

TERRY CAPEK RETIRES

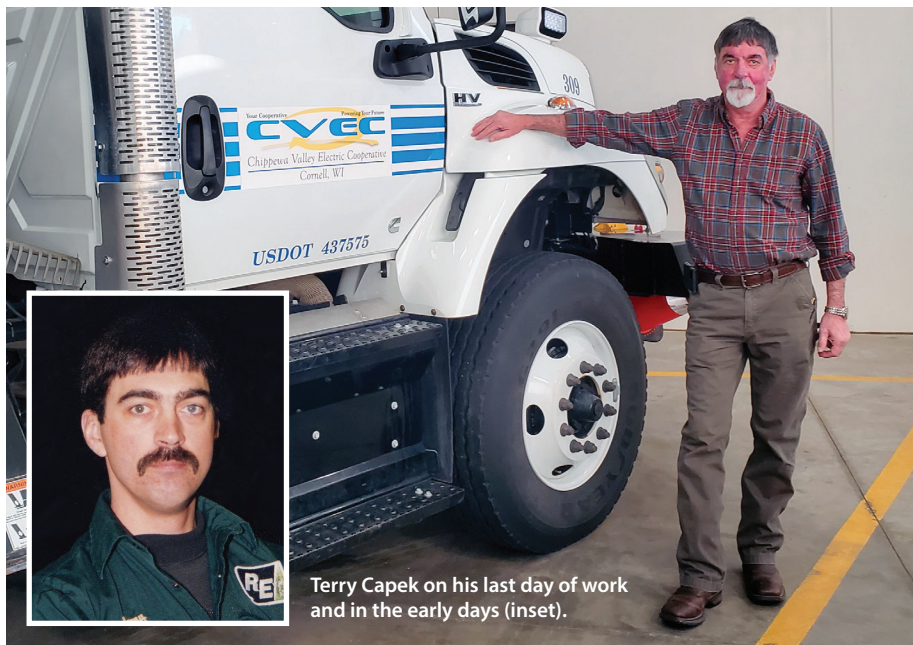
Congratulations to Terry Capek, lineman and meter technician, who retired on his 65th birthday this past February 7 after dedicating 34 years to serving the members and employees of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC).

Terry has always called Cornell home and proudly claims that Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op was the best place to work. On January 4, 1988, Terry eagerly walked through the door of CVEC and started working on the overhead powerline construction crew. Back then it was just a three-man team, and winter was the time to build powerlines in places that they normally couldn't access in the summer.

Terry remembers his first summer at CVEC in 1988 as a scorcher. The crew was busy rebuilding the three-phase line from the Holcombe substation to Walters Brothers Lumber, and the temperature hit 104 degrees. They didn't have an ice machine back then, just ice trays in the refrigerator, first come-first serve. He fondly recalled that he climbed a lot of poles in those first several years: "It was great—nothing better than sitting on top of the cross-arms of a three-phase pole, tying in the wires, and waving at the people in cars as they drove by."

If you talk to a lineworker you'll quickly learn that working in all kinds of extreme weather conditions to restore power during an outage is something they are very proud of, and those memories stick with them. Terry shared that one of the most severe storms in his time at CVEC occurred on May 28, 1991. He recalled that at least 120 poles were broken, and many lines and transformers were on the ground. Some of the last to be restored were out of power for up to 2 ½ weeks. CVEC had many other electric co-ops helping restore power to our service territory through a cooperative program called ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency).

Then in 1991, on October 31, The Great Halloween Blizzard of Minnesota and parts of Iowa hit. The CVEC crew worked outages most of the night. They had several inches of rain, which turned to snow on November 1. Terry remembered being in the crew room that morning when the line superintendent entered and asked for volunteers to go to Rochester, MN, to work for People's Energy Co-op. Now it was CVEC's chance to assist another cooperative through ROPE. Four linemen volunteered and were told to pack clothes for three days. It took them eight hours to drive



Terry Capek on his last day of work and in the early days (inset).

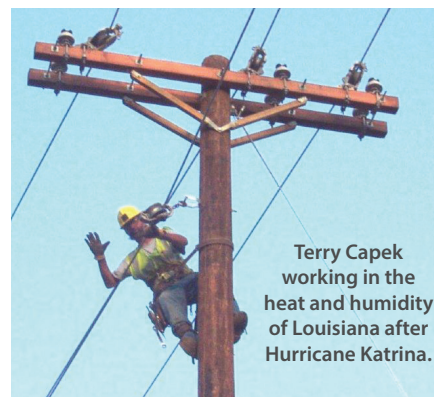
to Rochester. The next morning, on November 2, they were working in -25 degrees with 40 MPH winds and 2 to 3 feet of snow. After 15 days, instead of the original estimate of three, Terry returned home.

Terry's most memorable ROPE contribution was after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. He and a co-worker traveled to Louisiana to relieve two other fellow crew members. During their time restoring outages, working in the southern heat and humidity was something that they had never experienced; the high temp was 104 degrees with 100% humidity.

Looking back on the 34 years Terry dedicated to CVEC, it can be said that he was a very skilled lineman who was always up for a challenge, from designing complex meter programs to fabricating parts on equipment and building the cooperative's high-voltage safety demo.

Terry explained, "I really enjoy building things out of steel and enjoyed rebuilding the decking and back of one of the digger trucks, adding a dump box to a line body truck, and transforming an enclosed trailer into a stray-voltage investigation lab. And my most proud creation that I was asked to build was CVEC's High Voltage Safety Demonstrator from the wheels up! Thank you, CVEC, for letting me do it!"

Terry also took the time to help train new apprentices and



Terry Capek working in the heat and humidity of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

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CVEC MARKS 85 YEARS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the cooperative's headquarters in Cornell. More than 300 people were in attendance, with 150 voting members registered at the meeting, to celebrate the milestone anniversary and to participate in the business of their cooperative.

Co-op personnel reviewed the many highlights of the past year, including steady rates, a one-time \$20 credit issued to each member on the August bill plus a credit/PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) based on August's usage, and record reliability in service, including ending 2021 with the lowest outage time per account in the co-op's history. Members also heard the welcome news that no rate increase is planned for 2022 and that Chippewa Valley Electric is "financially strong and operationally sound."

In director elections, incumbents Chair John Petska, Vice Chair Kevin Meistad, and Steve Johnson were all re-elected to

their seats to serve three-year terms. CVEC welcomes Frank Draxler of New Auburn as he was elected to fill the remainder of the term for longtime director Clyde Shipman, who passed away in February. The meeting opened with a moment of silence for Shipman in honor of his contributions to the co-op.



Frank Draxler

- Board Chairman John Petska reviewed 2021 operations of both Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) and Dairyland Power Cooperative. He emphasized that the co-op's real strength is its people, who have continued to carry out the goals of the co-op through all the challenges.
- President/CEO Dean Ortmann's presentation highlighted how cooperatives got started and what makes them different from other forms of business.



Left: Board Chair John Petska (center) and President/CEO Dean Ortmann (right) presented Vice Chair Kevin Meistad with a certificate for having achieved NRECA's Gold Director status. Right: Kaylee Jensen and Dennis Bachman from Ntera were on hand.



- Office Manager June Bach presented the 2021 Financial Report and emphasized the ways the cooperative has given back to its members via the rate credit in August and the return of \$782,291 in capital credits to the members.
- Director of IT & Member Services Russ Falkenberg discussed ways the co-op serves the community through safety demonstrations, EV rate programs, and Ntera, a high-speed fiber internet company formed by CVEC and Citizens Connected.
- Operations Manager Nic Alberson announced that CVEC ended 2021 with the lowest outage time per account in the co-op's history, logging only 0.89 hours of outage per account despite big storms. He attributed this accomplishment to aggressive tree trimming, attention to maintenance, and a new outage management system.
- Representative Rob Summerfield – WI Assembly District 67 addressed the members, lauding the co-op for its success in bringing broadband to the area and adding that he will continue his work in Madison to further those efforts.
- Operation Round Up Board Member Vern Weeks encouraged members to enroll in the program to help distribute funds to those in need in the community.
- Cooperative Attorney John Robert Behling of Weld Riley conducted the open forum. Several member questions were answered.
- Incumbent directors Steve Johnson (District 2), Kevin Meistad (District 4), and John Petska (District 7) were re-elected to three-year terms. Frank Draxler (District 3) was elected to fill a one-year vacancy due to the passing of Clyde Shipman.
- The meeting concluded around noon with lunch served by Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative employees.

The officers for the cooperative board of directors are: Chairman, John Petska; Vice-Chairman, Kevin Meistad; Secretary-Treasurer, Steven Johnson; and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Deone Goettl. Your Dairyland Power director is John Petska, with Kevin Meistad as the alternate.



Board Chair John Petska



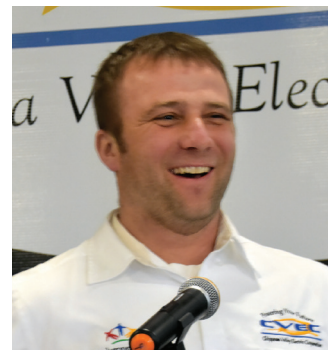
President/CEO Dean Ortmann



Office Manager June Bach



Director of IT & Member Services Russ Falkenberg



Operations Manager
Nic Alberson



Representative
Rob Summerfield



The youngest member in attendance!



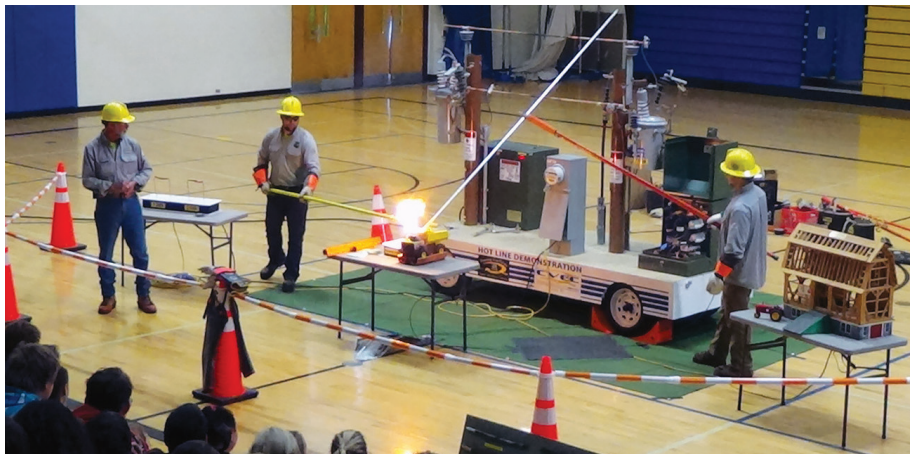
the line crew on new equipment and new technology that was being put into the system. He was always eager to share his expertise with others.

After Terry's last day he shared, "CVEC was the greatest place to work. February 7, 2022 was my last day at work. On that day it was the hardest thing to do when I walked out the door, with so many great people to work for—from the board, management, office staff, and line crew. But I broke the record for returning. I was back after two hours to start finishing up on a project I was doing for them."

Terry plans to spend his retirement time with his wife of 35 years, Kay, their children, and their growing brood of grandchildren. In fact, this month they will welcome their 10th grandchild. With his new schedule, where every day is a Saturday, Terry is eager to do more of what he loves, including Harley riding, kayaking, camping, fishing, gardening, hunting, woodworking, and snowshoeing when winter returns.

Congratulations, Terry! Everyone at CVEC wishes you endless retirement days of happiness and relaxation with your family and friends.

Terry built CVEC's High Voltage Safety Demonstrator (right) used at hot line safety demonstrations CVEC puts on for area schools and organizations.





MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Here are a few tips to help keep you safe all year long...

- Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters in areas that may be wet or damp.
- Install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electric shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

To learn more go to SafeElectricity.org

NOTICE to all dual fuel members who are submetered

Please leave power on to your DUAL FUEL METER at all times. You may turn off the circuit breakers that control the heaters, but the meter power should remain on.




Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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