



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## FROM HERE TO THERE

As the New Year gets underway, we have a new budget to follow and goals to accomplish. The board of directors approved our capital and operating budgets at their December board meeting, and staff has begun the process of preparing for the improvements we will be making to our operation. Many of the improvements will be made directly to our electric distribution system while others are technology improvements that will help us do more and offer better service to our members. In short, we are continuing to challenge ourselves to provide safe and reliable electric service while controlling our operating costs.

Our 2018 budget contains over \$1.3 million in capital expenditures. Included are pole replacements, line extensions,

new transformers and reclosers. In addition, the capital budget includes several computer servers to replace outdated units, and test equipment to measure power quality. We are also improving our radio communication system, which will mean improvements at several tower locations and the removal of towers that no longer meet our needs. Our radio communications system is not only for voice communication to our field staff, but it's also utilized to transport metering data back to our main office. An up-to-date communication system is key to our work as an electric utility.

We will also be performing a member satisfaction survey in 2018 to gauge member perception of the service we provide and get feedback that will allow us to ensure we are meeting our members' needs and expectations. We do this survey every three years and it helps us focus on the issues that mean the most

to our members. Please look for more information about the survey in future editions of this magazine.

We have selected Asplundh to provide vegetation management services in 2018. They will focus their efforts in the Rosholt and Tigerton areas. Asplundh is a company we have worked with for several years, and their crew is from the area and works very well with our membership. We are pleased they were selected from a group of bidders this year and look forward to working with them to keep our rights-of-way properly cleared so that we have adequate access to our electric facilities.

These are just some of the projects we have underway for the new year. We remain dedicated to working on programs and services that offer the best value to the membership. Together, we can meet the challenges that lay before us and I look forward to a bright year ahead.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 8 a.m. on November 30, 2017. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the October 26, 2017, meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety report were approved.

### Action Items

- a. Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- b. Governance Committee continued reviewing Chapter 7.0 Construction Policy of the Service Rules and Regulations along with Dispute Resolution Policy and the Outdoor Lighting Schedule.
- c. The board approved the 2018 Nominations Committee Meeting be held Saturday, January 20, 2018, at the headquarters.
- d. The 2018 ACRE Membership Drive was discussed and directors' participation was noted.
- e. The board approved attendance at the WECA Education & Lobby Days February 14–15, 2018 in Madison, WI.
- f. The 2018 Annual Goals were presented by each department. The staff will continue to work on the financial and capital budget for the December 2017 regular board meeting.
- g. The board approved all board members' attendance at the Board Leadership training January 11–12, 2018, in Black River Falls.

Operations and Engineering – The crews are working on new connects, underground inspection, LED light upgrades, and pole changes.

Accounting and Finance – Continue to work with all departments to prepare the 2018 budget and goals.

Member Services – School supplies collected at the Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast were distributed to Rosholt, Wittenberg, Tigerton, and Bowler elementary schools.

President and CEO Report – We are scheduling our last quarterly manager's meeting to be held in Madison and have speakers from various areas of expertise to provide a good diversity of information.

Directors reported on the WECA Annual Meeting, Badger Special Meeting, and the Employee/Safety Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.



# CWEC MEMBER APPRECIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Annual Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast was held on Saturday, October 28, at the CWEC headquarters in Rosholt. Over 500 turned out to enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast on a beautiful and sunny morning. Plenty of activities for young and old were available. There were kids' games, a bounce house, goodie bags for the kids, a petting zoo, hotline demonstrations, and free blood-pressure screening provided by Rural Health Initiative. New this year was a craft and gift fair with 21 area craft vendors, document recycling, and flu shots provided by Rural Health Initiative for a minimal cost.

Member Appreciation Day is an opportunity for members to learn more about their co-op. CWEC had information on load management programs, and information on how you can save money this year and down the road.

In addition, CWEC kicked off its annual Toys for Tots drive and Stuff the Cart-Back to School Supplies drive. The



response was overwhelming; over 100 toys and over 200 school supplies were donated, plus monetary donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. This is a great opportunity to help those who are less fortunate than us. All toys are given to children locally, and school supplies are distributed to schools in our service area. Even though we did not promote our Food Drive for this event, our generous members donated over 63 items, which were donated to an area food pantry. A special thank you to Rural Health Initiative for proving blood pressure

checks and flu shots, the Rosholt FFA members who brought small animals for the petting zoo, and to the Rosholt area parking volunteers.

The prize winners were: Jeremy Miller, Ron Cornwell, Tom and Jan Jashinsky, Walter Smith, Royce Moericke, James Wendlandt, Eric Hug, and Angie Mavis.

This year we gave away a girl and boy 20-inch bike and helmet. The winners were Reed Curtis and Brynn Schreiber.

Congratulations to all of our winners.



# TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE HELPS AREA KIDS

Christmas was made a little brighter for more than 750 area kids thanks to the generosity of many of you and with the help from the local businesses and organizations.

Each year, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative partners with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to coordinate a Toys for Tots campaign. The toys were given to children in the Tigerton, Bowler, Wittenberg, Birnamwood, Rosholt, Manawa, Iola, and Scandinavia areas.

In addition, this year we helped children through area churches, food pantries, local fire departments, and Waupaca County Health and Human Services. We would like to thank all of those who made this year's program a huge success and helped put a smile on a child's face for Christmas. Thank you to all of the area coordinators and the collection sites.



MY CO-OP



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

Did you know your cooperative offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades? If not, we're pleased to inform you we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades including Energy Star appliance purchases, insulation, new windows, heat pumps, alternative water heaters, LED lighting, and much more. For a detailed listing please visit [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) or give us a call.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

### 4th Annual Iola Snow Bully

#### Fat Bike Race

Friday, February 2

6 p.m., under the lights at the Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information Contact Scott Cole at 715-340-3683.



Sunday, February 4

#### Noon, Central Ski Jumping

Championships at the Iola Winter Sports Club.

For more information about the outside events go to [www.iolawintersportsclub.org](http://www.iolawintersportsclub.org) or call 715-445-3411.



### 57th Annual Iola Winter Carnival

Saturday, February 3

8 a.m.–noon, Ice sculpting at the Iola-Scandinavia High School.

9:30 a.m.–2 p.m., Free Children's Ice Fishing Contest on Lake Iola (ages 16 and under).

1 p.m.–6 p.m., Norwegian Lutefisk Supper and Indoor Craft Sale.

Includes lutefisk, lefse, Norwegian meatballs and all the trimmings, plus a craft show—held at the Iola-Scandinavia High School.



1 p.m., Skijoring at Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information contact Jerry Thompson at 715-824-2014.

6 p.m., Twilight Snowshoe Race at the Iola Winter Sports Club. For more information contact Jeff Crumbaugh at 715-701-0360.

### 2nd Annual Tree Lake Association Fisherie

Saturday, February 17

9 a.m.–4 p.m.

There is no charge for fishing. There will be first, second, and third cash prizes in the fish categories. Live music from 1–4 p.m., 50/50 raffle plus many other tickets sold for many other prizes. Raffle tickets are three for \$5 with first place being \$500 cash, second place an ice shanty shack, third place a duck blind, and several other prizes for the raffle drawing. Set up will be at the boat landing on the west side of Tree Lake. For more information contact Jan Kraetsch at 715-581-1965 or email [jankraetsch@gmail.com](mailto:jankraetsch@gmail.com). If you want to donate a prize contact Jan.

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!

Christmas is such a special time of year, especially for our children. They have so many opportunities to display their talents whether it is a Christmas program at school or church, or drawing a Christmas Tree to bring the Christmas spirit to the CWEC office. We had 17 submissions this year, making it very difficult for our judges. There is a lot of talent out there; keep up the great work kids. We want to thank all the kids who entered for their hard work; we look forward to seeing your great drawings each year. Here are our choices in each category

### Age 6 and under



Christian Popp  
\$25 winner



Layla Burclaw  
\$15 winner



Adam Angell  
\$10 winner

### Age 7–10



Joshua Miller  
First place



Lily Bloecher  
Second place



Elian Michaelis  
Third place

## Mike Wade, President & CEO

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