

# Longtime Director Steps Down

## George Webb Served on the CVEC Board of Directors for Almost 48 Years

**G**eorge A. Webb dedicated nearly 48 years building up the Chippewa Valley community through his service to Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative. The cooperative has been blessed with his leadership and wise guidance throughout those years. Due to health reasons, the longtime board director resigned at the end of May, and Chippewa Valley Electric would like to thank George for his years of service. He has lived his life serving those around him, being a man of true integrity, respect, and service. Holding a spot on Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's board since 1967, George acted as a positive example to all and upheld strong values and principles that the co-op continues to embrace.

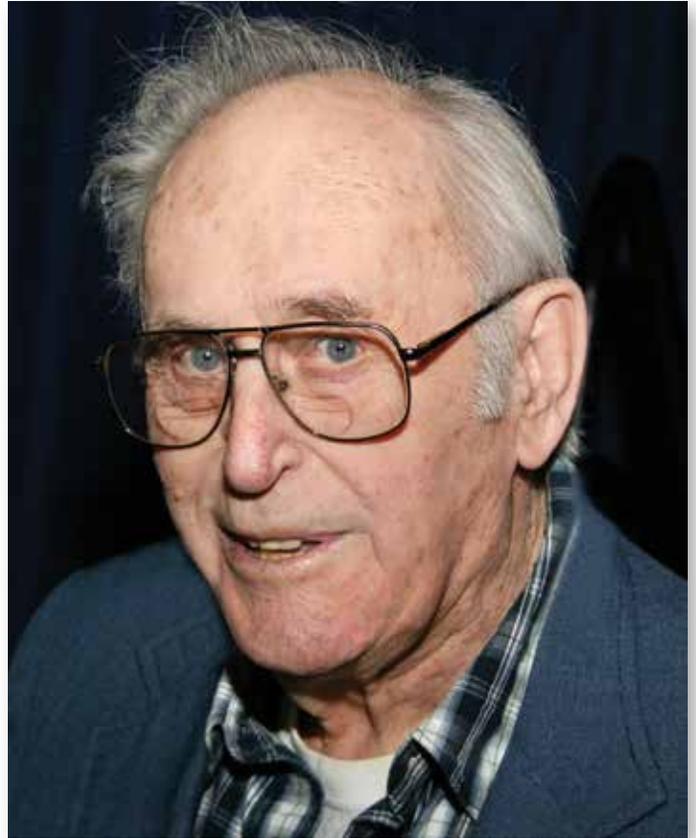
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George believed that the main purpose of a board member was to do what was best for the cooperative's members, especially when it came to costs. Yet, he also kept in mind the cooperative's need to stay financially stable so it could provide for future members. Using his wisdom and discernment, he worked to balance the two purposes and set an example for future leaders. Many members had seen that George's words genuinely aligned with his heart; thus George was elected as the board's president in 1985 and faithfully led in that position for almost 29 years.

Leading as the board's president, George helped secure a respectful relationship between the cooperative and the community by encouraging reasonable prices and advancements for Chippewa Valley Electric and the



community. In difficult times, he put his attention on the concerns of both the members and the co-op. He worked hard to keep costs manageable.

In addition, George helped advance the co-op and its relationship with the community by serving on the board of Chippewa Valley's Electric subsidiary company, Chippewa Valley Satellite. He played a monumental role in the company's development by casting the tie-breaking vote for its inception in 1994. George's wise character and consideration for the cooperative and its members took the Chippewa Valley far.

George's life motto is: "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and he lives with that truth in his heart. He always focused his concern on doing what is best for those around him and selflessly served the co-op in many ways, encouraging its principles and values. Because of George's moral character, countless people in the community are able to testify to the honorable service and leadership that George brought to society. ■

# Outages and Ospreys

## CVEC Helps Protect Birds by Donating, Setting Pole for Nesting

**O**n May 5, 2014, our crew responded to an outage call and found that a pair of osprey had decided to build their nest on one of our poles. Everything was fine as long as the nest was dry, but it rained that night and the added water caused the lines to short out.

The crew removed the nest and attached cross-arm braces to try to keep the birds away. Two days later we were back out with another outage. At this point, we contacted the DNR about working with them to set a pole for the birds to nest on. The DNR built the nest base and attached it to a pole CVEC donated, and then we set the pole across the road. By the end of the day the birds were happily nesting in their new home.

Ospreys are somewhat territorial and their new nesting spot is close to our distribution pole, which was the pole they were trying to nest on. This should keep any other ospreys from moving in. Donating the pole and setting it up result in a win-win situation for your cooperative—no more outages, and protection for the birds by avoiding potential electrocution. ■



# Take These Steps When the Power Goes Out

If the power goes out in your home there are a few things you should check before calling CVEC. A few simple steps could save you money.

## Check Your Meter

Take a look at your meter to help determine if the outage is CVEC's problem or a problem within your home. A meter with a digital display will have a blank screen which indicates that the problem is on the co-op's side. When you see something displayed on the screen,



this means that power is getting to the meter and it is not a co-op outage; it is an outage within your home. If you have a meter that does not display a digital reading, then check for a red light on the lower left side of the meter. When you see a red light, this indicates that power is getting to the meter and the problem is with your own equipment; you should check your breakers or contact an electrician. If there is no visible red light, contact CVEC to report an outage.

## Check Your Breakers

Be sure to check your breakers inside your home at your electrical panel *and* also outside at your meter pedestal (if you have one). The photographs at left indicate where to find the breaker within a meter pedestal. If a breaker has been tripped, push the handle to the "Off" position before flipping it to the "On" position. It is important to check the breakers at both locations to avoid a service call if the outage is found to be your responsibility.

When you have determined that the power outage is not due to your own equipment, call Chippewa Valley Electric to report the outage at 715.239.6800 or 800.300.6800. ■

## Stay Safe from the Threat of Lightning

The National Weather Service estimates a total of 280 people in the United States get struck by lightning every year. Thirty-nine end in death. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a storm.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. To be as safe as possible, seek shelter indoors or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle when there's a thunderstorm in the area. However, if you make it indoors, that doesn't mean you are completely clear from danger. Electrical current from lightning can enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables, and plumbing. During a thunderstorm:

- Stay away from electrical outlets and any corded devices that could carry an electrical surge if lightning were to hit your home.

- Turn off or unplug such appliances, stay away from television sets, and do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike.
- Turn off your air conditioner to protect the compressor from a power surge and avoid a costly repair job.
- Avoid water and contact with piping, including sinks, baths, and faucets. Do not wash dishes, shower, or bathe during a thunderstorm.
- Avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems, but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.

After a storm, wait until 30 minutes have passed without lightning or thunder before returning outside. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area it is raining. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim. To learn more, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). ■



**Med-A-Lert** *in case of emergency*

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Med-A-Lert is the dependable 24-7 Personal Emergency Reporting System from Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, that helps you and your Loved Ones achieve quick access to HELP IMMEDIATELY.

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Provided by:



**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

317 S. 8th St., Cornell, WI 54732

## TAKE AN ELECTRIC TIME OUT 11 am - 7 pm



Electricity costs more during the summer, especially 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays. We are asking for your help in shifting electricity use outside of this window as much as possible. Taking an electric time out together helps keep electric rates affordable for everyone.

- ➔ Delay running the dishwasher.
- ➔ Turn up the thermostat.
- ➔ Shift the start of laundry.
- ➔ Wait to charge phones and electronics.

It's so simple! Take an electric time out 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays.

**TOGETHER WESAVE**



CVEC's office will be closed Friday, July 4, for Independence Day.

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*



**Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative**

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*CVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*