



## A SEASON OF GRATITUDE THANK YOU TO OUR ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS THIS CHRISTMAS

As the holiday season arrives, we are filled with gratitude for the gift of community and the opportunity to serve you—our electric co-op members. Christmas is a time for reflection, generosity, and connection, and there is no better time to express our appreciation for the trust, support, and partnership you share with us throughout the year.

Our cooperative is more than a utility provider; it's a community of neighbors working together for the common good. As a member-owned organization, everything we do is rooted in service to you. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't focus on profits—we focus on providing reliable, affordable energy while reinvesting in the community we share. Your participation helps us deliver on that mission.

During this season of giving, we are especially thankful for the role each of you plays in shaping our co-op. Whether you've attended an annual meeting, voted in board elections, or participated in energy efficiency programs, your involvement strengthens the cooperative.

Your feedback guides our decisions, ensuring that we grow in ways that benefit everyone in our service area. We couldn't do what we do without you.

This time of year also reminds us how vital reliable energy is to creating warm, joyful holiday moments. From festive lights and cozy gatherings to family meals shared around the dinner table, electricity plays an essential role in making the season special. We are honored to be a part of those moments by keeping your homes powered and comfortable, even as winter brings challenges like snow, ice, and cold temperatures.

Behind the scenes, our dedicated

employees work hard to ensure your service remains uninterrupted. Linemen and office staff alike are committed to serving you during every season. Whether they are restoring power after a winter storm or helping you with a billing question, their efforts reflect the cooperative spirit that unites us all. This Christmas, we are grateful for their dedication and the pride they take in supporting our community.

As we look toward a new year, we are excited to continue building a brighter future with you. Whether through innovative technologies, new programs, or expanded services, we are committed to providing the best possible experience for every member of our co-op family. From all of us at the co-op, we wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas filled with joy, peace, and togetherness.

Thank you for being part of our cooperative community. We look forward to serving you in the years to come.



Photo credit: Kathy Goltz

*Merry* CHRISTMAS!  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT  
CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE



# RETIRED CVEC LINEMAN AND CO-OP MEMBER BUILDS DREAM AIRPLANE FROM A KIT

Dennis Harm worked as a journeyman lineman for CVEC for nearly 24 years, retiring in 2019. Throughout that time, he has been a member of the co-op living in rural Cadott. Since retirement, Harm has made more time for his hobby...flying. Harm's interest in flying was sparked at a young age. In fact, he even carved a plane from wood in shop class when he was young. His passion and interest for flying continued into adulthood, always having an interest in becoming a pilot. Back in 1976 Dennis started the process to earn his pilot's license. After life responsibilities got in the way, in 2003 he was able to complete the remainder of his needed hours and earn his pilot's license.

In the fall of 2015, Harm took the leap to purchase a kit and begin building his own plane. Harm had some exposure to others who built planes from similar kits from the Experimental Aviation Club he is a member of and from his brother's shared passion for flying.

"My brother started his build before I did. I helped him some and thought, well if he can do it, so can I," shared Harm.



Harm finished building his Vans RV-14A with a 210 HP engine in fall of 2021. "The most challenging part of the build were the fuel tanks," shared Harm. "Each rivet in the tank needed to be sealed so fuel wouldn't leak out. A messy and time-consuming process."

The plane kit in general was an ambitious project with over 15,000 rivets alone that needed to be installed by hand. However, the result was worth it.

Harm enjoys sharing his love of flying and aviation with others. Taking family and friends alike up in the skies with him.

*At CVEC, we enjoy connecting with our members who have unique businesses, talents, or hobbies. Have an idea for a future member spotlight? Contact us at 715-239-6800 or [cvec@cve.coop](mailto:cvec@cve.coop).*





# CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Are you interested in serving as a Director for your Co-op?

CVEC is guided by a seven-person Board of Directors. All members of the cooperative and elected by YOU (our members). Each member district has the opportunity to vote for a representative on CVEC's Board of Directors every 3 years.

The Directors are YOUR voice and meet monthly to guide the direction of the cooperative. That's the cooperative difference!

## Qualifications:

The main qualifications to serve as a representative on the CVEC Board of Directors are:

1. A CVEC member and primary resident of the district from which elected.
2. Not employed by or holding a financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative.
3. Not employed by the cooperative.
4. Compliant with the cooperative's nepotism policy.

## How to Join CVEC'S Board of Directors

1. **Review CVEC's Bylaws**  
Located on [cvecoop.com](http://cvecoop.com)
2. **Identify Your District**  
Directors serve 3 year terms, alternating election years. Don't know your district? Call CVEC or refer to the back of your billing statement.
3. **Get on the Ballot**  
Connect with the co-op to indicate interest in running and receive a candidate packet and get on the ballot.
4. **Promote Your Campaign**
5. **Attend the Annual Meeting**  
Directors elected by members residing in their district at the Annual Meeting.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

### What does a director do?

A director represents all members (consumers) of CVEC and is responsible for annual budgets, rate schedules, approval of general policies, capital credit retirements, present bylaw amendment changes, delegating authority to the President/CEO to execute, carry out the daily activities of the cooperative and follow established policies. Directors' decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative.

### What is the time commitment?

Each director serves a three-year term. Directors can expect to be available 20-40 days each year for attendance at monthly board meetings, CVEC's annual meeting, training sessions, member events, educational seminars, and travel.

### When does the board meet?

The board of directors typically meets the last Thursday of each month with meetings beginning at 8am and varying in length from approximately four to six hours. Directors also attend occasional other meetings and events.

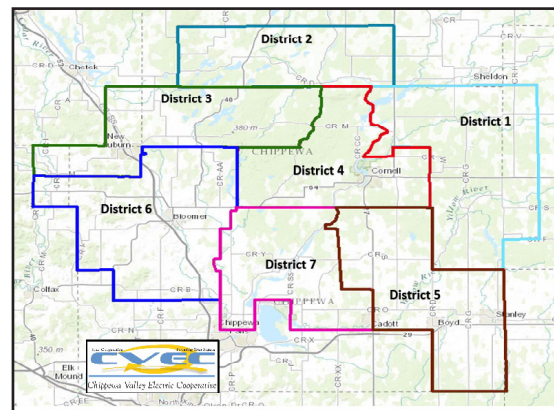
### Is there any compensation?

Directors are paid a per diem for each meeting attended as well as IRS-approved mileage.

## The following districts are up for re-election in 2026:

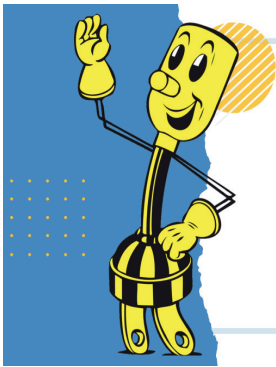
**District 3** – Township of Sand Creek, Dunn County; the north half of the Township of Auburn and the entire Village of New Auburn; the Township of Sampson; that portion of the Township of Birch Creek located west of County Highway E, Chippewa County; the Township of Dovre, Barron County

**District 5** – The entire Townships of Arthur, Delmar, and Edson and that portion of the Township of Colburn located west of County Highway D; that portion of the Township of Goetz located east of State Highway 27, Chippewa County



To request a director candidate packet or find out more details about board elections, contact Rebecca at [rpehlke@cve.coop](mailto:rpehlke@cve.coop) or call 715-239-6800. Packet Due: February 9, 2026.





Your Cooperative Powering Your Future

# CVEC Sparks CO-OP NEWS

**CELEBRATING OUR CO-OP COMMUNITY!**

## Energy Efficiency Incentive Deadline Approaching



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative wants to remind its members that there are a variety of incentives available for qualified purchases of energy efficient products. Incentives are in place through December 31, 2025, or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted. Please submit forms as soon as possible to ensure that you can take advantage of our incentive program. Please note: Incentive forms and any additional requirements must be submitted no later than 3 months after the purchase date. Incentive forms can be found online: [www.cvecoop.com/rebates.php](http://www.cvecoop.com/rebates.php) or by contacting our office at 715-239-6800.

## Spirit of Christmas Success

We had Christmas gifts galore for Chippewa County children. Thank you to all the CVEC employees, directors, and community members who participated in the annual gift collection for Chippewa County youth. Giving really is better than receiving.



## A Community Conscious Volunteer is Sought

In the spirit of the holidays, we also want to highlight the importance of generosity. Our co-op takes pride in giving back through community programs and gift-giving programs, helping neighbors in need during difficult times. Your contributions to Operation Round Up®, which supports individuals, families, and local non-profits, ensures that everyone in our community can experience the warmth and joy of the season.

The Chippewa Valley Community Fund Board manages the Operation Round Up program and is seeking a volunteer to fill an open spot on the board. Unfortunately, the board recently lost a member who was representing the Jim Falls area. The board is seeking a person from the Jim Falls area who is aware of needs in this area and is interested in helping to review submitted applications for financial assistance to people or families experiencing unexpected crises or needs.

Persons interested in serving on the Operation Round Up Board should submit a short letter stating why he or she would like to serve on the board to Sue Hartzell c/o Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op, P. O. Box 575, Cornell, WI 54732 or email to [cvec@cve.coop](mailto:cvec@cve.coop) by December 31, 2025.

## Lobby Hours

Our office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, and Thursday, January 1.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

317 S. 8th St., P.O. Box 575  
Cornell, WI 54732  
715.239.6800 • 1.800.300.6800  
[www.cvecoop.com](http://www.cvecoop.com) • email: [cvec@cve.coop](mailto:cvec@cve.coop)


*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**