

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* March 2025 NEWS



## CVEC'S 88TH ANNUAL MEETING

THANKFUL

EXCITED

PREPARED



### THIS IS YOUR PRIZE STUB

Please detach this mailing label along the dotted line and bring it with you to the annual meeting. This is your ticket to receive a FREE set of coasters or trivet handcrafted by LH Products (Lake Holcombe students) and for registration and door prize drawing.

- One gift per member family

**You MUST bring this prize stub to receive your free gift.**



# 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda

*Celebrating 88 years!*

## CVEC Annual Meeting- Thursday, March 27, 2025

5:30- Doors Open for Registration

*Dinner will be served prior to the meeting*

6:00- Business Meeting Begins

*Meeting Called to Order.....John Petska, Chairman*

*National Anthem*

*Invocation..... Eldon Carlson, Interim Pastor of Keystone New Life Church, Cornell*

*Early Bird Prize Drawing.....John Petska, Chairman*

*Notice of Meeting & Approval of 2024 Minutes.....Steve Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer*

*Chairman's Report.....John Petska, Chairman*

*Ballot Box Closed.....John Petska, Chairman*

*Cooperative Updates.....Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO*

*Financial Report.....Joe Harrison, Principal CPA -Bauman Associates, Ltd.*

*Open Forum.....John Behling, Attorney & President -Weld Riley, S.C.*

*Report of Tellers Committee*

*Drawing for Apple iPad.....John Petska, Chairman*

*Adjournment.....John Petska, Chairman*

### Action will be taken on:

1. Cooperative reports
2. Election of three directors: one from District 2, 4 and 7.
3. Vote of Bylaw Amendment
4. Unfinished business
5. New business and other business to come before this meeting.

### Voting Instructions

All members will receive a Bylaw Amendment Ballot and return envelope to vote on the proposed changes to the Cooperative Bylaws. The ballot and envelope will be included with the bill that you receive in March.

Members who reside in a district whose director is up for election (districts 2, 4, and 7) at this annual meeting will also receive an additional ballot in the same envelope as the electric bill mailed to them in March.

Please vote and return the completed ballot(s) to CVEC to be received prior to March 27 or you may bring it to the annual meeting. Ballots received after March 27 will not be counted.

We look forward to seeing you at CVEC's 88th annual meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the cooperative headquarters located at 317 South 8th Street, Cornell, WI.

*One gift per member family*

**Bring this registration stub with you to the annual meeting.** You must bring this stub to the annual meeting to receive your FREE gift and to enter the prize drawings.

*Please look inside this magazine for additional annual meeting information.*





# Message from CVEC's President/ CEO & Board Chairman

### Thankful for our Past

Recognizing the significance of a robust and modernized infrastructure, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) made the commitment to make needed upgrades to enhance the resilience of our distribution system a priority. Over the last several years the cooperative has invested in the replacement of aging equipment, the installation of smart grid technologies, and the expansion of capacity to meet growing energy demands in our area and prepare our communities for the future.

These upgrades, along with a strong vegetation management program has decreased our member outage times to a five-year average of just 50 minutes a year per member- **one of the lowest in the state.**

### Excited about our Progress

2024 marked a year of many firsts. It was the first time our crews worked a different work schedule. Shifting our linemen's schedules to working four ten-hour shifts a week proved to take advantage of more daylight hours and be more efficient overall for our team. Reflected in the increased number of new services our small but mighty team installed. 2024 brought over 90 new services, up around 10 from our previous highest year.

The year brought the first time in recent history that Farm Technology Days was held in our service territory. The event gave us the opportunity to offer high voltage safety demos to countless community members and connect with our members. CVEC played an important role in powering the show and the event brought in a record amount, giving back to youth agricultural programs in our area.

Our linemen also stepped up in big ways throughout the year to serve not only CVEC members, but members in other areas experiencing outages due to crisis or natural disasters. Like most electric cooperatives in the United States, CVEC serves a more rural area with fewer members spread out over more service territory than is typically found with investor-owned utilities and municipally owned utilities. This can present problems when rural cooperatives are faced with large outages that span across their geographically large service area. This is when the cooperative way shines, and we lean on each other.

A great benefit of being a part of an electric cooperative is the mutual assistance program known as ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency). In an incident where there are large

outages across a cooperative's service area, fellow cooperatives step in and fill any gaps and help to restore power as quickly as possible for members.

Lineworkers who travel to assist other cooperatives through the ROPE program are compensated by the cooperative needing the extra helping hand. In 2024, we had 6 out of our 12 linemen travel to help other areas, including Alger-Delta Cooperative Electric Association in Michigan, our friends at Eau Claire Energy Cooperative and Aiken Electric Cooperative in North Carolina, to assist with Hurricane Helene restoration efforts.

### Prepared for the Future

The future of the Chippewa Valley is bright. Our Board of Directors and Team at CVEC feel we play an integral role in keeping our rural communities vibrant and thriving. Our Board of Directors, along with the dedicated staff at CVEC work tirelessly to prepare for what is to come.

One of our biggest goals continues to be fostering opportunities to add additional large loads to our service territory. While residential usage is dependent largely on the weather, commercial usage provides more consistent usage and in turn more consistent revenue year-round for the cooperative and our membership. Large loads provide the revenue needed to stabilize rates for all of our members. We will continue to ensure our system is ready for the opportunities large loads could bring to our membership and cooperative.

As we continue to move forward and progress, your board's goal will remain to provide safe, reliable and sustainable power.

**Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 27.**



# Statement of Revenue & Expenses

## For Year Ending December 31, 2024

(Unaudited)



WHAT WE TOOK IN		2023	2024
1)	Operating Revenue	\$15,962,362	\$16,028,965
WHAT WE PAID OUT			
2)	Cost of Purchased Power	\$8,882,959	\$8,982,257
3)	Operations Expense	\$980,831	\$947,339
4)	Maintenance Expense	\$785,450	\$808,003
5)	Customer Accounts Expense	\$464,353	\$495,895
6)	Customer Service & Information Expense	\$355,583	\$410,891
7)	Administrative & General Expense	\$1,136,139	\$1,432,060
8)	Depreciation Expense	\$1,769,288	\$1,784,682
9)	Taxes	\$225,251	\$232,956
10)	Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$718,556	\$783,175
11)	Other Deductions	\$7,764	\$14,339
12)	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$15,326,174	\$15,891,597
WHAT WE HAVE LEFT			
13)	Net Operating Margins	\$636,188	\$137,368
14)	Non-Operating Margins-Interest/Dividends	\$183,217	\$180,544
15)	Income (Loss) from Equity Investments	\$580,144	-\$69,557
16)	Non-Operating Margins- Other	\$22,524	-\$84,132
17)	Dairyland Power Co-op (G&T): Capital Credits	\$424,290	\$456,725
18)	Associated Capital Credits & Dividends Extraordinary Income	\$111,450	\$142,258
19)	Total Non-Operating Margins	\$1,321,625	\$634,838
20)	<b>Total Margins</b>	\$1,957,813	\$772,206
PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS MADE DURING THE YEAR			
21)	National Rural Utilities Co-op Finance Corp. (CFC)	\$114,049	\$77,734
22)	R.U.S. (Rural Utilities Service)	\$470,654	\$400,483
23)	Co-Bank	\$502,621	\$522,236

Notes:

A) The Subsidiary's (CVS) margins/ loss and investment gain/ loss are now displayed on the "Income (loss) from Equity Investments" line above. Allocations are generally based on Chippewa Valley Electric's Operating Margins, G&T Capital Credits, and Associated Capital Credits from the previous year.

# Cooperative Balance Sheet

## For Year Ending December 31, 2024

(Unaudited)



ASSETS		2023	2024
1)	Total Utility Plant	\$52,792,670	\$54,778,143
2)	Less: Reserve for Depreciation & Amortization	\$18,474,810	\$20,105,587
3)	<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$34,317,860</b>	<b>\$34,672,556</b>
4)	Nonutility Property Net	\$0	\$0
5)	Investments Subsidiary Companies	\$5,009,091	\$4,939,534
6)	Investment & Patronage- Associated Org.	\$7,393,775	\$7,714,860
7)	Other Investments	\$8,139	\$71,830
8)	<b>Total Other Property Investments</b>	<b>\$12,411,005</b>	<b>\$12,726,224</b>
9)	Cash- REA (Rural Electrification Association) Loan Funds	\$1,570	\$760
10)	Cash- General	\$991,133	\$1,298,175
11)	Temporary Investments	\$75,521	\$2,043
12)	Notes Receivable- Net	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
13)	Accounts Receivable- Net	\$1,412,664	\$1,580,029
14)	Material & Supplies	\$552,320	\$544,078
15)	Prepayments	\$93,018	\$62,500
16)	Other Current & Accrued Assets	\$4,255	\$4,245
17)	Total Current & Accrued Assets	\$7,630,481	\$7,991,830
18)	Deferred Debits	\$54,039	\$291,343
19)	<b>Total Assets &amp; Other Debts</b>	<b>\$54,413,385</b>	<b>\$55,681,953</b>
LIABILITIES			
20)	Long Term Debt R.U.S.	\$16,243,989	\$17,801,199
21)	Long Term Debt Other	\$6,184,940	\$5,606,544
22)	<b>Total Long Term Debt</b>	<b>\$22,428,929</b>	<b>\$23,407,743</b>
23)	Notes Payable	\$0	\$0
24)	Accounts Payable	\$909,153	\$987,498
25)	Consumer Deposits	\$89,235	\$113,599
26)	Current Maturities- Long Term Debt	\$1,036,345	\$1,063,000
27)	Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$678,535	\$865,224
28)	<b>Total Current &amp; Accrued Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,713,268</b>	<b>\$3,029,321</b>
DEFERRED CREDITS		<b>\$275,517</b>	<b>\$97,301</b>
29)	Membership Fees	\$0	\$0
30)	Patronage Capital	\$15,132,626	\$15,848,503
31)	Operating Margins-Current Year	\$636,188	\$137,368
32)	Other Margins & Equities	\$13,226,857	\$13,161,717
33)	<b>Total Margins &amp; Other Equities</b>	<b>\$28,995,671</b>	<b>\$29,147,588</b>
34)	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Other Equities</b>	<b>\$54,413,385</b>	<b>\$55,681,953</b>

# Annual Meeting Minutes 2024

The 87th annual meeting of the members of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Board Chairman, John Petska, at 6:00 p.m. in the Cooperative headquarters in the City of Cornell, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

## Recognition

All military veterans were asked to stand and were thanked for their service. A moment of silence was observed for all casualties, both foreign and domestic.

## Invocation

Reverend Dr. James Brandli prayed for the country, state, membership, and employees of CVEC.

## Early Bird Prize

The Early Bird prize of a 65" Crystal Hi-Def LED Smart TV was won by Corey Grape.

## Introduction

John Petska introduced the board. Senator Jesse James and State Representative Rob Summerfield. Vern Weeks, Mary Colbenson and Kristine Hemenway were introduced as the tellers counting the ballots. Attorney John Robert Behling from Weld Riley was introduced as well as Mary Erickson from WECA. Also present were Dennis Bachman, Ryan Hartzell and Jen Diederich representing Ntera. John introduced the director candidates: Sue Frei, Dan Liske, and Steve Wall were present.

## Quorum

The Board Chairman declared a quorum was present and opened the meeting for business.

## Notice and Affidavit of Mailing

The Secretary-Treasurer, Steven L. Johnson, read the Notice of Meeting and Affidavit of Mailing.

## Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 meeting were mailed to the members prior to the meeting. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

## Chairman's Report

John Petska said the theme of this year's meeting is Concern for Community. Tonight's meeting is a milestone in the history of our Co-op, as this is the first time our annual meeting will be held in the evening. CVEC has had a busy year, Dairyland along with CVEC helped financially in sponsoring the helicopter landing pad project in Holcombe. Our Co-op is sponsoring many events

including 2024 Farm Technology Days to be held at the Jamie Close property and the Country Fest Grounds. Members of the board and management attended various training seminars and education events throughout the year. In closing John noted our co-op is financially strong, stable, and operationally sound.

## President's Report

President and CEO, Russ Falkenberg, was very grateful for his co-workers, the board and management. There were a lot of changes over the year, recognizing staff retirements and a staff member relocating. Russ acknowledging the line crew for their dedication and talent as well as all front office staff for all their support.

## Financial Report

Nathan Kalepp, Principal CPA of Bauman & Assoc reviewed CVEC financials including statements of revenue, operating expenses, and the cooperative balance sheet. Additional financials discussed were the assets and liabilities for CVEC.

## Prize Drawings

Prizes were given to many members throughout the meeting.

## Director Election Results

District #6: Steve Wall – 67

District #1: Sue Frei – 100  
Dan Liske – 72

## Adjournment

Chairman, John Petska, asked for any other business. There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned by John Petska at 7:10 p.m.

## NEW PRIZE DRAWING

Operation Round-Up will be entering all NEW participants in a prize drawing for a Kwik Trip gift card!

*\*must be present to win*



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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Cornell, WI 54732

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www.cvecoop.com • email: cvec@cve.coop

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## Board of Directors

District 1 – Sue Frei

District 2 – Steve Johnson

District 3 – Frank Draxler

District 4 – Kevin Meistad

District 5 – Joe Melville

District 6 – Steve Wall

District 7 – John Petska

**Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO**



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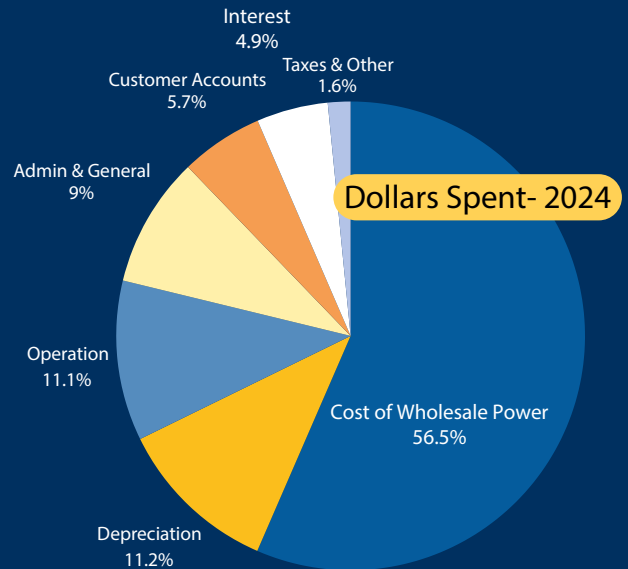
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30–4 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Rebecca Pehlke, Editor**

### 2024 OUTAGE INFORMATION

	# OF OUTAGES	AVG./ CONSUMER	CONSUMER HOURS
Power Supplier	7	0.203	1,542.51
Trees	72	0.446	3,394.75
Animals	11	0.024	184.26
Broken Poles	0	0.000	0.00
Insulator	0	0.000	0.00
Overhead Wire Break	0	0.000	0.00
Fault- Sec	10	0.004	29.78
Underground Fault	7	0.046	349.87
Lightning	5	0.011	85.91
OCR/Fuse	0	0.000	0.00
Vehicles	15	0.078	592.21
Transformers	24	0.084	190.50
Fires	3	0.000	2.28
Other/ Unknown	119	0.092	1,311.48
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>7,684</b>
<b>Planned Outage</b>	<b>186</b>	0.026	597.17
<b>Extreme Storms</b>	<b>0</b>	0.000	0.00
<b>TOTALS &amp; AVG/ CONSUMER</b>	<b>459</b>		<b>8,281</b>



### COMPARATIVE STATISTIC REPORT

	2022	2023	2024
Total Miles of Line in Operation			
Total Miles of Overhead Line	1,265	1,295	1,294
Total Miles of Underground Line	720	746	732
Consumers Connected During the Year	546	549	562
Consumers Connected Year End	80	70	90
Average Consumers Per Mile- Year End	7,805	7,863	7,939
Total Water Heaters Controlled	6.17	6.07	6.14
Total Dual Fuel Accounts	3,156	3,141	3,051
Total kWh Purchased	1,456	1,447	1,416
Total kWh Sold	113,745,309	111,973,989	107,507,333
Total kWh Used	108,344,655	106,653,944	103,331,976
Total Cost of Electricity	305,100	268,800	282,600
Total Revenue from Electricity Sales	8,918,295	8,878,755	8,858,784
Average Cost per kWh Purchased	15,594,897	15,745,116	15,714,830
Average Revenue per Mile/ Month	0.0784	0.0793	0.0824
Average Revenue per Member/Month	1,026.95	1,013.25	1,012.03
Average kWh sold per Member/ Month	166.51	166.87	164.95
Average Revenue per kWh Sold	1,157	1,130	1,085
Average Outage Time per Member	0.1439	0.1476	0.1521
Total Number of Employees	2.347	0.696	1.043
	20	20	22



**THANKFUL**

FOR OUR PAST

**EXCITED**

FOR OUR PRESENT

**PREPARED**

FOR OUR FUTURE

