

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* May 2022 NEWS

PIERCE PEPIN
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

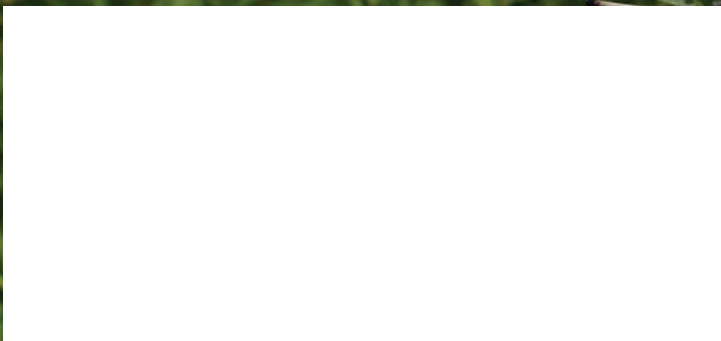
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**GLACIER'S GIFTS
EXPLORE THE GEOLOGICAL
WONDERS ALONG THE
CHIPPEWA MORaine**

A NEW LOOK AT NUCLEAR POWER

SHINE A LIGHT ON HOME SECURITY

PRIORITIZE SAFETY YEAR-ROUND





A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



RECAPPING OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO

On Tuesday, April 5, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services held its annual meeting at the Ellsworth High School Cafetorium. Having the meeting on a Tuesday versus Saturday and serving a hot meal was a big hit with impressive attendance numbers. The membership re-elected three incumbents to their seats on the board. Congratulations to Brian Berg, Ed Hass, and Jerry Drier for being reelected, and thank you for your continued service to the membership. Auditor Abby Williamson provided audited financials from 2021 which included a net margin of \$1.384 million. Total assets of the cooperative increased because of the

fiber investment, and overall cooperative equity ratios remain strong at 56%. Board Chair Roger Wiff provided an update on the cooperative which highlighted several accomplishments over the past year including the launch of SwiftCurrent Connect, investment in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and the board action to keep rates at the current levels for 2022.

As we turn the page on the 2021 annual meeting, we are already four months into 2022. The old saying about April showers bringing May flowers might be true if only the ground weren't frozen during all the showers we have experienced. I find myself becoming quite frustrated at the weather, realizing that I have absolutely no control over it. All I can do is hope and pray the powers

that determine the forecasts continue to be wrong in our favor. I try to remind myself that soon summer will be here and maybe by the time the magazine arrives in your mailbox, we will see a brighter future. Speaking of that sentiment, "Building a Brighter Future" was the theme of our annual meeting.

I've spent a lot of time thinking about what this means for our electric cooperative and our broadband subsidiary, SwiftCurrent Connect. During my annual presentation I mentioned that we must focus on Working Together and enhancing our partnerships. Do you ever feel like at times everyone is working against one another? I truly hope that at the local level we find compromise to be an easier

Continued on following page




Annual Meeting Recap Continued from previous page

word than they do in Washington, D.C. Our cooperative board of directors exemplifies working together. They set aside their personal beliefs to do what's best for our membership. It's unlikely they individually all agree with every decision, but when they walk out of the board room, they are unified. They trust the process and act in good faith without personal agendas. Our members should be proud of this.

We also talk about the Culture of Being Member Driven. We exist because of our members. You are the member-OWNER of the cooperative. I've witnessed cooperatives who forgot they are there to serve the members. For these cooperatives they become engrossed with the bottom line and big margins, generating a profit, and simply trying to keep their directors happy. PPCS is and will be member focused and instill the values of serving our members. Each day, we will continue to keep our focus on building a cooperative centered around our members.

Lastly, we talked about Connecting our Future. With the launch of our broadband business, it exemplifies the desire to help our members Live Better. Connecting our communities ensures we are prepared for the future and strengthens our ability to serve our members. The broadband network will improve our electric operations and it will open new tools for us to be competitive in the future and allow us to focus on keeping our rates competitive.

These three things may not lift every cloud in the sky, but they give us an opportunity to be successful. If we continue to instill a member-focused culture, we connect our community, and we develop strong partnerships, I am confident that we will Build a Brighter Future.



JOIN US FOR
**COFFEE AT THE
CO-OP**
Friday, May 20
8:00 to 9:00 a.m. at
the PPCS office.



MEMORIAL DAY
Remember and Honor

Office closed: Monday, May 30
Report outages through
SmartHub or call 800-927-5705.



PPCS SPONSORS YOUTH TO KAMP KENWOOD SUMMER CAMPS

PPCS will sponsor six campers, ages 8 to 14, to the Wisconsin Farmers Union Kamp Kenwood on Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls, Wis. All camp and membership fees are paid by PPCS.

Children of PPCS electric members not sponsored in 2021 are eligible. Visit www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com or call 800-272-5531 for more information. To register, contact the cooperative at 715-273-4355 (ext. 151) or clubich@piercepipin.coop.



CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:
You're invited to enter the Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative Association's
**ELECTRICAL SAFETY
POSTER CONTEST**

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services by **May 31, 2022**, for a chance to win some great prizes! Top three winners receive \$40, \$30, and \$25 respectively, with a \$10 Dairy Queen gift card awarded to 10 runners-up, all courtesy of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services! The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win even more prizes:

1st place – Chromebook
2nd place – \$100 Gift Card
3rd place – \$75 Gift Card

Visit www.piercepipin.coop or www.weca.coop for details and an entry form.





WATCH YOUR ENERGY BILL FOR CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION NOTICES

The notice for 2021 capital credit allocations will be inserted with your energy bill arriving in May and June. For members enrolled in paperless billing, the allocation notice will be available with your energy statement in SmartHub.

Allocations determine each member's

share of the cooperative's margin for a given year. Each member's allocation is determined by his/her kilowatt-hour consumption for the year. The co-op keeps a permanent record of each member's capital credit account, which is where the allocated amount remains until it is paid or "retired."

XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXX STATE STREET
ELLSWORTH, WI 54011

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Notice of
Capital Credits Allocation

THIS IS NOT A BILL

CAPITAL CREDITS STATEMENT

Member Number	196
Allocation Year	2019
Total Electric Patronage for Year	\$13.29
Total Electric Capital Credit Allocation For Year	\$.81
Remaining Electric Capital Credit Allocation	\$.81

Member number reflects all accounts you may have

Dollar amount of capital credits allocated to member for current allocation year

Cumulative balance of member's capital credits outstanding for all accounts

Capital Credits

What are capital credits? Capital credits are a major benefit of belonging to a cooperative. As a cooperative, we're owned by our members. Unlike other electric utilities, your cooperative is a not-for-profit organization. Any revenues (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated to our members as capital credits that are determined based on each member's share of electrical costs and purchases for the year. Capital credits,

UNDERGROUND INSPECTIONS BEGIN IN JUNE

With warmer weather, PPCS takes the opportunity to do many projects to maintain our system. We have contracted with Karcz Utility Services to perform underground cabinet inspections, which include clearing, cleaning, and testing. Inspections will be completed in River Falls, Trimbelle, northern Trenton, and east Diamond Bluff townships. If you have questions about this work, please contact our operations department at 715-273-4355 or 800-924-2133.



2022 Youth Leadership Congress

JULY 12-14

High school juniors and seniors develop their leadership skills, explore the cooperative business model and careers at this fun, fast-paced conference planned by the youth board from last year's event.

Details and registration:
www.piercepepin.coop/youth-programs



Prioritize Safety Year-round

We recognize National Electrical Safety Month every May, but we want everyone to practice electrical safety year-round. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

Electricity is a necessity, and it

powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them

together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

Talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.



YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN US. 🐾

OUR FIBER NETWORK PROVIDES INTERNET SPEEDS UP TO 1 GIGABIT PER SECOND. WE'RE PRETTY SURE THAT MAKES US FAST FRIENDS.

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PIERCE PEPIN COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

W7725 U.S. Highway 10, P.O. Box 420
Ellsworth, WI 54011-0420
715-273-4355 • 800-924-2133

info@piercepepin.coop • www.piercepepin.coop

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Power Outages and Emergencies: 800-927-5705

Nate Boettcher, President & CEO

Board of Directors

- District 1.....Gerald Drier
- District 2.....Edward Hass
- District 3.....Brian Berg
- District 4.....Joseph Bacon
- District 5.....Ann Young
- District 6.....Ginny Huber, secretary/treasurer
- District 7.....Roger Wiff, chairman
- District 8.....Brian Bergsens, vice chairman
- District 9.....Daniel Reis