



By Mike Wade, President & CEO

# CO-OPS FACE MANY CHALLENGES THIS SUMMER

July means summer. Summer means outdoor fun and keeping cool in the shade. It also means watching our thermostats and being mindful of conserving electricity. By monitoring your energy use on hot days, this will help you keep your summer electric bills affordable. If you are spending time outdoors, be reminded that you need to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. And if it gets too hot, come on inside and cool off.

The electric distribution lines of our cooperative are connected to the larger electric grid through a series of transmission lines across 15 states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. The entity that operates our grid and manages the energy market is called MISO (Mid-continent Independent System Operator). MISO monitors the grid to ensure that electricity flows between generation facilities and where it is ultimately needed.

To ensure reliability, MISO plans for more generation supply than the anticipated demand for energy. However, a higher than expected summer demand

coupled with the retirement of coal-fired generation has MISO concerned about a possible shortfall that could lead to blackouts. We are currently in discussions with our power supplier about this possibility and what it may mean for our members. Although the risk of blackouts is minimal, this situation shows the fragile nature of our business and the challenges utilities are facing as they plan for a future electric grid of more renewable energy and less fossil-fuel generation.

Increasing natural gas prices, supply chain issues, and inflation have caused an increase in our wholesale power costs and the goods and services we rely on. Our power costs are higher than we expected, but we are able to mitigate much of the impact to our members because of our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center. We are working closely with RESCO, our distribution material provider, to ensure we have sufficient material for this year's work plan projects and member line extensions and upgrades. We are evaluating our material needs for 2023 so that long lead time items can be ordered now.

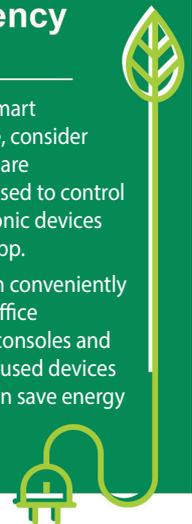
Special thanks to the elementary schools in our service area for allowing us to teach electrical safety to your fourth-graders. This partnership allows us to educate students on the realities of outdoor electrical danger and provide them with the knowledge to protect themselves and their families. We are glad to be back in the schools in person and we look forward to visiting with a new class of students next year.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The April regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on April 28, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the March 31, 2022 meeting, minutes of the April 19, 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 404 – Records Management and made no recommended changes.
- d. Per Board Policy 401 – Financial Oversight and Reporting, Ms. Shower gave a presentation to the board on some of the internal financial controls used at the cooperative.
- e. The board interviewed two law firms to represent CWEC with legal matters due to Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S. C. closing their business in May. The board approved selecting the firm of Weld Riley S.C.
- f. The board approved an additional amount towards the purchase of

- a new vehicle due to the lack of vehicle availability, discounts and rebates.
  - g. The board approved performing the board self-evaluation in September 2022.
  - h. Jim Halvorsen, CPA with the accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the results of the 2021 Financial Audit.
- Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported his crews began plowing new connects this week. Currently they are working on 11 new connects, and just received three additional to be completed. Contractor Tjader and Highstrom is assisting our crews with new connects and terminations.
- Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed by Ms. Shower.
- Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the Rosholt Fire Department and students from UWSP burned the pollinator field last night. The CWEC Annual Meeting was a success with 148 registered members attending for a total of 200 in attendance. Directors volunteered to attend the upcoming scholarship award ceremonies at the area schools.
- Administrative Services – Ms. Patoka reported on her submitted report.
- President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

# ELECTRICITY SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS RETURN FOR FOURTH-GRADERS

To help promote Electrical Safety Month in May, linemen from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) conducted electricity safety demonstrations for fourth-grade students at six elementary schools in the CWEC service area. Elementary schools included those located in Birnamwood, Bowler, Iola, Rosholt, Tigerton, and Wittenberg.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CWEC electricity safety demonstrations were held each May at area elementary schools. Demonstrations were not held in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID.

“Knowing the importance of electricity safety, we were excited to once again be able to bring these safety demonstrations back to the classrooms of area schools,” said Bert Lehman, member relations specialist at CWEC. “The students seemed to enjoy the safety demonstrations and had a lot of good questions.”

The demonstrations show students



CWEC lineman Chris Tuszke shows fourth-grade students from Bowler Elementary School the danger of a kite string getting caught in a power line.

firsthand the dangers that could occur if they aren't safe with electricity. Students got to see some of the safety equipment linemen have to wear when they work around power lines, as well as what above ground and underground power lines look like. Linemen also showed the students what happens if a tree branch, kite string, and fishing line come in contact with a power line.

To help convey how dangerous electricity is, students were shown what would happen if a human hand touched a power line. A hot dog was used to

demonstrate this.

Finally, students were informed about what to do if they were involved in a vehicle accident that resulted in a downed power line. And if need be, how to properly exit a vehicle in that situation.

“With the ever-increasing need for a safe and reliable electrical distribution system, I really enjoy educating people of all ages about the importance and dangers that go along with electricity,” said CWEC lineman Chris Tuszke. “The hot line demos bring the realities to real life situations.”



Above: CWEC lineman Gabe Pospyhalla with the fourth-grade students from Tigerton Elementary School. Left: CWEC lineman Chris Tuszke shows fourth-grade students from Rosholt Elementary School what happens when a ladder that is being carried touches a power line.



Left: Fourth-grade students at Wittenberg Elementary School are shown by CWEC lineman Mack Yarbrough what happens when a body part touches a power line. A hot dog was used in the demonstration. Center: CWEC lineman Chris Tuszke shows fourth-grade students at Iola-Scandinavia Elementary School what an underground power line looks like. Right: Fourth-grade students at Birnamwood Elementary School are shown by Tuszke some of the safety items he wears when working around power lines.



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2. Automated Clearing House (ACH). With this option your monthly bill is deducted automatically from your checking or savings account on the 4th of each month. To enroll please fill out the form below and return to our office for processing. Our address is:  

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

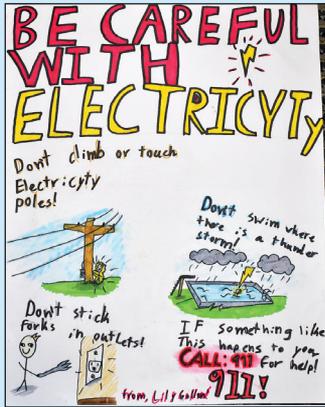
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to instruct my financial institution to deduct my payments from the account number on the voided check I have included with this application. If at any time I decide to discontinue this payment service, I will notify Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

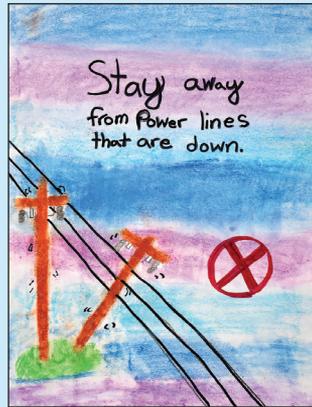
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## ELECTRICITY SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



First Place  
Lily Gollon



Second Place  
Ava Schulist



Third Place  
Gage Woyak



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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### Our Mission

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

## UNDERGROUND POWERLINE SYSTEM TO BE INSPECTED

To help ensure the integrity of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) electric system, inspections of its underground powerline system are scheduled in July. Once started, it will take about three to four weeks to complete the inspections.

CWEC has contracted with Karcz Utility Services, LLC to perform the inspections. If part of the system to be inspected is in the yard of a CWEC member, a representative from Karcz Utility Services will knock on the member's residence door, identify themselves, and state the reason for being there.

The inspections will take place in



areas serviced by Iola Feeder #1 and Sannes Feeders #1 and #2. Townships included in the Iola Feeder #1 area include: Iola, Helvetia, Wyoming, and Harrison. Townships included in the Sannes Feeders #1 and #2 area include: Amherst, Scandinavia, and part of Iola.

## CWEC OFFERS BUSINESS LOANS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has funds available to assist in the financing of new or expanding businesses that create or retain jobs. Partnering with USDA, CWEC offers low rate loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to qualifying applicants. CWEC's loan fund is designed to complement local lender financing programs including conventional, SBA, CDBG, and WHEDA. For more information please call CWEC at 715-677-2211.

*Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider.*

