



Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

FROM HERE TO THERE

As we begin another year, I want to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy, and successful 2018. Your cooperative had another successful year in 2017, and we are looking forward to continuing to work hard in 2018 to provide safe and reliable electric service to our members.

Each year we evaluate what we have done well and what we could improve to better serve our members. We review the goals we set for the current year to see what we accomplished and what is left to be completed. Then we set goals for the upcoming year, which we present to the board of directors. Along with the goals, we prepare a capital and operating budget. Management reviews the proposed budget for the upcoming year with the board to get their input and final approval.

The budget consists of two main categories: an operating budget and a capital budget. The operating budget includes projections on revenues, expenses, margin levels, and financial ratios. The capital budget includes new construction projects, system improvements, new services, and the planned expenditures for distribution equipment such as transformers and meters. The process starts with setting reasonable goals that will benefit our members and ends up with a financial budget designed to meet our goals and our financial obligations.

Our 2018 budget consists of many upgrades and improvements to the technology we use and additional training for our employees in how to use this new technology. We will perform a member satisfaction survey in the early part of the year so we can get member input on the value of our programs and services. Our key accounts program will focus on our commercial members so that we

can understand how best to be partners with them in their use of electric energy. An outside contractor will be utilized to provide an inspection of our poles and our underground cable. In addition, we will use contractors to perform vegetation management to clear our rights-of-way and pole replacement to change out poles that have served a useful life. As always, safety will be a priority as we develop our annual safety improvement plan and a training program for the first responders in our area who respond to accidents involving downed utility lines.

2017 has come and gone, but the cooperative is fortunate to be able to serve its members in such a meaningful way during the year. We will continue to focus our efforts on the needs of our membership in the new year, and we hope that each of you meets with success and prosperity. We are looking forward to a new year that brings new challenges and opportunities. Happy New Year!

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:55 a.m. on October 26, 2017. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the September 28, 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.
- c. The board approved the 2018 Nominations Committee.
- d. The board approved the retirement of \$9,607.87 in unclaimed capital credits if not claimed by February 1, 2018, and issuance of a check in that amount to our Federated Youth Foundation account. The board approved Board Resolution for the Forfeiture of Unclaimed Capital Credits.
- e. The board approved the 2018 CWEC Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Rosholt High School.
- f. The board selected Tuesday, November 21, 2017,

with Wednesday, November 22, 2017 as alternate date, for special meeting of Badger Power Cooperative at Rock Energy.

- g. The board discussed the development of a long-term strategy to make improvements to our financial ratios.
- h. The board heard the review of our 2016 IRS Form 990 and 990-T via teleconference with Krista Donahue, director at CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.

Operations and Engineering – The mercury vapor to LED conversion is to be completed in two years. John Bestul, Mackenzie Yarbrough, and Gabe Pospyhalla volunteered to work at Alger Delta Cooperative Electric in the upper peninsula of Michigan following wind damage.

Accounting and Finance – The first test transaction with Bank First National, which took over First National Bank, has been completed.

Member Services – At the October 12, 2017 Operation Round Up Trust Board meeting a total of \$4,850 in donation requests from various organizations, food pantries, and member hardships were approved.

President and CEO Report – We have signed a new Wholesale Power Agreement with Alliant and it has been filed with FERC.

Directors reported on the WECA Legislative and Regulatory Committee Meeting, Board Leadership Course attendance, and the Employee/Safety Meeting.

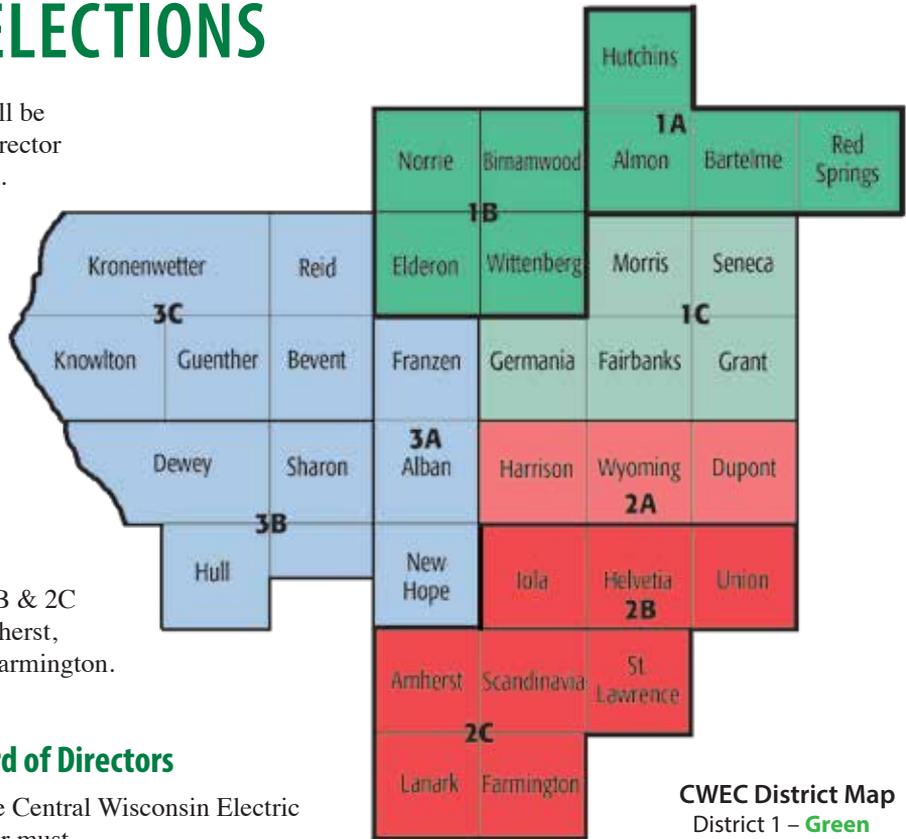
Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

2018 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

In January, the nominations committee will be meeting to set the slate of nominees for director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. There are two districts up for election this year. Terms for District 1 and District 2 are three-year terms. If you know of anyone interested, please contact a member of our nominations committee by Wednesday, January 17.

District 1 – Consists of sub districts 1A & 1B – Townships of Hutchins, Almon, Bartelme, Red Springs, Norrie, Birnamwood, Elderon, and Wittenberg. Current director is Anthony Buss, Jr.

District 2 – Consists of sub districts 2B & 2C – Townships of Iola, Helvetia, Union, Amherst, Scandinavia, St. Lawrence, Lanark, and Farmington. Current Director is Leonard Oppor.



CWEC District Map
 District 1 – Green
 District 2 – Red
 District 3 – Blue

Qualifications to Serve on the Board of Directors

In order to serve as a representative on the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a member must...

- 1) Be a member and bona-fide resident in the district from which elected.
- 2) Not be employed by or have any financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy.
- 3) Not be employed by the cooperative.

2017 Nominations Committee

Elton Strassburg, District 1A
 W14986 Cty. Road D
 Bowler, WI 54416
 715-793-4425

Ron Robinson, District 1B
 2395 Cty. Road D
 Eland, WI 54427
 715-454-6322

Gerald Erdmann, District 1C
 W15416 Fairmorr Road
 Tigerton, WI 54486
 715-535-2094

Alan Buss, District 2A
 E1474 Cty. Road C
 Iola, WI 54945
 715-445-2658

Dale Bestul, District 2B
 P. O. Box 94
 Iola, WI 54945
 715-445-2576

Bryan Fuhs, District 2C
 E595 Nottleson Road
 Scandinavia, WI 54977
 715-467-3262

Renee Groshek, District 3A
 1744 Sunset Lake Road
 Amherst Jct., WI 54407
 715-677-3064

Anthony Danczyk, District 3B
 3595 N. Sunset Drive
 Stevens Point, WI 54481
 715-344-7154

Ron Cherek, District 3C
 5458 Cty. Road C/J
 Rosholt, WI 54473
 715-344-3804

OPERATION ROUND UP HITS \$460,000

The Operation Round Up Trust Board has taken the spirit of giving to another level by recently approving donations totaling \$6,750 to 25 worthwhile causes. Included in the list of 25 are: 11 area food pantries, four member hardships, Toys for Tots, Iola Lioness Share-A-Tea Program, Wittenberg's Helping Foundation, Rural Health Initiative, Marion's House of Hope, Tigerton High

School FFA, Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District Positive Behavior Program, Embarrass River Lions for senior fruit baskets, and Elderon's VFW Post 8069 Auxiliary.

Thanks to the generosity of CWEC's members, \$460,000 has been paid to charitable and educational causes since the program started in 2004. It's true that for just pennies a month we can make

a difference. The program's success is due in large part to the efforts of the Round Up Trust Board. Current trust board members are Sue Halverson, Sheri Beilke, Renee Groshek, Marlene Wepner, Bonnie Paulson, Marie Skowen, Maxine Lemke, Gary Kolodziej, and Pastor Clifford Kessen. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all current and past board members.



Left: Brenda Mazemke (far right), CWEC manager of member relations, accepts a check on behalf of the CWEC Toys for Tots program from Operation Round Up Board Members Sheri Beilke, Renee Groshek, and Sue Halverson (l-r).

Right: Mary Jo Lashua and Toya Lund accept a check from Sue Halverson (c), Operation Round Up Board Member, on behalf of the Share A Tea program.



2017 CWEC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

You will soon be approaching the end of your first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school. Congratulations! Please remember to submit a copy of your grades and proof of enrollment for second semester to receive your scholarship money. Scholarship winners must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average and have been a full-time student, 12-plus earned credits, during the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school to receive the scholarship money. You can mail or email your grades and proof of second semester enrollment to:

CWEC
Attn: Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

email: brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com



REBATE REMINDER

Have your projects around the house included any energy-saving home-improvement measures? Perhaps you've updated your appliances to new, energy efficient models or insulated your home.

If so, be sure to check the energy rebates available to our members. Go to www.cwecoop.com to see which Energy Star products qualify for a rebate. Items must be purchased and installed in 2017 to qualify.

Don't delay—submit a copy of your receipt with the Energy Star label as soon as the equipment is purchased and installed to ensure rebate.



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

Closed for Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 25 & Tuesday,
December 26, 2017

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

CWEC wishes you all
the best in the New Year!



**Rosholt Blizzard Busters 28th
Annual Fisheree**

Saturday, January 13

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lake Helen, Rosholt. Fish prizes for
kids and adults, bike raffle for kids,
door prizes, raffle drawing, food
and beverages in heated shelter.

No charge to enter the
fisheree. For more
information call
Nancy at
715-677-3235.



**Taste of Tigerton 9th Annual Soup
and Cookie Contest**

Saturday, January 20

Serving 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Soup, chili, stew, and cookie contest
divisions. Contest entries must be
brought in by 10 a.m.; judging starts
at 10:30 a.m. Held at the 1905 Old
Village Hall, 215 Cedar Street. For
more information call 715-535-2110.

**Walls of Wittenberg Quilt Show:
“The Art of the Quilter: IV”**

January 13-28

11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Each weekend will have on-going
demonstrations of a variety of
quilting techniques. Items will also be
available for sale in the boutique.
WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. For more
information call 715-253-3525 or visit
www.wallsofwittenberg.com.

To submit your Community events email
brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

*Best Wishes in the New Year
from your friends and neighbors at
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative*

Our offices will be closed Monday, January 1

2018

Mike Wade, President & CEO

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473

715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

www.cwecoop.com

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CAPITAL CREDITS FOR CONSERVATION

We're pleased to announce the Capital Credits for Conservation program will be reinstated. Please note it will only be available for a limited time (see below). With this program CWEC members can “cash in” their capital credits on a discounted basis for certain energy efficiency upgrades. Residential upgrades include insulation, new windows and doors, heat pumps, and alternative water heaters. Certain commercial and agriculture upgrades are also eligible.

Capital credit disbursements from this program impact the co-op's equity, which can affect our borrowing terms and the retirement allocations issued to CWEC members in October. In order to minimize the effect on equity and to maximize member allocations, a limited amount of funds will be allocated for the Capital Credits for Conservation program. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis with the program ending March 31, 2018, or when the allocated funds are used up, whichever comes first.

Please contact the co-op for more information.



CWEC OFFERS BUSINESS LOANS

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



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Board of Directors

Anthony Buss, Jr. – Chairman, District 1 • Tom Smith, Vice Chairman, District 1 • Sue Rombalski, Secretary–Treasurer, District 3
Ron Onesti, District 1 (At Large) • Lee Lehrer, District 2 • Leonard Oppor, District 2 • Elaine Eckendorf, District 3