

# Ask Your Cooperative: CWEC Answers You



Central Wisconsin  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



This month's column is from Mark Forseth, Vice President of Member Relations & Economic Development.

## Meet Mark Forseth

**Started at CWEC:** March 2001

**Job Description:** My job is to bring to our members a variety of programs, services and products to enhance their lives.

### Best part of my job:

- A. Help a member make their home or business more energy efficient
- B. Provide toys to needy kids at Christmas
- C. Help an entrepreneur achieve their dream of starting their own business
- D. Assisting with providing funds for member hardships, scholarships, and non-profit organizations from Operation Round Up
- E. ALL OF THE ABOVE

Q

**I'm thinking about replacing some of the windows in my home. My neighbor tells me he received a rebate for windows he put in his home—are there rebates available?**

A

Yes there are. Your cooperative offers a variety of incentives designed to make our members' home energy efficiency projects more affordable. In your case we do offer a \$25 rebate per window replaced and a \$25 rebate for replacing an exterior door, up to 50 percent of the cost with a \$250 maximum.

I thought you might want to see what other incentives we offer, so here is a summary.

**Energy Star Appliances** CWEC members are eligible for a \$25 rebate for each qualifying Energy Star rated appliance purchase made.

**Heating & Cooling** We currently offer a \$100 rebate for the purchase of a new gas or oil furnace equipped with ECM motor. Rebates are also available for heat pumps and boilers. If you purchase a central air conditioner system with a SEER rating of 15 or greater, you can receive a \$100 rebate.

**Weatherization** If an insulation or air-sealing project is in your plans, we can help. Rebates of up to \$250 are available.

**Lighting** LED is a highly energy efficient lighting technology, and has the potential to fundamentally change the future of lighting in the United States. Residential LEDs—especially ENERGY STAR rated products—use at least 75 percent less energy, and last 25 times longer, than incandescent lighting. CWEC members are eligible for 50 percent (maximum \$75) of the cost to convert to LED lighting.

**Energy Audits** A home energy audit, also known as a home energy assessment, is the first step to assess how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. An assessment will show you problems that may, when corrected, save you significant amounts of money over time. To assist you we've

partnered with state-certified auditors and offer incentives that, in most cases, pay for the cost of the audit.

**Water Heaters** In conjunction with your cooperative's load management program, we're pleased to offer rebated or, in some cases, free water heaters. Additional rebates are available for heat pump and solar water heaters.

**Renewable Energy** Your cooperative is a strong supporter of renewable energy. Incentives of up to \$1,500 are available for residential solar and wind systems.

**Farm & Business Projects** We offer a wide range of incentives for farm and business energy efficiency upgrades. Please contact us for more details.

**How to Apply** For most rebates all we need is a copy of the receipt of purchase. For Energy Star appliance purchases please submit a copy of the receipt and proof the appliance is Energy Star rated (a copy of the Energy Guide label is perfect). Please contact us for more information on energy audits, water heaters, and renewable energy incentives.

**Capital Credits for Conservation** Additional assistance for your energy efficiency project might be available through the Capital Credits for Conservation Program. With this program you can "cash in" your capital credits for qualifying projects such as window replacement, weatherization, and heat pumps. Please contact us for more information.

As you can see we do offer a wide range of incentives to assist you in making your home more energy efficient. Please visit [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) for more information or give us a call to see what we can do for you.

## Do you have a question?

Please submit your question for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative to [cwecoop.com](http://cwecoop.com) or call 1-800-377-2932 and ask for Brenda. Questions can relate to anything regarding your cooperative. When sending in a question, please include your name and hometown. Unless indicated, names submitted will be printed. Submitting a question gives us permission to print it.



## Commitment to Community

# OPERATION ROUND UP APPROVES \$3,500 IN DONATIONS

The Operation Round Up Trust Board recently approved donations totaling \$3,500. Those receiving donations included: Iola Lioness (Post Prom Party), Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Department (equipment purchases), NIC Foundation (Anti-bullying Character Camps), Tigerton Main Street (headquarters improvements), Iola Historical Society (various projects), Tigerton Community Garden (fencing), Iola Lioness (youth Easter party), and two family hardship donations.

“We continue to be amazed by the amount of good this program does,” said Co-op Vice President of Member Relations Mark Forseth.

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, \$17,675 in scholarships was awarded to 84 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. 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 Gro-

shek, 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 Forseth. “On behalf of the co-op I’d like to thank all current and past board members.”

“Operation Round Up has exceeded our expectations as we’ve been able to provide over \$235,500 to families in need and charitable organizations along with providing 700 scholarships totaling over \$215,000. This brings the total amount given out to a remarkable \$450,618,” said Forseth. “We’d like to thank all of the co-op members that contribute to the program for making it the success it is.”

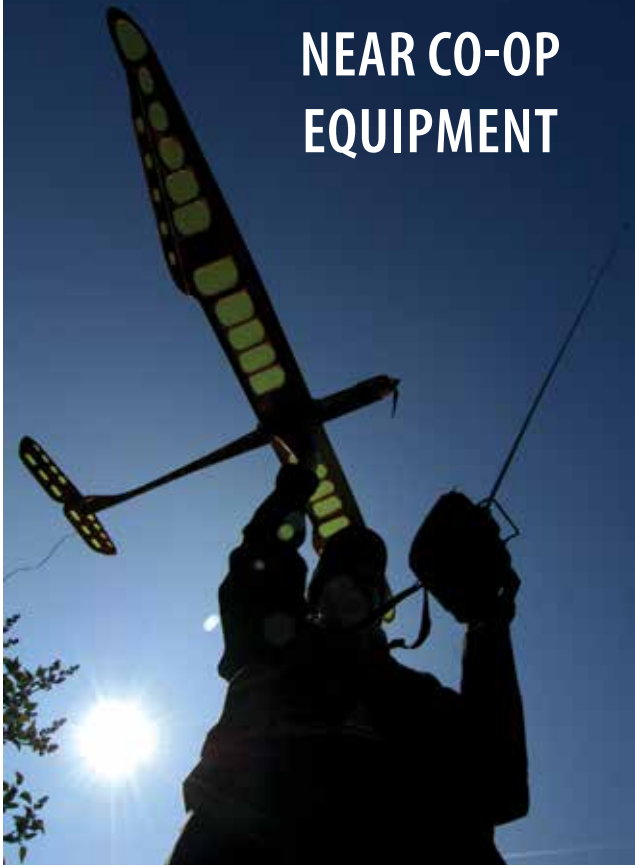


1. Sue Halverson, Operation Round Up board member, presented a check to Cliff Mishler from the Iola Historical Society.  
2. Bonnie Paulson, Operation Round Up board member, presented a check to Scott Paulson and Dell Mork from the Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Department.



3. Marie Skowen, Operation Round Up board member, presented a check to Iola Lioness Jannine Harbridge, Susan McNamara, and Michelle Nelson (l-r). 4. Perry Bublitz (r), a member of the Tigerton Community Garden, is shown receiving a check from Rev. Clifford Kessen (l), Operation Round Up board member. 5. Kessen presented a check to Virginia Kauffman and Jackie Buntrock, representing Tigerton Main Street (l-r).

## USE CAUTION WHEN PLAYING NEAR CO-OP EQUIPMENT



As you find yourself spending more time outdoors this summer, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call CWEC or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations, or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.
- Keep the remote-controlled toy in sight at all times.
- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Here at CWEC, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) for more electrical safety tips.

## CWEC RECEIVES TREE LINE USA AWARD

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative a Tree Line USA Utility for the ninth year, in recognition of the co-op's national leadership in caring for trees while meeting service objectives. The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters select public and private utilities from across the nation that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests.

Tree and utility service lines are integral components of every community. By necessity, they must co-exist in close proximity, and each in its own way is essential to our high standard of living.

"Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative is extremely honored and proud to receive this award for the ninth year. We are committed to providing dependable electricity and preserving the beauty of our countryside," said co-op Vice President Mark Forseth.

To find out more about Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, visit our website at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).



(l-r) Mark Forseth, Vice President Member Relations and Economic Development; Tony Buss, Board Chairman; Don Kissinger, Wisconsin DNR Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator; Mike Wade, President & CEO; and Kevin Kurtzweil, Vice President of Operations.



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY

### Iola-Scandinavia Fireworks Celebration

**Monday, 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 Tuesday, July 4. Taylor Field, Iola. For more information visit [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com).



### 4th of July Tigerton Block Party

**Tuesday, 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 and Pine, Tigerton. For more information call Tigerton Mainstreet at 715-535-2110.



### CWEC Office Closed

**Tuesday, July 4**

Independence Day Holiday

### Rosholt Fireworks

**Tuesday, July 4**

Rosholt Fair Grounds. For more information visit [www.rosholtvillage.com](http://www.rosholtvillage.com).

### Iola Thursday Night on Main

**Thursday, July 6**

6 p.m. Gray Catz performing. Downtown Iola. Live music, food, 50/50 raffle, and more. For more information visit [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com).

### Iola Car Show & Swap Meet

**July 6–July 8**

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

### Art on the Track (Art & Craft Fair)

**Saturday, July 8**

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](mailto:liesche@iola.k12.wi.us).

### Iola Thursday Night on Main

**Thursday, July 13**

6 p.m. Copper Box performing. Downtown Iola. Live music, food, 50/50 raffle, and more. Iola. For more information visit [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com).

### 5th Annual Soggy Bottom

**5K Run/Walk**

**Saturday, July 15**

9 a.m. Early Bird register by June 26 \$25 (receive shorts), after that \$30. Children 8 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.



### Walls of Wittenberg Presents:

**Yata, Sinz & Orfeld**

**Thursday, July 20**

Folk-rock, jazz, country, and blues. WOWSPACE 114 Vinal St., Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-3525 or visit [www.wallsofwittenberg.com](http://www.wallsofwittenberg.com).

### Iola Thursday Night on Main

**Thursday, July 20**

6 p.m. Mojo & Flipside performing. Downtown Iola. Live music, food, 50/50 raffle, and more. For more information visit [www.ischamber.org](http://www.ischamber.org).

### Iola Thursday Night on Main

**Thursday, July 27**

6 p.m. Family Night–Jeannie B performing. Downtown Iola. Live music, food, 50/50 raffles, and more. For more information visit [www.ischamber.org](http://www.ischamber.org).



### Embarrass River Lions All You Can

**Eat Pork and Corn Dinner**

**Saturday, July 29**

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



### 50th Annual Symco Threshere &

**National Antique Tractor Pull**

**July 28–30**

Tractor pull Saturday, parade at 11:30 Sunday. Symco. For more information call Gary Knutz 920-757-6995.

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



### Mike Wade, President & CEO

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