

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2025 NEWS



NATIONAL  
**CO-OP**  
MONTH



# It's YOUR Cooperative

**A**t Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, our team works every day to power rural progress. In the 1930s, local farmers came together to form your cooperative because no other company wanted to electrify rural America. So instead, rural America worked together, with the help of the Rural Electrification Act, to establish a cooperative to do what others wouldn't.

Now, almost 100 years later, the purpose of your cooperative remains the same: we exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors, and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

Cooperatives are more than just businesses—they're community-driven organizations that put people first. At CVEC we are committed to

empowering our members and building stronger, more connected communities. Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs, partnering with volunteer organizations, or helping bring fiber-fast internet to rural areas, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life and power progress in the places we serve.

We are glad to have you as an important part of our cooperative family.

Russ Falkenberg  
President/CEO  
Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative



# POWER IN PARTNERSHIP



**E**arlier this year, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) shared some exciting news around the formation of Chippewa Valley Connected, a separate entity wholly owned by CVEC. CV Connected is an underground contracting business specializing in new service installations and overhead-to-underground conversions. The organization also offers directional drilling and expertise in fiber optic installation.

The new entity was formed after our cooperative struggled for many years with having underground contractors on site when and where we need them. In talking with other local cooperatives, many seemed to be experiencing similar issues in regard to underground work being completed in a timely fashion. CV Connected is committed to providing service for CVEC and other neighboring cooperatives, Ntera, and local municipalities.

In its first season, CV Connected has welcomed a team of eighteen skilled workers living in Chippewa and Rusk counties. The crews have been very busy doing jobs for six co-ops in addition to CVEC, fiber work for Ntera and Citizen's Connected, and assisting several local municipalities with directional drilling and other underground jobs.

## How does this partnership benefit YOU—our member?

Not having underground work completed when expected can result in our CVEC crew not completing work plans and new services in the constraints of the expected timeline. Over the years crews have had to return to a site multiple times, unsure if underground work was or would be completed costing our members time and money.

In working with CV Connected, our

crew can rely on work being completed by an entity we know and trust.

CV Connected is another avenue to help CVEC grow and stay financially stable as an organization. CVEC has a long history of forming additional entities such as Chippewa Valley Satellite and Ntera, which both in turn provide additional income to the cooperative helping us to keep rates stable for our membership even as costs of providing service continues to grow.

## What does the future hold?

CV Connected will continue to look for opportunities to grow at a healthy rate and stay true to its mission of supporting electric cooperatives across the state. CVEC is proud to be a part of the venture which is helping to power progress across rural Wisconsin.



# CAPITAL CREDITS:

## A COOPERATIVE MEMBER PERK

### 2025 Retirement

This year, your board of directors authorized the retirement (return) of over \$500,000 in capital credits to our members. This retirement includes a percentage of the previously allocated capital credits from 2003 through 2024. Active members will receive their portion of this retirement as a credit on their October bill if their credit is \$100 or less. Members will receive their credits as a check if their total retirement is greater than \$100.

Over \$17.5 million in Capital Credits have been returned to CVEC members since the first capital credits were allocated in 1937. **It's proof that being a CVEC member pays off!**

### What happens to my capital credits if I move off CVEC lines?

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are typically made 20-25 years after credits are earned, you should be sure we have your current address on file.

### What happens to unclaimed funds?

CVEC makes a diligent effort to return all allocated capital credits back to our current and former members as state law requires. However, if we cannot locate a member, after five years, the funds become "unclaimed" and are placed in our Federated Youth Foundation account. Funds in this account are used strictly to award college scholarships throughout our service territory that benefit our members.

### Questions?

Visit [www.cvecoop.com/capitalcredits.php](http://www.cvecoop.com/capitalcredits.php) or call our office 715-239-6800.

*It pays to be a member!*

1



#### PATRONAGE

CVEC keeps track of how much electricity you purchase and how much money you paid for it through the year.

2



#### MARGINS

At the end of the year, CVEC completes a financial analysis and determines the amount of profit after operating expenses.

3



#### ALLOCATION

CVEC allocates, or distributes, the margins to members as capital credits based upon their electricity use during the year.

4



#### RETIREMENT

When the cooperative financial condition permits, your board of directors elects to retire, or pay, the capital credits to members.

5

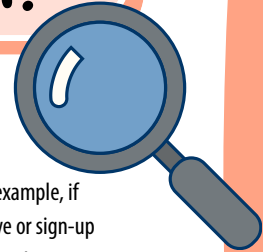


#### CO-OP BENEFIT

CVEC notifies you of how and when you'll receive your capital credit retirement.



# SEARCHING FOR SOME FUN DURING CO-OP MONTH?



## Sign up for member benefit services for YOUR chance to win one of six \$50 bill credits!

Each service you sign up for or already have below will provide you with one additional chance to win. For example, if you have a SmartHub account and signed up for autopay, you will receive two entries. You must already have or sign-up for at least one of the member benefit services below AND fill out the web form or attached form to be entered to win.

### Chance 1: Sign Up for Auto Pay

Have your bill automatically paid by credit card, debit card, or bank account each month. Set it up online through SmartHub by logging in and selecting Bill & Pay then Auto Pay Program or contact our office for an Automatic Payment Authorization form.

*\*Bonus- ALL New Auto Pay Enrollees setting up with a checking or savings account will receive a \$20 bill credit in addition to their entry. \**

### Chance 2: Register for SmartHub



Sign up at or download the app and register your account there. You will need your account number (which can be found on the upper righthand corner of your bill) and access to your email to successfully register. SmartHub allows you to view your electricity usage, see important messages from your co-op and so much more!

### Chance 3: Update your contact methods in SmartHub

Verify your contact methods on SmartHub by logging in and selecting Settings, then Contact Methods. This will also allow you to enroll in text and email notifications about outages, billing, and more.



### Chance 4: Choose paperless billing

Opt out of receiving a paper bill each month and have your bill emailed to you instead. Change your account settings in SmartHub by logging in and selecting Settings then paperless billing or giving our office a call.

*Winners will be drawn Monday, November 3. All entries must be submitted prior to that date to be entered into the drawing. Each member can receive credit for any of the above services that they are enrolled in at that time. Enrollment prior to the contest does not disqualify a member from an entry, as long as you are still actively enrolled at the time of the drawing.*

## SCAN ME!



Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

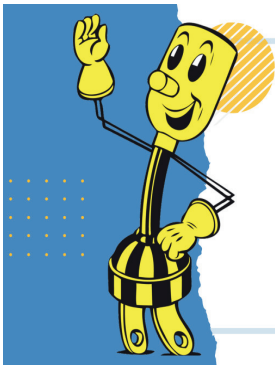
Please check the boxes of any member benefits that you are currently receiving or have signed up for:

- ☐ Enrolled in Auto Pay
- ☐ SmartHub Registration Complete
- ☐ Contact Methods Updated
- ☐ Enrolled in Paperless Billing

**Complete the online form by scanning the QR Code to the left or mail this form to our office.**

**Mail Form To:** Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Rebecca  
PO Box 575  
Cornell, WI 54732

**E-mail I Form To:** [cvec@cve.coop](mailto:cvec@cve.coop)



Your Cooperative **CVEC** Powering Your Future

# Sparks CO-OP NEWS

CELEBRATING OUR CO-OP COMMUNITY!

## Office Closed—Wednesday, October 1

Our team will be participating in Cooperative Day of Service held on October 1. Cooperative Day of Service is a chance for our employees to give back to our area in a meaningful way. This year we will be volunteering at Our Nawakwa, a non-profit organization on our lines that promotes youth connection with nature.

To help with staffing, our lobby will be closed on Wednesday, October 1. We will be open our regular hours the rest of the week.



Your Cooperative **CVEC** Powering Your Future

## UNDERGROUND SERVICE Reminder

**OCTOBER 1 - Service Upgrades**  
**OCTOBER 15 - New Service**

If you have fall construction plans that are not already scheduled, call today!

**CONTACT US**  
**715-239-6800**



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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

### Board of Directors

District 1 – Sue Frei

District 2 – Dr. Eugene Buchner

District 3 – Frank Draxler

District 4 – Kevin Meistad

District 5 – Joe Melville

District 6 – Steve Wall

District 7 – John Petska

**Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO**



Follow us on Facebook

Monday — Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Rebecca Pehlke, Editor**



# NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



*Commitment to Community*

