

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

May 2023

PIERCE PEDIN
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

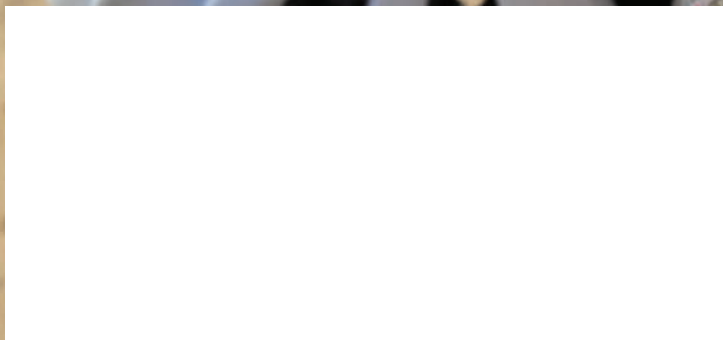
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**MAY IS
NATIONAL
BIKE MONTH**

HARNESSING HYDRO

SPRING IS A TIME FOR ADVOCACY

BEEF RECIPES





SPRING FORWARD

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO

PPCS held its annual meeting on March 30, 2023. It was a great event put on by our team and once again, we had impressive attendance numbers. Overall, we saw more members voting this year than in years past and we are even proud to say that more people tuned in online to watch the live video feed. The members approved the bylaw resolution allowing capital credits to be donated to Pierce Pepin Cares. Congratulations to John Parkes on winning the election for the open seat in District 4, and a big thank you to the other two candidates. John takes over for Joe Bacon, who decided not to seek re-election. Joe has been a valuable member of the PPCS board since 2017 and has been our resident electric vehicle and solar expert. We will

miss Joe's outgoing personality and his infectious laugh. The conclusion of the annual meeting also marks the start of spring. Or at least that is always our plan, even though the weather hasn't cooperated with us, bringing additional snow in early April. We had a decent-sized outage during the first week of April which caused us to ask for help from neighboring co-ops. Two individuals from Eau Claire Energy Cooperative came over to help finish up the restoration work. There is power in cooperatives working together. The spring is also a good reminder about the danger of digging around

power lines as well as operating machinery near overhead lines. Buried lines pose a threat because they are unseen and often are unexpectedly buried where members don't think about lines running. The safest way to ensure you don't hit these lines is by calling Diggers Hotline at 811 or going online to file a request at www.DiggersHotline.com. Members should make this a priority whenever they are planning a project that involves digging. Overhead lines pose a threat because members often forget to recognize overhead hazards. We work hard to ensure we maintain proper clearances, but there is no guarantee as lines can sag. In addition, with new aerial fiber lines being installed, previous clearances may no longer be valid. Member-caused outages can be expensive and unnecessary if the proper precautions are taken. We encourage all members to take a few extra minutes to ensure safety. Let's aim to be 100% free from member-caused outages.

We will be ramping up our spring fiber construction. Construction of new fiber will be happening in Clifton, Salem, Maiden Rock, and Kinnickinnic townships. Fiber drops to the home will be taking place in Phase 1 and 2 areas this spring and early summer before we shift our attention to Phase 3 areas. To see if your home is eligible for fiber, please go to <https://connect.swiftcurrent.coop> to check your address. If your home is eligible, you can sign up for service. Within a couple of days, our customer service team will reach out to complete your paperwork and send instructions on making a payment to cover your installation.

Lastly, but most importantly, Happy Mother's Day! We hope you have a great month of May and we look forward to seeing you this summer at one of our many community events.

The safest way to ensure you don't hit these lines is by calling Diggers Hotline at 811 or going online to file a request at www.DiggersHotline.com.



The collage features six photographs: a large group of people seated at tables; a woman looking at a display board; a man speaking at a podium with a screen behind him; a close-up of a large dessert; people gathered around a table; and a large lightbulb graphic containing the text '86TH ANNUAL MEETING'.



Kamp Kenwood Summer Camps
for kids 8 to 14

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. All camp and membership fees are paid by PPCS.

Children of PPCS electric members not sponsored in 2022 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.



Joe Bacon (right) received a warm thank you and a plaque recognizing his years of service from Chairman Roger Wiff.

BACON RETIRES FROM BOARD

PPCS said goodbye to retiring director Joseph Bacon during the annual meeting on March 30, his last official duty as a board member. Although Bacon was eligible to run for a third consecutive term on the board, he chose not to run for re-election.

Bacon represented District 4 and was first elected to the board in 2017.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership.



Electric Safety Poster Contest
for third grade students
Submit entries by May 31, 2023

Details, rules & registration information available at www.piercepipin.coop/scholarships-student-programs
Sponsored by PPCS and WECA.



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 Ellsworth, El Paso, Hartland, Salem, and Trenton townships. If you have questions about this work, please contact our operations department at 715-273-4355 or 800-924-2133.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION
LOBBY CLOSED
April 17 - June 19

In an effort to better serve our members, we're giving our lobby a facelift.

Please use SmartHub, Pay-by-Phone, mail, or our drop box on the west side of building to pay your bill during this time.

Members will be able to enter our building on the east (Hwy. 63) side of the building. Please call 715-273-4355 to be admitted to the building.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Look up for power lines and stay safe

Things that we see every day may go unnoticed. In fact, studies show that our minds likely ignore power lines. They are so much a part of our everyday landscape that we don't even see them anymore. Unfortunately, the failure to notice high-voltage power lines can be a deadly mistake.



According to the U.S. Consumer and Product Safety Commission, hundreds of consumer deaths occur each year from direct or indirect contact with power lines. Electrocution is also the second leading cause of death for utility and construction workers, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

With spring-like weather comes a boost in outside activities, a perfect time to know your surroundings, and look up for power lines to keep you and your family safe. Consider these guidelines when playing and working outside:

- Look up and around you. Always know the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles. Lower your long equipment when you are moving it. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof, installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes, doing roof repair work, or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from the lines.
- Never trim trees near power lines. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Leave these jobs to the professionals.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call Digger's Hotline at 811 before you begin to locate underground utility lines. The service is free, prevents utility services from being interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury or death.



Source: Safe Electricity



MEMORIAL DAY
Remember and Honor

Office closed: Monday, May 29

Report electric outages through SmartHub or call 800-927-5705.




Report internet outages by calling 866-307-5326.

PIERCE PEPIN COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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.....John Parkes
- 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