



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



Lila Shower,
President & CEO

TWO GRANT PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

Summer is slowly coming to an end. One of the first signs of the end of summer is when area children return to school for another year of learning. This will have us seeing school buses traveling on our rural roads to take them to and from school each day.

If you are a parent or guardian, educate your children on staying away from traffic while waiting for the bus. If you are a driver, be on the lookout for children and do not pass buses that have stopped. It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load and unload children. Let's work together to ensure our children stay safe this school year.

Before summer concluded, the co-op completed work on a project that tied our Wittenberg and Groenier substations together. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was able to do this project because it was previously awarded a grant for the project through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) grant program. CWEC originally applied for this grant, as well as a grant for a second project in February 2024.

After being awarded grants for the two projects, CWEC was finally given the approval to begin work on the two grant projects about a year ago. Shortly after that, the co-op began work on the grant project of converting 2.5 miles of overhead lines to a three-phase underground line along Fairview Road

in the townships of Bartelme and Almon in Shawano County. This line feeds the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. The co-op was awarded slightly more than \$400,000 in grant funds for this project.

That project was completed by the end of 2025.

This year, work on the grant project that tied our Wittenberg and Groenier substations together began. The work for this grant project took place in an area where CWEC provides electrical service to larger commercial and agricultural businesses. As stated, the co-op recently completed this project. CWEC had been awarded almost \$900,000 in grant funds for the project.

Without the grants, the co-op would not have been able to complete these two projects. While investor-owned utilities can raise funds for projects like these, the co-op can't do that because we provide service in a rural area. We have five members per mile of line, and investor-owned utilities have 35 customers per mile of line, so they have more money to do these types of projects.

We will continue to pursue grant funds in the future. Any grant funding we receive helps the co-op to complete needed upgrades to our electric grid earlier than planned for. And that's a benefit to all our members.

Have a great month!

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at 7:51 a.m. on June 25, 2026. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, meeting minutes of May 28, 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.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried on the ATC Quarter 3 Voluntary Additional Capital Request of \$137,051.
- The Governance Committee reviewed Policy 602 – Elimination of Hazardous Situations. Recommendation by the committee was to leave the policy as it was written.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported on his submitted report. Two items; a bucket truck and trailer were listed on the Wisconsin Surplus website. The 153 grant project is projected to be completed by mid-July. The RESAP results were shared with the Board. Underground inspection has been completed off parts of the Wittenberg and Tigerton sub-stations.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were presented by Ms. Claussen. Disconnect notices were sent out on June 19, 2026. As of June 25, 2026, there were 20 members still disconnected. The storm application has been submitted to the state. Amanda Seger from CFC was at the office on June 3, 2026, to work on the 10-year financial forecast.

Member Services – Bert Lehman reported on his submitted report. One student has signed up for the Youth Leadership Conference at UW-Stout. Photos for the calendar contest continue to be submitted. A new website design is in progress to convert the CWEC website to the SHiNE platform. Five key account visits were made in the month of June.

President and CEO – Lila Shower, President and CEO, reported on her submitted report. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy

OPERATION ROUND UP CONTINUES TO HELP AREA COMMUNITIES

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?



Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a few cents each month. Electric bills are simply “rounded up” to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly “round up” could be as little as a single penny, but never more than ninety-nine cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.



Top: Wisconsin Lions Foundation. Bottom: Birnamwood Polka Days.

FIRST QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$500 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$300 – Wisconsin Lions Foundation to sponsor a month's lunch for the NASA Discoveries program for Rosholt fourth grade students.
- \$250 – Birnamwood Polka Days to help with their 5th Anniversary Celebration in July.
- \$250 – Tigerton Main Street to help cover the costs of its 33rd anniversary year.
- \$250 – American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14 to help add a fishing pier at the American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14 Veterans Memorial Park.
- \$250 – Rosholt Food Pantry to help purchase an upright freezer for the pantry.
- \$250 – Iola Historical Society to help with the costs of one of five different projects the group has planned.

SECOND QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

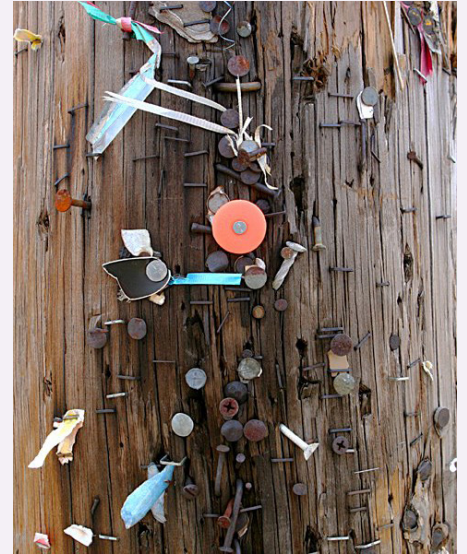
- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$1,000 – Elderon Memorial VFW Post 8068 to help fund the construction of a new VFW Clubhouse.
- \$300 – Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes to help support its upcoming educational projects for the 2025-26 program.
- \$250 – Lessons From the Art to support the creation of a Native Pollinator Garden to help educate people about the importance of pollination.
- \$250 – Tigerton 4K/Kindergarten Swimming Fund to help cover the costs associated with providing swimming lessons to 3K, 4K, and kindergarten classes.
- \$250 – Tigerton Varsity Softball Team to help cover costs of scrimmaging at the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander, as well as purchasing additional equipment such as extra buckets of balls, indoor balls, and hitting equipment.
- \$250 – Central WI Order of the Sleepless Knights Parrothead Club to help purchase basket raffle and silent auction items for its anniversary party fundraiser.
- \$250 – Iola Lions Club to sponsor the 2026 Iola-Scandinavia Post Prom Party.

THIRD QUARTER DONATION RECIPIENTS:

- \$1,000 – Individual Medical Hardship donation.
- \$250 – Town of Sharon to help cover the expenses for its Polonia Park Steak Dinner fundraiser.

**TOTAL
OPERATION
ROUND UP FUNDS
DONATED:
\$769,064**

POWER POLES: NO POSTING ZONE



Most jobs do not require you to climb 40 feet in the air and conduct business within a few feet of high voltage power lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity. However, for many utility workers, this is just another day at the office.

Across the nation, millions of utility poles provide the electricity that powers everything in your daily life — from your coffee maker that brews your morning cup of joe to the lights you turn off before going to bed. The electricity we depend on would not be possible without the utility workers who maintain and repair these power poles.

Do not post anything on or attach anything to a utility pole.

By respecting utility poles, you can help keep your community powered and your local utility workers safe.

Posting items on power poles is not only illegal in many areas, but it also creates hazards for the lineworkers who repair and maintain utility poles and other electrical infrastructure.

Utility workers use specialized climbing equipment to perform regular maintenance and repair damaged power lines at

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Top, left to right: Tigerton 4K/Kindergarten Swimming Fund and Lessons from the Art. Bottom, left to right: Elderon Memorial VFW Post 8068, Iola Historical Society, and Central WI Order of the Sleepless Knights Parrothead Club.

ANDREW FARRIS JOINS CWEC AS IT INTERN



Andrew Farris, who will graduate from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Cyber Security in December, has joined Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) as an IT intern.

"I saw this as a great opportunity, and I really want to just start in my field (of study) any way possible," Farris said. "I applied to a number of different places, but this is one of the internships that I put a little more effort into. It just seemed like a good place to start off and learn and do something I love to do every day."

Farris said he immediately began learning new things after beginning the internship at CWEC in July. He added that his college education provided him with a base of IT knowledge that has helped him with his internship work.

"There's definitely been a handful of items that I've used from college in this job and it's increasing," Farris said.

The internship, which has Farris working full-time at CWEC until the fall semester starts in early September, has had Farris working on a variety of IT items.

"Any little problem I find extremely interesting because you never know what's going to come up that day or next week," Farris said. "Is my whole week going to be completely different than what I thought? That's what I love about this job. I'm just excited to tackle new problems and get through them and learn how to deal with them."

Once the fall semester starts at UW-Stevens Point, the internship will have Farris working part-time at CWEC. After he graduates in December, Farris said he will pursue an IT job, which he said is the first step toward finding a job in cyber security.

"That's stuff I'd love to do," Farris said.

He added, "Coding is a good passion that I have as well, but cyber security is more surprising. It's different every day."

Farris, who is from Lino Lakes, Minnesota, said during his free time he enjoys playing video games, working out, golfing, and watching football and hockey.

the top of utility poles. Nails, tacks, staples and other items used to attach signs and objects to power poles can damage climbing boots worn by workers. In addition, foreign objects can snag or damage protective clothing. All the PPE (personal protective equipment) worn by lineworkers help protect them from electrical shock and other injuries.

Everyone who relies on electricity should take steps to make a lineworker's job as safe as possible.

Do not place a tree stand on a power pole.

If you plan on hunting, do not place tree stands or other objects on utility poles. Doing so not only creates a risk for utility workers, but it is also extremely dangerous for anyone who uses it. For your own safety, please keep as much distance as possible between yourself and overhead power lines.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Our Mission

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

COLE ERDMANN ATTENDS YLC

Cole Erdmann, a junior at Tigerton High School, represented Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) at the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) held at UW-Stout July 14-16.

The conference was a three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their leadership skills while learning about the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

This was Erdmann's first time attending YLC. He said he wanted to attend because he was looking to improve his leadership skills.

Erdmann participated in many team building activities and took part in District meetings while at YLC. YLC attendees were split into six different districts that consisted of 10-15 attendees. During the district meetings, YLC attendees learned more about cooperatives and how they are different than non-cooperative businesses.

The second day of YLC, each district was given the task of creating a TikTok video about one of the seven Cooperative Principles. The videos were shown to all YLC attendees on the final day.

Participants also heard the following presentations: Overcoming Trauma: Life After a Plane Accident by Hunter Gillet and Safe Driving/License to Live by Ben Bella director of compliance services – WECA.

Craig Hillier, a motivational speaker and author, conducted a Breakthrough Leadership session with attendees. This session was hands-on, with YLC attendees working on different projects together.

A formal etiquette dinner was also held the second night of YLC.

At the conclusion of YLC, Erdmann said that attending YLC will help him become a better leader. He added that it will also help him when he starts applying to attend college.



Cole Erdmann prior to the formal etiquette dinner held at Youth Leadership Conference at UW-Stout.



Cole Erdmann participates in an activity during a presentation by a motivational speaker.