



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



**Lila Shower,
President & CEO**

PARTNERSHIP HELPS KEEP ELECTRICITY FLOWING

Providing electricity to the members of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) safely, efficiently, and cost effectively, is the co-op's top goal. Achieving that goal would not be possible without the partnerships that CWEC has developed over the years, including the partnership with ATC.

For 25 years, ATC has been bringing energy to communities by delivering safe and reliable power across the Upper Midwest. The Wisconsin-based, transmission-only utility company builds and operates the electric grid that keeps power flowing to homes and businesses across the region.

While ATC's work happens behind the scenes, the impact is felt every day. When your lights switch on without hesitation. When your cellphone charges. When you cook dinner for your family. That is ATC at work.

Understanding ATC's role starts with understanding how electricity travels from where it is generated to where it is needed.

Electricity can be generated from a variety of energy sources, including coal, natural gas, wind, solar, and hydropower. Once electricity is generated, it must travel across the electric transmission system before it can be delivered to homes and businesses.

ATC's transmission system, known as the grid, acts as a highway that moves electricity from point A to point B. Generation is the on ramp, transmission is the highway, and distribution is the exit ramp.

The partnership that ATC has with CWEC includes the transmission and distribution of electricity, bringing power from generation to CWEC's substations and substations of other utilities. The utilities then distribute that electricity to its members and customers.

ATC's high-voltage transmission lines carry large amounts of electricity. That voltage is reduced at substations, like those belonging to CWEC, which then safely distributes power to area communities.

It is critical infrastructure supporting our communities.

ATC works diligently to maintain a

stable, reliable, and resilient grid to support the members of CWEC.

And coordination is key to keeping this process efficient.

That coordination, along with communication, is imperative when work is needed to maintain the grid. Infrastructure is interconnected, so our teams work together to safely make necessary repairs or updates while maintaining reliable service.

We also collaborate as electricity needs change because ATC's responsibility extends beyond only moving electricity. ATC plans, builds, operates, and protects the regional electric grid. The energy landscape is evolving, and so are the demands placed on the grid. As demand grows, ATC remains focused on adapting, innovating, and investing in a strong grid for the future.

ATC takes a long-term view, anticipating change and preparing the grid to meet today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities. Through careful planning, innovation and investment, ATC strengthens the grid to ensure it remains reliable and ready for the future.

Electricity may arrive with the flip of a switch but that's made possible with a coordinated, interconnected system.

Power is generated, ATC transmits that power across the region to CWEC and other utilities, which then distribute it to its members and customers.

ATC's role is to remain that strong, reliable middle portion of the electricity system.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:53 a.m. on July 30, 2026. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, meeting minutes of June 25, 2026, 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.
- Megan Kropidowski was approved as the newest member to the Member Advisory Board. She represents Sub-district 2A.
- Directors Zander and Schultz were selected as the Cooperative's Director Nominees for the Badger Cooperative Annual Meeting on September 17, 2026. Director Pamperin was selected as the Alternate Nominee.
- The Joint Committee Dinner will be held at the Rosholt Headquarters on October 15, 2026, at 6 p.m.
- The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 503 – Dispute Resolution. Recommendation by the committee was to leave the policy as it was written.

Operations and Engineering – A written report was submitted in the absence of Kevin Kurtzweil, VP of Operations.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Stacy Claussen. Disconnect notices were sent out on July 17, 2026. As of July 30, 2026, there were five members still disconnected. The final storm application has been submitted to the state.

Member Services – Bert Lehman reported on his submitted report. A slide presentation of the 2026 Youth Leadership Conference was shared with the Board. Cole Erdmann, this year's participant, shared his experience. Third quarter donations of \$1,250 were approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board. Five key accounts visits were made in July.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

CHRIS TUSZKE RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS AS CWEC LINEMAN

For the first time in 34 years, Chris Tuszke won't have to be on alert for power outages when storms roll through the territory of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) because Tuszke retired from CWEC the first week of September.

"I won't miss the storms, being woken up in the middle of the night. That transition will go very well," Tuszke said.

He may not miss the storms, but he said he will miss his fellow linemen at CWEC.

"You rely on the guys to watch out for you, you watch out for them," Tuszke said. "You become very close knit. The camaraderie of the crews, the people at work. I will miss the social aspect of it, and our great members too."

While Tuszke has been a lineman at CWEC for 34 years, he began working at CWEC 37 years ago. He worked at the co-op during the summer for three years prior to being hired as a lineman.

"An apprenticeship lineman position opened up here and they asked me if I would interview," Tuszke said. "I said, 'Yeah.' They offered it to me, and I took it from there."

Wanting to stay close to his family in Stevens Point, becoming a lineman at CWEC was a blessing. Tuszke said he never thought he'd be with CWEC for 34 years as a lineman.

"I had no idea it was going to turn into what it did," Tuszke said. "I always thought this might be a steppingstone to something else. I always wanted to keep doors open. But because the co-op was really good at giving me additional education, training, and certification, and so many things, it just branched out to so many things that worked really well."

When he started his career as a lineman, Tuszke said it was important to him to stay safe and keep other linemen he worked with safe.

"My career would not be a success if somebody got hurt on my crew or if I was part of a major accident," Tuszke said. "We must have done something right because nobody got hurt while I was working or anywhere around our crews. That's what I'm most



Chris Tuszke, who has been a lineman at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, has retired from the co-op after 34 years as a lineman.

proud of, to walk away safe and be able to be fully intact to enjoy my retirement."

During his time at CWEC, Tuszke said he had the opportunity to travel across the state of Wisconsin to help other cooperatives restore power. He also traveled to Florida to help restore power caused by hurricane damage.

Tuszke said being a lineman is a "very challenging, ever-changing career. If you stay with it, that's where the rewards come in." Adding to that, Tuszke said being a lineman is not a career – it is a lifestyle.

"You become so routine into the lifestyle, looking forward to being with the guys everyday doing work," Tuszke said. "Working with this equipment, power restoration, and meeting our members. We have great members. I just really enjoy every aspect of this field. To walk away and know that you'll never do this again, it's heartbreaking because you look forward to it every day."

Even though Tuszke said it is tough to leave, he said he knows it is the right time to retire, as he isn't getting any younger.

"This is my favorite time of the year, and I think I can take advantage of that. Instead of burning vacation, I can just be permanently hunting," Tuszke said.

He said retirement will also allow him to spend more time with his wife and bird dog, as well as catch up on projects he hasn't had time to complete. He plans to do plenty of hunting and fishing, as well as traveling.

"Be able to maintain a level of consistency and not roll out of bed when the storms roll in," Tuszke said. "Enjoy the peace and quiet and get into the hobbies that I've so dearly missed that I do part time. Now I can do my hobbies full time. That's what I'm looking forward to the most."



Chris Tuszke celebrates his retirement with his family.

BREAKFAST IS ON US!

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative **MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**

**Saturday,
October 24, 2026
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 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)



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.



LOCAL VOICES SHAPE LOCAL SOLUTIONS

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC).

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like CWEC—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes CWEC different.

Our story began in 1937 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students. We want the members of CWEC to feel that the co-op is their trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. Help us celebrate by attending the 2026 CWEC Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 24. See page 17 for more information.

Whether it's CWEC, your local credit union, or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

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Our Mission

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

