



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR APRIL 14

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 14, to attend our 80th annual meeting

of the membership at the Rosholt High School in Rosholt, Wisconsin. The event will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about your cooperative and the programs we offer. We look forward to visiting with you, sharing ideas, and enjoying a morning together. Come join us for an informative meeting.

The board of directors recently finished the long process of reviewing and updating our service rules and regulations. In addition, the board made several improvements to our bylaws, which we have highlighted in

this magazine. To view the updated documents, please visit our website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) or contact our office.

I would like to thank the Operation Round Up Trust committee for their work in helping our communities and our members. They spent a lot of time reviewing applications and ensuring that our Operation Round Up funds are used to support needs in our service area. By “rounding up” your electric bill and contributing a few cents each month, we are able to do great things for our members and communities.

I know each of you has a busy schedule, but I hope that you will make time to come to our annual meeting in April. I look forward to seeing each of you there.



**Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### Daylight Savings Time March 11, 2018

Remember to move your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10, 2018.



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH



#### Downed Power Line Safety

If you see downed power lines, or other damaged electrical equipment, notify the local electric utility as soon as possible because the lines could still be live.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:58 a.m. on December 28, 2017. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the November 30, 2017 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety report were approved.

#### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- Governance Committee approved the Service Rules and Regulations-Chapter 7.0 Construction Policy, Appendix A-Schedule of Fees and Deposits, Chapter 8.0 Ethics, Bylaw Amendment-Dispute Resolution, Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedure, and Outdoor Lighting Schedule.
- The board approved the following directors and employees to serve on WECA Committees in 2018: Legislative and Regulatory Committee – Sue Rombalski, Education and Member Services Committee – Elaine Eckendorf, JT&S Committee – Tony Buss, JT&S Rules Sub-Committee – Kevin Kurtzweil.

- The board approved write-off of uncollectable debt from 2016.
- The board approved the first American Transmission Company (ATC) capital call of 2018.
- The board reviewed the proposed 2018 budget in detail and approved as presented.
- The board approved the Nominations Committee to serve as the Rules Committee for the 2018 CWEC Annual Meeting.

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 80<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 14

**NEW LOCATION!**

**Rosholt High School**

**346 Randolph Street West, Rosholt, WI**

Join Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative on Saturday, April 14, 2018, for our 80th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Rosholt High School in Rosholt.

Registration for the meeting begins at 9 a.m., with members having an opportunity to socialize over coffee and rolls and view various displays.

Music by the Rosholt High School Band will be from 10–10:30 a.m. in the school auditorium. President & CEO Mike Wade and Board Chairman Anthony Buss, Jr. will keynote the meeting's business session, which begins at 10:30 a.m. During the business session, members will have the opportunity to hear how their co-op is faring financially, learn details about various services offered by their member-owned power supplier, and receive updates on state and federal regulatory issues of importance to electric co-ops. An election of two board positions will be held.

As a member-owner of an electric cooperative, you can voice your opinions at the annual meeting, observing the annual meeting rules. This is an advantage cooperatives have over the investor-owned utilities, whose customers have no say in the management of the company and cannot vote for their board of directors.

Prizes will be given to all in attendance. In addition to

many door prizes, one lucky member will have a chance to win a grand prize consisting of a big-screen TV. For all of the drawings, winners need to be present.

Lunch will be served after the business meeting, so make sure you stick around.

## Help Fill Our Local Food Pantry Shelves

CWEC will be kicking off its food pantry drive at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Bring three or more non-perishable food items, that are not expired, and you will receive a FREE LED Bulb. (limit of three bulbs per family)

Your generous donation helps fill the shelves of food pantries in our service area.

If you cannot make it to the annual meeting, we will be collecting food pantry donations at our office, located at 10401 Lystul Road, Rosholt, throughout the year, and you will still receive the free LED bulb.

For more information call 715-677-2211.



## NEW BYLAWS SECTION

### ARTICLE III MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 8. Annual and Special Meeting Rules. The Board of Directors may in any year appoint a Rules Committee for the purpose of establishing rules to govern the conduct of the next member meeting. The rules established by the Rules Committee may include a deadline for members to submit any advisory resolutions relating to the affairs of the Cooperative that they plan to present at the next annual meeting, consistent with Article V of the bylaws, which deadline shall be communicated to the membership. Except as may be modified by the bylaws or by rules established by the Rules Committee, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all procedural questions pertaining to member meetings.

### ARTICLE XII MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 4. Dispute Resolution. If a dispute, claim or controversy arises out of, or in any way relates to, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws or any rule or regulation adopted by the Board of Directors, the Cooperative's

provision of electric energy or other services, the Cooperative's furnishing of any goods or its conduct of its operations, or a patron's use of any service or good provided by the Cooperative, and such dispute, claim or controversy is not resolved by agreement of the parties, at the request of any party it shall be resolved by binding arbitration by an impartial arbitrator or panel of arbitrators, pursuant to written policies and procedures to be established from time to time by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that matters within the jurisdictional limits of the small claims courts may be pursued in such courts and shall not be submitted for binding arbitration unless all parties agree to the same. As with the other terms of the contract between the patrons and the Cooperative, each patron, member or non-member alike, and the Cooperative agree to arbitrate all such claims or controversies according to this bylaw and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Board of Directors pursuant to this bylaw, and further agree to abide by and perform any resulting arbitration awards. This agreement to arbitrate disputes shall survive any withdrawal from or termination of a member's membership in the Cooperative.

## OPERATION ROUND UP KEEPS ROLLING

Operation Round Up is a co-op member-funded program that raises money for charitable and educational purposes. Since its inception in 2004 over \$459,868 has been donated. The program is administered by a nine-member trust board (one member from each of the co-op's nine sub-districts). The trust board is responsible for approving the donation requests. Current board members are Sheri Beilke, Marlene Wepner, Clifford Kessen, Sue Halverson, Marie Skowen, Bonnie Paulson, Renee Groshek, Gary Kolodziej, and Maxine Lemke.

"Operation Round Up strikes to the core of what cooperatives are about—neighbors helping neighbors" said Co-op Vice President Mark Forseth. "On behalf of the co-op, I want to thank all current

and past trust board members for their dedication, and I would especially like to thank all of the co-op members who participate in this wonderful program."

If you don't participate but would like to, please give us a call. Not sure whether you're a participant? Check your most recent CWEC bill. If you participate you should see a separate "Operation Round Up" line item under the Current Bill Information section.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board recently approved donations totaling \$8,000 to the following: Toys for Tots, I-S Schools Share-a-Tea, The Helping Foundation Pretty in Pink, House of Hope, Wittenberg Elementary PBIS, Tigerton HS Ag Dept, Rural Health Initiative, VFW Auxillary-Elderon Post



Sue Halverson and Marie Skowen from the Operation Round Up Trust Board presented a check to Robyn Grove, Iola Village Library director, to help with the Iola Village Library expansion, which will include a new children's library section with programming space.

8068, Embarrass River Lions, 11 area food pantries, and Iola Village Library. In addition, hardship assistance was given to four area families.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Once again, scholarships will be available to college, vocational, and technical school bound students through the CWEC Operation Round Up program. Both traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, either the student or parents must have their primary residence located on CWEC lines and participate in Operation Round Up. Applications are available from your high school guidance counselor, online at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) (Services Section), by contacting Brenda Mazemke at 715-677-2211, or by email at [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com).



Since the CWEC scholarship program began in 2005 we have provided more than \$200,000 in scholarships to area students. Giving back to the community is one of the cooperative principles; furthering the education of our members is another.

The deadline for returning completed applications is Monday, April 2, 2018. Please mail your completed scholarship application to the address below, or drop it off in person at the CWEC office in Rosholt.

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

Scholarship winners must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average and full-time student equivalent during their first quarter or semester of college or vocational-technical school. Payment will be made upon completion of the first quarter or semester of college, vocational, or technical school and will be issued to the student. The recipient must provide CWEC with a copy of his/her grades and proof of enrollment for second semester.

## WHY CWEC REPLACES POLES

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout CWEC's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy poles ensure a reliable electric system. We have a pole testing program to assess the structural integrity of all poles in service on a 10-year cycle. The program is based on technology that allows pole integrity to be assessed through sounding and boring the pole. CWEC has over 20,000 poles on our system; approximately 150 were installed/replaced last year. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last 30-40 years and costs approximately \$2,200 to install.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for reasons other than decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, upgrades, and car crashes are also potential causes for replacement.

Here's a breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

- When a pole must be replaced, crews frame the new pole with cross arms and then fit it with insulators and ground wires.
- Then they dig a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 10 percent of the new pole's height plus two feet.
- Finally, crews detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job. This work is done energized so members don't experience a power outage.

Spring 2018 brings some changes. CWEC will be contracting out pole replacements. The contractor we have hired is PUSH, Inc. out of Rice Lake. CWEC inspected 1,500 poles in 2017. Forty-five were classified as rejected and will be replaced this spring. So, if you see trucks with the logo at right attached, they are replacing poles.



The next time you come across a CWEC crew or contractor crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.





# CWEC EMPLOYEES COMPLETE APPRENTICESHIP, EARN JOURNEY STATUS

CWEC employees, Quinton Zdroik and Gabriel Pospyhalla, recently graduated from a four-year indentured lineworker apprentice program offered through Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire.

The Electrical Lineman Apprenticeship Program consists of four years of not less than 8,000 hours in which a minimum of 640 hours is spent in paid-related instruction. As an apprentice, Zdroik and Pospyhalla completed the training to achieve their status as a journey electric lineworker.

“We are proud to see Quin and Gabe complete their apprenticeship,” said Kevin Kurtzweil, Central Wisconsin Vice President of Operation. “The training and knowledge they have received since joining our Co-op will help them perform highly skilled work on our high-voltage electric distribution system.”

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative provides electricity to approximately 7,100 members in Central Wisconsin. We service parts of Portage, Waupaca, Marathon, and Shawano counties.



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH & APRIL

**CWEC Office will be closed**  
Friday, March 30

**Easter Sunday**  
April 1



**St. Adalbert Parish Fish Fry**  
Every Friday Feb. 9 through March 23

4 – 7:30 p.m. Fish \$10, shrimp \$10, combo \$10, children \$6. Includes choice of potato, coleslaw, bread, and one dessert. Coffee and milk included in the dining room. Take-out orders call 715-677-4518. Domestic and craft beers and flavored malt beverages available. Large and weekly raffle. Rosholt.

**Rural Health Initiative 6th Annual Wine & Cheese Tasting Fundraiser**  
Friday, April 20

7–10 p.m. Crystal Falls Banquet Hall, New London. 40 kinds of wine from Badger Liquor and Kerrigan Brothers Winery, 7 brews from Pigeon River Brewing, Arty's Cocktails, Roskom Meats samples, 30 types of Wisconsin cheeses featuring fondues, and entertainment. For more information go to [www.wiruralhealth.org](http://www.wiruralhealth.org) or call Rhonda at 715-524-1488. Fundraiser for Waupaca & Outagamie Counties to benefit the Rural Health Initiative.

**Walls of Wittenberg “Wine, Beer, & Cheese Gala” Art Show Opening**  
Sat. April 21

7– 10 p.m. \$25 per person tax deductible donation (advance). Fabulous food, winning wines and brewer-fresh beers. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to [www.wallsofwittenberg.com](http://www.wallsofwittenberg.com).

**Walls of Wittenberg Presents: “Artists’ Free Play: VI” Spring Art Show**

April 21-May 13, Saturday and Sunday only  
11 a.m.–3 p.m. Free. WOWSPACE: 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to [www.wallsofwittenberg.com](http://www.wallsofwittenberg.com).



To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211. The April Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News magazine will include your 2017 Annual Report.

## ELECTRIC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

CWEC is proud and excited to offer a \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. Traditional and nontraditional students are encouraged to apply. Applicants need not be a member of the co-op, but preference will be given to CWEC members.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available online at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) (Member Services tab), by calling 1-800-377-2932, or by email at [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com).

The deadline for returning completed applications is Friday, May 4, 2018. Students can mail the completed scholarship application to the address below, or drop it off in person at the CWEC office in Rosholt. Scholarship winners will be chosen shortly after the deadline.

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

If you have any questions please call Brenda Mazemke at 800-377-2932.

### Mike Wade, President & CEO

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100, Rosholt, WI 54473  
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932  
[www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com)

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**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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