



FROM RECORD-BREAKING SNOW TO SUMMERTIME SUN

By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

Hard to believe that just a few months ago, we were shoveling out from record-breaking snow. But summer is here and that means fun in the sun; it also means higher energy usage. Because of the warm summer weather, watch your thermostat setting and be mindful of conserving electricity. This will help keep your summer electric bills affordable.

Speaking of record-breaking snow, everyone remembers that our 2018 annual meeting was canceled on April 14 due to inclement weather. We regrouped and decided to hold our meeting on a weekday night in May so that an annual meeting could be held in accordance

with our bylaws. Although we were not sure what the attendance would be, we were pleased to see a larger crowd than normal. The shortened meeting agenda meant that we got down to business more quickly and people were able to get home at a reasonable hour. Thank you for your attendance and we hope to see you at our Member Appreciation Breakfast, which will be held at the co-op headquarters in Rosholt on Saturday, October 27.

Included in this month's magazine is a second article on the cooperative's partial ownership in the West Riverside Energy Center. This article explains some of the financial impacts of ownership in the new natural gas combined cycle facility and the benefits that will be enjoyed by the cooperative's membership. We will



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**
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also plan to run some reminder articles in mid to late 2019 as the new facility gets closer to commercial operation.

Be safe as you celebrate our nation's independence on the 4th of July. Enjoy the fireworks, parades, and barbecues, and remember the debt we owe to all of those who came before us to protect our freedom. Enjoy your summer.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY 

TIP OF THE MONTH

Be aware of your surroundings. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 8:01 a.m. on April 26, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the March 23, 2018 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. The board heard a presentation on a possible applicant for a USDA REDLG loan.
- c. Jim Halvorson, CPA of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented the 2017 financial audit to the board.
- d. The board approved Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at the Rosholt High School Auditorium as the date for the rescheduled CWEC Annual Meeting, with registration to begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting from 6-7 p.m.
- e. The board approved the Resolution to Amend WECA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to confirm East Central Energy's membership in WECA.
- f. The board reviewed what goes into "Non-Operating Margins – Other" on our Statement of Operations and Balance Sheet.
- g. As required by Board Policy 401 – Financial Oversight and Reporting, the board reviewed the internal controls employed at the cooperative to deter and

prevent fraud and theft concerning our bank accounts and check processing.

Operations and Engineering – The new tower is energized as of April 13, 2018, giving us a radio link between Scandinavia and Rosholt. We still have ongoing work at other radio sites.

Accounting and Finance – Vice President of Accounting and Finance Shower along with Directors Oppor and Onesti had a successful trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with our legislators April 8-11, 2018. They discussed support of rural development programs in the 2018 Farm Bill along with other issues of concern to our cooperative and membership.

Member Services – The Operation Round Up Trust Board approved several donations for a variety of program requests and hardships along with 59 scholarships. Scholarship presentations will be held at Rosholt, Bowler, Tigerton, Iola-Scandinavia, Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Amherst, along with Mosinee, Antigo, SPASH, and Marion.

The board reviewed the written report of Economic Development Activity for March 2018.

President and CEO Report – Alliant Energy will be holding our quarterly Badger Power Cooperative manager meeting at the site of the West Riverside Energy Center. A tour of the facility in its infancy and update on its progress will be given.

Directors reported on the recent employee/safety meeting, the NRECA Directors Conference, NRECA Legislative Conference, Co-op Directors Forum, Legal Seminar for Directors and Employees, and the MAG meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.



CWEC CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNUAL MEETING

We were finally able to celebrate our 80th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 22, with a fantastic turnout of more than 200 members, after a snowstorm on Saturday, April 14, forced us to cancel the annual meeting. The snowstorm paralyzed the area with over 30 inches of snow in some areas, so for the safety of our members and employees we made the difficult decision early that morning to cancel the meeting and work on rescheduling when we returned to work on Monday. The Rosholt High School had a number of events already planned for May, so there were limited days available for us to hold the meeting. The board decided to try a weeknight and

see what happens, and the response was overwhelming.

Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of operations, detailed CWEC projects, which included pole replacements, overhead pole inspections, underground inspections, hazard recognition inspections, conversion projects, vegetation management, and new connections in 2017.

Manager of Member Relations Brenda Mazemke reported the cooperative provided over \$19,000 in organization and hardship donations and 75 scholarships totaling \$15,900 through Operation Round Up, and added two new scholarship programs in 2017: Electric Utility Worker and Professional Development scholarships.

Vice President of Accounting and Finance Lila Shower reported that the cooperative returned more than \$227,215 to members during the past year, retiring almost \$122,998 in capital credits and providing more than \$104,217 in energy conservation credits. Since the co-op began retiring capital credits in 1988 the co-op has retired \$4.6 million in capital credits to members.

Board Chairman Anthony Buss stated that Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's goal is to meet the needs of the member-owners, both today and tomorrow.

Members approved the results of board election conducted by mail. David Wozniak, CPA, from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP announced the election results: Anthony Buss, Jr and Leonard Oppor, unopposed, were returned to their seats for new three-year terms.

CEO Mike Wade re-emphasized statements made in prior reports.

Door prize winners were Earl Hintz, Jerome Vanderkooy, Dianne Erickson,



CWEC CEO Mike Wade, left, visits with State Senator Patrick Testin at CWEC's annual meeting.

Katherine Jensen, Elaine Erickson, Jack Mauritz, Robert Mocadlo, Gary Knutson, Dennis Bricke, Dale, Schmidt, Henry Hoeksema, Mary Ziegenhagen, Sue Langsten, Delbert Seefeldt, Don Faldet, Kathrine Hintz, Alan Tesch,



Myron Wierzba, Donald Wierzba, Josh Reitz, Jeanette Blawat, Nancy Hamm, Sam Wiza, Lorraine Kurszewski, Ronald Johnson, Delores Novak, Roger Kruzicki, Daniel Betker, Don Linke, Neil Koepke, Richard Haug, John Marquardt, Hubert Rzentkowski, and Grand Prize Winner Dale Schmidt, who won the 50-inch flat-screen TV (pictured above).

Board reorganization left officers Anthony Buss, Jr. as chairman and Tom Smith as vice chairman; Elaine Ecken-dorf was elected as secretary/ treasurer.



May 21, 2018

Board of Directors
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
10401 Lystul Road
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473

In accordance with your request, we have completed the count of the Board of Directors election ballots for 2018.

A total of 447 official ballots were received directly from the members.

Based upon the ballots received by us by the close of business on May 21, 2018, the final vote tallies are as follows:

District Number 1 :
• Anthony Buss, Jr. – 215 votes

District Number 2:
• Leonard Oppor – 232 votes

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have concerning the final counts. Very truly yours,


James L. Halvorsen, CPA
Principal

WEST RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER

As we mentioned last month, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has partnered with Rock Energy Cooperative and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative to own a share of the new West Riverside Energy Center that is under construction near Beloit. This new power plant is a 726 MW (mega-watt) natural gas combined cycle facility that will be operated and primarily owned by Alliant Energy. The three electric cooperatives will own a total of 60 MW, or about 8.2 percent of the facility.

So how will owning a portion of the new plant benefit the membership of CWEC? Roughly 41 percent of CWEC's overall cost to purchase electric energy and have it delivered to our substations is based on our peak demand. Peak demand is the largest instance of power usage in a given time frame and it is measured in kilowatts (kW) or mega-watts (MW). When our members use the greatest amount of energy during the month, this time period represents our peak demand period. Because we are billed based on our peak demand, we encourage our members to move their high energy consumption to off-peak periods such as the morning or evening and to also participate



in our load control programs.

By owning a small share of the West Riverside Energy Center, we are able to own some of our needed generating capacity. Because we own generating capacity, we are able to reduce our monthly peak demand by the amount of ownership. Early projections show that because of our 5 MW ownership, our peak demand-related costs could go down as much as 28 percent. Although we will have other costs related to ownership of the plant, this reduction in peak demand costs will have a positive impact on all members' electric bills. As we get closer to the commercial operation date of the facility, we will update our cost estimates and provide more detailed information in future editions of the *WECN* magazine.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY-OPERATION ROUND UP DONATIONS

The Operation Round Up Trust Board recently approved donations totaling \$6,215. Those receiving donations included: Iola Village Library (new construction project), Iola Lioness (Post Prom Party), NIC Foundation (anti-bullying Character Camps), Shadows on the Wolf Habitat (annual Learn to Hunt program), Iola-Scandinavia DECA Club (national competition), Iola Village

Library (summer library program), Wittenberg-Birnamwood Booster Club (Grad Bash), Iola Winter Sports Club and USA Nordic (regional ski jump camp), Casimer Boosters 4-H Club (field trip), Children's Hospital of WI All-Star Charity Football Game (sponsored two members' students who are playing in the game), and three family hardship donations.

1. Marie Skowen (c) Operation Round Up board member, presented Ben Cady (l) and Ethan Olson with a donation for the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Ben and Ethan will play in the All-Star Charity Football Game. 2. Sue Halverson, Operation Round Up board member, presented a check to Robyn Grove, Iola Village library director. The money will help fund their summer library program.



3. Members of the Iola-Scandinavia DECA Club accepted a donation from Marie Skowen, Operation Round Up board member. The students will be competing in the national competition in Atlanta, GA. 4. Marie Skowen and Sue Halverson, Operation Round Up board members, presented a check to Iola Village Library to help with their new construction project. Accepting the check is Robyn Grove, Iola Village library director.

"We continue to be amazed by the amount of good this program does," said Manager of Member Relations Brenda Mazemke. Funded by volunteer donations from co-op members, Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. In addition \$14,650 in scholarships was awarded to 69 college-bound students.

Members who choose to participate have their electric bill "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, a \$95.52 bill becomes \$96.00. On average the amount contributed is 50 cents per month, or \$6 a year. The monies collected are turned over to a nine-member volunteer Trust Board (one member from each of the co-op's nine sub-districts) that administers the program. Current Trust Board members are Marie Skowen, Sheri Beilke, Marlene Wepner, Gary Kolodziej, Renee Groshek, Maxine Lemke, Bonnie Paulson, Sue Halverson, and Clifford Kessen.

"The success of Operation Round Up is due in large part to the volunteer efforts of the Trust Board," said Mazemke. "On behalf of the co-op I'd like to thank all current and past board members."



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY

Iola-Scandinavia Fireworks Celebration Tuesday, July 3



Kick off your 4th of July celebration in Iola. Softball and baseball games begin at 5 p.m. Food, refreshments, and music. Fireworks start at dusk. Rain date Thursday, July 5. Taylor Field, Iola. For more information visit www.ischamber.com.

4th of July Tigerton Block Party Wednesday, July 4

9 a.m.–7 p.m. Food, silent auction, music, refreshments, vendors. Fireworks at dusk by the High School Community Park, corner of Beech & Pine, Tigerton. For more information call Tigerton Mainstreet at 715-535-2110.

CWEC Office Closed Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day Holiday



Rosholt Fireworks Wednesday, July 4

Rosholt Fair Grounds. For more information visit www.rosholtvillage.com.

Walls of Wittenberg, "Second Tuesday Concert Series" Tuesday, July 10

6–8 p.m. Quarry Road Bank Band, local group playing a variety of music. WOW Art Park 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. Free concert and ice cream. In case of rain concert held in WOWSPACE. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit www.wallofwittenberg.com.

Hatch Lake Association Brat Fry Wednesday, July 11

9 a.m.–6 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods, Iola.

Iola Car Show & Swap Meet July 12–July 14

Midwest's largest Old Car Show –great food and camping available. Iola. For more information call 715-445-4000 or visit www.iolaoldcarshow.com.

Art on the Track (Art & Craft Fair) Saturday, July 14

Held at the Iola-Scandinavia track, behind the Elementary School. 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Iola. For more information call Chelsea Liesch at 715-445-2411 ext. 510 or email liesche@iola.k12.wi.us.



6th Annual Soggy Bottom 5K Run/Walk Saturday, July 14

9 a.m. Early Bird Register by June 20 –\$25 (receive shorts), after that \$30. Children 8 years of age and under are free to walk with a paid adult, but do not receive shorts or a medal. Felts Park – The Tilleda Ball Diamond, Tilleda. For more information call 715-787-3751.

Iola-Scandinavia Tastes and Tunes July 20–21

Music and food specials at 15 venues in the Iola-Scandinavia area. Bakeries, restaurants, bars, Iola Historical Society, and I-S Fitness & Aquatic Center will have entertainment and prize opportunities. Sponsored by the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce Iola. For more information visit www.ischamber.com and on Facebook.

29th Annual Threshere Antique and Farm Tractor Pull Saturday, July 21

Antique tractor pull 11 a.m. Food and beverages, crafters, vendors, flea market, and much more. Rosholt Fair Park, Rosholt. For more information call 715-869-7653.

Tuesday Quilters Quilt Show Saturday, July 21

10 a.m.–4 p.m. Wide variety of quilts, bed turning at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and vendors. Also, in conjunction with this event the Rosholt Threshermen will hold a tractor show, free admission. Rosholt Fair Park, Rosholt. For more information call Pat at 715-677-3188.

Embarrass River Lions All You Can Eat Pork and Corn Dinner Saturday, July 28



4–7 p.m. Tickets available from any Embarrass River Lion member. All you can eat, numerous raffles. Morris Town Hall, W15320 Berg Road, Tigerton. For more information call David Jensen 715-535-2823.

51st Annual Symco Threshere & National Antique Tractor Pull July 27–29

Tractor pull Saturday, Parade at 11:30 on Sunday. Symco. For more information call Gary Knutz 920-757-6995 or go to www.symcoutc.com.

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

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 or give us a call.



Independence Day Celebration

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in recognition of the Independence Day holiday. From everyone at CWEC, we wish you a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday.

Mike Wade, President & CEO

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Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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Board of Directors

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Ron Onesti, District 1 (At Large) • Lee Lehrer, District 2 • Leonard Oppor, District 2 • Elaine Eckendorf, District 3