



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## COMMITMENT TO OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES

Are you enjoying your summer? I hope so because I am enjoying mine. There is so much to see and do in Wisconsin all year long, but we especially enjoy our summertime activities. Summer means cooking out and gardening, enjoying the great outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. And being more active can sometimes mean we overlook safety. As you enjoy your summer, be conscious of the heat, drink plenty of water, and be safe with your outdoor fun.

In the month of August, we will be conducting our Member Satisfaction Survey. We perform this survey every three years and it gives us great information about your satisfaction and level of engagement with our many programs and services. The survey is performed by telephone so I would encourage you

to participate in the survey if you receive a call. The information you provide will help us fine tune our programs and services and will assist us in becoming a better cooperative for all of our members.

We are pleased to participate with our financial partner, CoBank, in their Sharing Success Program. CoBank provides us with the needed capital to maintain and improve our electric distribution system. The CoBank Sharing Success Program provides for matching grants that help us make donations to our rural fire departments and medical providers. Thank you to our local fire departments and the Rural Health Initiative for the great work you do to protect and serve our members.

Our Member Appreciation Breakfast is just around the corner so mark your calendar for Saturday, October 27, 2018. As always, we will serve pancakes and sausage all morning and will have a host



**Central Wisconsin  
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of other activities for the membership. As we did last year, we will hold a crafts fair with over 20 vendors and provide a disposal service for your personal documents that you no longer need. Please watch for more information in next month's *WECN* magazine.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I hope to see you at our Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

**TIP OF THE MONTH**

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**Avoid the Big Green Box**  
Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing, or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:51 a.m. on May 31, 2018. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 26, 2018 meeting, the May 22, 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 discussed the rescheduled annual meeting held May 22, 2018.
- c. The board approved a USDA Board Resolution for a loan application for the Iola Living Assistance.
- d. The board approved the CFC Certification of Resolution and Incumbency for the West Riverside Energy Center.
- e. The board approved Saturday, October 27, 2018 as the date for the 2018 Member Appreciation Breakfast.
- f. The board approved Directors Smith and Onesti as delegates to attend the WECA District 1 Meeting in July 2018.
- g. The board approved and directed that the CRC District 1 Voting Ballot for Board of Directors Election be cast

- for James Hathaway as the CRC At-Large Candidate.
- h. Matt Waldron, sr. regional manager customer relations, and Randy Karls, director customer relations and interconnection services at ATC (American Transmission Company), gave a presentation on ATC activities to the board of directors.
- i. Following a presentation and discussion, the board approved an opportunity to make a change to the opt-in to the State Public Benefits Program – Home Energy Plus Low Income Assistance Program in an effort to make more programs available to our membership.
- j. The board approved the PSC recommendation for the unmetered equipment rate.

Operations and Engineering – The new radio tower is operational and performing well. Asplundh is approximately 90 percent completed with the vegetation management for Tigerton Feeder 2.

Accounting and Finance – We are working to update our financial forecast which will include the West Riverside investment.

Member Services – The linemen performed hotline electric safety demonstrations at the Tigerton, Iola-Scandinavia, Rosholt, Bowler, Wittenberg, and Birnamwood Elementary Schools.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.



# CWEC & COBANK SUPPORT OUR AREA COMMUNITIES,

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op along with one its financial partners, CoBank, donated \$2,000 each to the Dewey Fire Department, Scandinavia Fire Department, and Rural Health Initiative. Through a program CoBank offers cooperatives called Sharing Success, Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op had the opportunity to apply for grant funds on behalf of an area nonprofit organization. To be eligible for the grant the co-op has to commit to match the amount of the grant application, which in this case was \$1,000 each.

We want to thank our good friends at CoBank for their wonderful support of rural communities. This is the sixth time CWEC and CoBank have partnered to assist an area fire department—previous recipients were the Bowler Fire Department, Iola Fire & Ambulance Departments, Rosholt Fire Department, Birnamwood Fire District, and Tigerton.



1. Scandinavia Fire Chief Bryan Fuhs indicated the funds will be used to purchase new helmets for their department. 2. Dewey Fire Chief Leroy Pukroy said his fire department will put the funds toward necessary fire gear. 3. Rhonda Strebel, Rural Health Initiative executive director, indicated the funds will be used to help with their “kitchen wellness” program, which helps farmers in Waupaca and Shawano Counties.



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT GOLLON BROTHERS WHOLESALE LIVE BAIT

Ben Gollon, president of Gollon Brothers Wholesale Live Bait, Inc., knows that fishing has always been in his family’s blood.

The Gollon family originated from Gulcz, Poland, a village known for its fishing. The Gollon family immigrated to Stevens Point in the 1870s, and by the early 1900s was selling minnows at a local level. Generations later, Ben and his brother Joe expanded their distribution to a majority of North American bait shops.

The business was passed down for generations until Ben and Joe obtained it in the 1990s. Today, they whole sell bait fish ranging from suckers to fatheads. They also sell leeches and worms.

Fish are a fragile product to distribute, so the Gollon Brothers employ a fleet of their own specially oxidized trucks to make shipments. They are able to ship their products across the country to a variety of different bait shops.

The Gollon Brothers harvest bait fish from their own ponds, as well as import from other locations. Their 200-acre facility has ponds to raise fish, coolers for worms, and tanks

for soon-to-be sold bait.

“We have a lot of different kinds of bait fish. It’s a lot like craft beers,” Gollon said, “We’ll have a certain kind this week, but if someone calls next week looking for a particular species, it’s possible that it could already be gone.”

In the coming years, the Gollon Brothers plan on growing even more. They are the premier wholesaler of bait fish in the state of Wisconsin, and after seeing their impressive operation, I don’t foresee that changing any time soon.

For more information about Gollon Brothers Whole Sale Live Bait, visit their website at [www.gollonbait.com](http://www.gollonbait.com).



The Gollon Brothers house a variety of fish in different tanks.

## CWEC TEACHES FOURTH-GRADERS A LESSON ON ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Every year, employees from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative visit grade schools throughout our service area to put on electrical safety demonstrations for the students. Demonstrations were held in the Tigerton, Bowler, Iola-Scandinavia, Rosholt, Birnamwood, and Wittenberg school districts. CWEC would like to thank both the staff and students for taking time out of their hectic day to allow us to teach students a lesson on electrical safety.

The interactive display demonstrates the importance of always treating electricity with respect, and what dangers could potentially occur if it's not handled with care. The display showed students what could happen if kites, branches, and even the human hand come into contact with a powerline.

Additionally, CWEC demonstrated how to properly handle an automobile crash into a powerline, as well as what could happen if items such as farm

equipment and ladders accidentally make contact with a powerline.

"We always place safety first. It's the most important part of our job. We're here today to teach students that electricity isn't something to play around with," CWEC linemen John Bestul said.

Right: CWEC linemen Chris Tuszke and Dell Olson showed Rosholt fourth-grade students how a "hot" electric wire can burn a green tree branch.



We had a great time with the Wittenberg students teaching them safe electricity practices.



Left: Iola-Scandinavia students learned from Mack Yarbrough and John Bestul, CWEC linemen, what happens when something metal comes in contact with a "hot" wire. Right: Using a hot dog, CWEC lineman Jason Walter demonstrated to Tigerton fourth-graders what happens to your skin if you touch a "hot" wire.



## CWEC MEMBER SURVEY

Ever on the alert to provide the best possible services to our members, the board and management of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative have determined a need to conduct a Member Information and Satisfaction Survey. We conduct these surveys periodically to find out what our members like, or dislike, about what CWEC is doing, the services we offer, if there are any other services you want that we are not currently offering, and to evaluate our performance in providing for your energy needs.

We will retain an independent company to conduct the survey in order to provide the highest level of accuracy and

confidentiality for our members. You may be selected as part of the small group of members to participate in this survey. Over the next few weeks, you may be contacted by someone to ask you a series of questions about CWEC, and your participation and cooperation in this survey will be greatly appreciated. Please be as open and honest as possible, as all of your answers will remain strictly confidential. The total survey will take approximately five minutes to complete.

As a vital part of this survey, your voice and opinion are very important to us, and we appreciate your cooperation and honesty in answering these questions for CWEC. The information you provide will help us plan for the future as we strive to serve our members better.



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST

### 2018 Scandinavia Corn Roast Weekend August 3–5

Music, food, 5K walk/run, softball tournament, chainsaw wood sculpting, truck pull, tractor pull, and more. Friday gates open at 4 p.m., free admission, Northern Lights DJ performing 7 p.m.–midnight. Parade Saturday at 11 a.m.; Fireman's Dance presented by Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Dept. 3 p.m.–midnight. Free corn Sunday only, starts at 11 a.m.; music all day. Ellison Memorial Park, Scandinavia. Sponsored by the Scandinavia Booster Club. For more information visit [www.cornroast.com](http://www.cornroast.com).



### Rosholt Area Threshermen Truck and Tractor Pull Saturday, August 11

7 p.m. Food and beverages sold, free parking. Rosholt Fair Park. For more information call 715-869-7653.

### Iola Lioness Brat Fry Saturday, August 11 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods.

### Iola Lion/Lioness Stuff the Bus Saturday, August 11 9 a.m.–3 p.m. School supply drive. Iola Sentry Foods.



tioned dining room. Noon–7 p.m. music by The Ampol Aires from Chicago and Rich Raclawski and The Keepers of Honky. Food and refreshments, ice cream stand, wood carvers, cherry tree, basket raffle, country store, cake spin, kids' games, mini raffle, and many more games. Bingo starts at 1 p.m.; huge rummage and furniture sale at 11 a.m., auction starts at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday softball tournament, and Sunday horseshoe tournaments double elimination. Polonia. For more information call 715-592-4221.

### Tigerton Lumberjack Days August 25 & 26

Saturday – corn roast, music and kid's bike give-away. Sunday – parade at 1 p.m., amateur lumberjack contest, chainsaw and crosscut events. Bingo both days, lots of food and pies. Tigerton Community Park. For more information call Diane at 715-535-3300 or Wally at 715-445-3165 or 715-459-6115.

### Portage County Fair August 31–September 3 Parade on Main Street at noon on Saturday. Rosholt Fair Park. For more information go to [www.rosholtfair.com](http://www.rosholtfair.com).



### Big Falls Free Corn Roast Sunday, September 2

Parade at noon, live music 1 p.m.–midnight. Games and food stands. Food stands, raffles, free corn, games. Live music throughout the day. Village Park in Big Falls. For more information call 715-250-2032.

### 4th Annual Car Show Saturday, August 4

Country breakfast served 8–10 a.m., car show from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Held at the Bowler Area Historical Society, 104 E Main St., Bowler. For more information call Pat at 715-793-4460.

### St Adalbert Parish Picnic August 4 & 5

Saturday night 4 p.m. Mass; music from 5:30–9:30 p.m. by Gray Katz; concessions available. Sunday – outdoor Mass 10:30 a.m.; music from noon–8 p.m. by Cynor Classic Polka Band and P.M. Mix; family-style dinner from 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Raffle, kids' games, cherry tree, Country Store, mini raffle, bingo, Rainbow snow and ice cream, food stand, and more. Rain or shine. Rosholt. For more information visit [www.rosholtcatholic.org](http://www.rosholtcatholic.org).



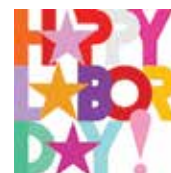
### 12th Annual "Drive your Tractor to Church" Sunday, August 12

North New Hope and Faith Lutheran Churches invite all their friends and neighbors. New Hope Church – Junction Hwy. T and MM or 845 Hwy. T North. 8 a.m. early bird tractor parking and registration; 9:30 a.m. music, 10 a.m. outdoor church service, 11 a.m. auction, noon pig roast picnic lunch, 1 p.m. hay wagon rides and tractor displays. With good weather everything will be outdoors; if not there is room inside. Please bring lawn chairs.

### Sacred Heart Parish Church Picnic Sunday, August 19

10 a.m. Mass with music by Duane, Tom, and the Choraleers, followed by a chicken and meatball dinner from 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m., in an air-condi-

### Office Closed Monday, September 3 In honor of Labor Day





To submit your community events  
email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto: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](http://www.cwecoop.com) or give us a call.

### Mike Wade, President & CEO


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### Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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Electric Cooperative

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