will have a costume contest, a parade, games, and a bounce house, plus a chance to win a bicycle.

Learn more about your cooperative, visit with your fellow cooperative members, and enjoy some of the best pancakes and sausage in central Wisconsin. I look forward to seeing you then.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment, and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for tax credits.

Source: energystar.gov

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 8:00 a.m. on July 25, 2024. The following is a summary of meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the June 27, 2024 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports reviewed by the Finance Committee.
- Changes to Board Policy 106 were approved.
- Department Goals updates were shared with the board.
- The board approved changes to the late penalty calculations. The approved rate will be \$10 or 2% of balance, whichever is higher. These rates will be in effect for the October (September usage) bills.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil gave an update on the AMI system. Allegiant was here and were able to change out 400 meters. All new meters should be deployed on the system. 76% of the vegetation management has been completed. Water heater LMR removals continue with a total of 697 removed as of July 19, 2024.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. There were 43 disconnects in July. The cooperative received dividends from the State of Wisconsin for unclaimed property. The PCA for June was 0.02163.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the staff continues to work on documentation for the grant funding. The Application and Agreement for Membership and Electric Service are now available on the cooperative's website. Operation Round Up approved donation requests to the following: Jensen Community Center Expansion, Rosholt School District, Town of Sharon-Polonia Park Steak Night Fundraiser, and American Legion Post 509-Rosholt.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

ROSHOLT SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1,000 STEAM GRANT FROM CWEC

The Rosholt School District has received a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEc) to be used to purchase Math Genius Squad training materials for their Building First Through Third Grade Math Instruction Resources program.

The Math Genius Squad training materials will help the district's new teachers, said Elizabeth MacDonald, math interventionist for the Rosholt School District.

"It has many different math resources. It has creative PowerPoints that go along with our current curriculum," MacDonald said. "It also has video trainings that will help train them for each lesson. And then it also has Spanish resources, which will help out with our new population of Spanish speakers."

MacDonald added, "We have the Expressions math curriculum, and the Math Genius Squad is all based on our current math curriculum so it will help give more support for our mathematics program."

The Math Genius Squad training materials will also be able to be used in future years, MacDonald said.

"Of course, the knowledge they



Elizabeth MacDonald (left), math interventionist for the Rosholt School District, and Mary Anne Cline (right), principal for Rosholt Elementary School, accept a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

(teachers) take from this year will continue on in their teaching methodology," added Mary Anne Cline, principal for Rosholt Elementary School.

MacDonald said the district has a lot of new teachers this year, and the Math Genius Squad training materials will be beneficial for them, as well as for the students.

"It will help give them the training that they need for our Math Expressions

curriculum that we use," MacDonald said. "It will help give them more resources that will make their first year a little easier. And it will allow me, as the math RTI specialist, to be able to go in and help support the classroom and provide more math RTI for the struggling students."

Without the STEAM grant, MacDonald said the district would have had to wait to purchase the Math Genius Squad training materials, as the license for each different grade level costs more than \$300.

"I'm just very grateful that this was available so we can help out our new teachers and really help support our beginning level math curriculum," MacDonald said.

Cline added, "I'm just very thankful for the co-op and for the members of the co-op that allow grants like this to take place because we know that it takes a village to raise a child. We get lots of tax money and lots of money from the state, but this is an additional thing. This is an additional training that is above and beyond the training that has to take place that really helps teachers hone their skills."

CWEC WINS STATEWIDE MAGAZINE AWARD



Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News Editor Dana Kelroy, left, presents an award of excellence in the category of Human Interest to Bert Lehman, member relations specialist at CWEC.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEc) recently won an award of excellence for presentation of local news in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, the voice of the state's rural electric cooperatives. Bert Lehman, member relations specialist at CWEC, serves as the editor of the co-op's local pages within the magazine.

CWEC's magazine pages won Honorable Mention in the category of Human Interest for the previous year.

Awards were presented at the 2024 Communication Power Conference in Stevens Point Aug. 28.

LATE FEE NOTICE !

Beginning Oct. 1, the late fee for paying your electric bill late will be \$10 or 2% of the past due balance, whichever is greater. The fee change will be put into place with the October billing, which covers September's electricity usage.

Previously, the late fee was 2% of the past due balance, plus \$2.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST & FUN!

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 26, 2024 • 8-11 a.m.

Main Office in Rosholt,
10401 Lystul Road



Come join the fun, as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will host a pancake breakfast as a way to show its appreciation to its members.

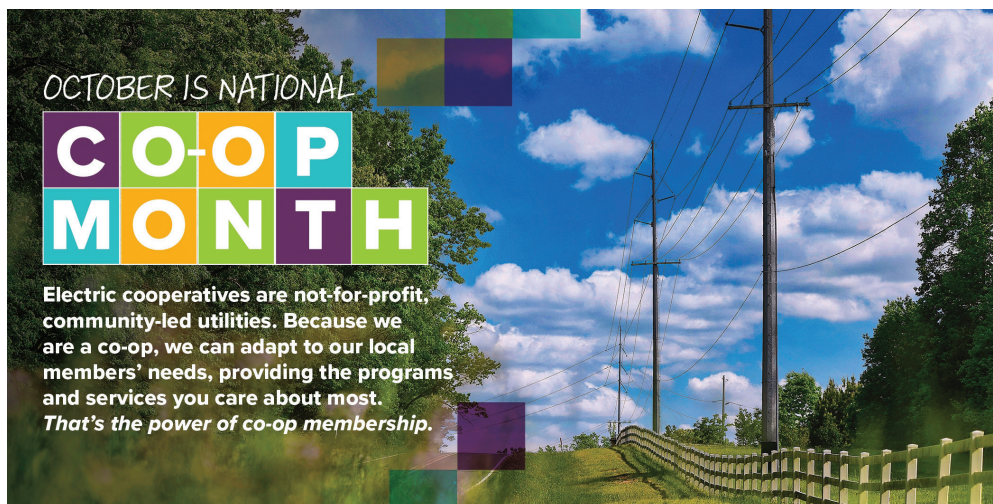
- Door Prizes
- Bike Drawing for Kids (10 a.m. drawing)
- Kids Costume Contest (Judging at 9:45 a.m.)
- Bounce House for Kids
- Halloween Treat Bag for Kids
- Hotline Demo
- Paper Recycling
- Craft & Gift Fair with 25+ local vendors



Bring a new unwrapped toy to donate to the CWEC Toys for Tots toy drive and we'll enter you in a special prize drawing.

Bring canned food items to be donated to local food pantries and receive one LED light bulb for every three food items. (Up to 15 limit)





CO-OPS POWER COMMUNITIES WITH PURPOSE

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is deeply committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities built by the communities they serve. For CWEC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including CWEC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate

challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

1. **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
2. **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
3. **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At CWEC, this happens through paying your energy bills.
4. **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
5. **Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
6. **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.
7. **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.



**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

Follow us on X
and Facebook



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.**