

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2024



**PIERCE PEPIN**  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**CELEBRATING THE ART  
OF THE DRIFTLESS AREA**

**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**

**TYPES OF HEAT PUMPS**

**HONEY HULLABALOO**





# SO LONG, GOOD FRIEND

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO

On June 25, my family and I put Prudie, our 14-year-old black lab, to rest. Named after the hit Beatles song Dear Prudence, she was everything I am not. She was a free spirit, mischievous, curious, a rule breaker, and athletic beyond her years. She was a great companion, a loyal sidekick, and an impressive hunting dog. She loved going pheasant hunting with Dad in the fall, having a keen sense for finding birds, flushing them, and then wondering why Dad shot three times while the birds flew away. She loved being on the boat in the summer. Once she managed to climb into the boat trailered in the garage only to get stuck there for a few hours until we got home. Another time, she escaped our control and ended up on a ferry transporting a group of senior citizens across the river to a casino. We used to think she was lucky to have us, but the truth is, we were lucky to have her.

Before Prudie, I was partial to yellow labs, although I always thought owning a black lab came with a certain appearance of regal elegance. Many of you will remember the

Bolo Inn Supper Club in Menomonie, named after a black lab. I can still remember their logo which featured a black labrador with a bird in its mouth. Prudie was elegant and beautiful just as I had always envisioned a black lab would be.

She taught my wife and me patience, helping to train us to be parents before we had kids. My mother-in-law has jokingly said, "I'll never understand how a hospital allows two unqualified parents to take a brand-new infant home." Raising Prudie gave us great experience.

She could not climb stairs for the past three months, but she desperately wanted to be by our bed at night. We found a way to carry 80 pounds of labrador upstairs and sometimes down. But through all that, she taught me patience long before having children. She taught me to have forgiveness and understanding. But most importantly, she taught me compassion in a world that needs a little more patience, forgiveness, and understanding. She will always be part of our family. My hope is that she can finally relax knowing that we are better people for having spent the last 14 years growing together and learning the true meaning of man's best friend.

But most importantly, she taught me compassion in a world that needs a little more patience, forgiveness, and understanding.

My articles usually focus on something related to our industry or our communities, but these past few weeks have caused me to step back and reflect. The ratcheting up of our political differences, the constant fighting over simple issues, and the distrust everyone has for someone they don't know aren't healthy. We've become a society where everything is a conspiracy; everything is a threat to our way of life, and a general feeling that everyone is out to get everyone else. In the words of one of my colleagues, I hope we can get back to assuming positive intent for the good of our society. In one last tribute to Prudie and a simple ask from me, please be kind, compassionate, patient, and show a little empathy to your neighbor. So long, good friend.



# EMPOWERING YOUR COOPERATIVE:

## JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Electric cooperatives play a vital role in our communities, providing reliable power to millions of homes and businesses across the country. Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of individuals, the board of directors, steers the cooperative's course. If you're passionate about shaping your cooperative's future, here's why you should consider running for a board seat:

1. **Community Impact:** As a director, you directly influence decisions that impact your neighbors, friends, and local businesses. Your voice matters!
2. **Transparency and Accountability:** Co-op governance thrives on openness. By joining the board, you contribute to transparent decision-making and financial accountability.
3. **Expertise Matters:** Your unique skills can enhance the board's effectiveness.

PPCS will host an informational meeting for potential director candidates at the PPCS office on **Thursday, October 24, at 6 p.m.** RSVP by calling Laure at 715-273-4355, ext. 113, or sending an email to [landrle@piercepepin.coop](mailto:landrle@piercepepin.coop).

## DIRECTOR DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

### Who is on the board?

The board of directors consists of nine cooperative members, three from each of the three cooperative districts.

### What does a director do?

A director represents all members of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services and is responsible for approving general policies, annual budgets, special contracts, capital credit allocations, and retirements, bylaw amendments, rate schedules, and delegating authority to the president and CEO to carry out the cooperative's daily activities.

### When does the board meet?

The board of directors meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

### Is there any compensation?

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

### What is the time commitment?

Typically, 24–30 days/evenings per year for monthly board meetings, training, and workshops.

# POWERED BY ELECTRICITY

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 10AM-2PM

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-RIVER FALLS

NORTH HALL - 410 S. 3RD STREET



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Kids Activities • Roundtable Discussion • Electric Tools & Equipment



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# INTERNSHIPS PROVIDE VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

By Ryan Santo

As the summer comes to a close, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) celebrates the achievements of its two summer interns, Jack Truttman and Ryan Santo. These interns have gained valuable hands-on experience and insights into the industry.

**Jack Truttman**, a Prescott High School graduate, completed his role as the Operations Department's seasonal worker at PPCS. Truttman is preparing to start his lineman apprenticeship



Jack Truttman

with PPCS in September, with an additional four years of schooling scheduled to begin in October in Eau Claire. He chose this career path for its promising job prospects and the opportunity to

work outdoors. Truttman's grandfather, Dennis Truttman, was a journeyman lineman with PPCS for 41 years, which further inspired him to pursue this career. Throughout the summer, Truttman worked closely with the line crew, developing critical thinking skills and gaining a comprehensive understanding of the field. He valued the supportive and welcoming atmosphere at PPCS and appreciated the chance to work in such a scenic area. Truttman looks forward to continuing his apprenticeship and pursuing a career with PPCS, where he hopes to make a lasting impact.

**Ryan Santo** attended Chippewa Falls High School and is now a third-year student at UW-Stout studying digital marketing technology. He completed his role as the marketing and communications intern at PPCS at the end of August. Santo's internship allowed him to take on various responsibilities, including writing press releases, contributing to magazine

articles, updating the PPCS website, and managing the cooperative's social media channels. Santo chose this career path because he enjoys working with marketing and social media, allowing him to connect with PPCS members to keep them informed and engaged, showcasing the cooperative's initiatives and achievements. Santo gained valuable insights into the industry and further developed his skills, preparing him for a successful future in digital marketing.



Ryan Santo

Truttman and Santo's internships at PPCS have provided them with significant, real-world experience in their chosen fields. PPCS remains committed to supporting young professionals, offering a platform for growth and learning.

→ Old School Meets **NEW SCHOOL**

## PUT NEW INTERNET ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Old school classics like notebooks and colored pencils are still around. But new school technology has moved to the head of the class, with most homework now being done on tablets or laptops rather than paper.

To help your student succeed, consider upgrading to an A+ internet plan from SwiftCurrent Connect. We offer super-fast speeds and unmatched reliability, so the only thing getting in the way of completing homework efficiently will be texts from friends!



W7725 US HWY10, Ellsworth, WI 54011  
715-350-7033 • [www.swiftcurrent.coop](http://www.swiftcurrent.coop)

**CALL 715-350-7033 FOR AN INTERNET UPGRADE**

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# SUMMER SYSTEM STRESS

The long days of summer bring hot and humid temperatures, increasing the need for cooling indoors. Increased electrical use during the summertime increases the risk of fire in homes with older or damaged wiring systems. Air conditioning and home cooling demands during long periods of hot weather can strain and overload a home's electrical system, a serious shock and fire hazard.

Considering the increased appliance usage and related electrical demands over the past half century, many older homes are not adequately wired to handle and support the increased demands.

Outdated wiring can overheat due to the increased loads required to run the appliances typically found in today's homes. If the wiring is deteriorating or crumbling, it can damage its own insulation, putting the system at risk for fire.



To help protect your home and loved ones, watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink, or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling, or buzzing is heard from outlets

If any of these signs are present, a professional should inspect your home. For more information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



PPCS periodically sends out important messages to our members regarding construction projects, line clearance projects, SHIFT for Savings alerts, and the like. If you want to stay in the know, sign up for SmartHub today and confirm how you want to receive notifications from us. Learn more at [www.piercepepin.coop/smarthub](http://www.piercepepin.coop/smarthub).

## DID YOU KNOW?



# BROADBAND BYTES

Quick Updates from Fiber Freddie



**Accounts Connected:**

Internet: 3,507  
Phone: 728


**Construction Update:**

The fiber design is being finalized for our final area of Phase 4, which includes Stockholm, the Village of Pepin, and surrounding rural areas. Crews are continuing to work within Phase 4 to run aerial and underground mainline fiber. Home installation in Pleasant Valley began in late August.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Get your service order in soon to ensure we can get you activated and set up yet this year and over the cold winter months. If your drop line is not placed prior to frost, your service order will be held until we can begin to work again in Spring 2025.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Nate Boettcher, President & CEO**  
**Liz Gunderson, Editor**

W7725 U.S. Highway 10, P.O. Box 420  
Ellsworth, WI 54011-0420  
715-273-4355 • 800-924-2133  
[info@piercepepin.coop](mailto:info@piercepepin.coop) • [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop)

Follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram  
**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
**Power Outages and Emergencies: 800-927-5705**