

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* August 2025 NEWS



GROWING HOPE

COOL SAVINGS

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

PEACH RECIPES





## EXCITING NEW PROGRAMS HELP YOU SAVE AND GET CONNECTED

Nate Boettcher, President and CEO



Our team at Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) has been working hard these past few months to bring you several new programs designed to make life a little easier — and help your dollars go further. Here's a look at what's new and how you can take advantage.

We're thrilled to introduce **On-Bill Financing**, a program that makes investing in energy-related improvements more affordable than ever. Whether you're looking to add a backup generator, a whole home battery, or finally tackle that energy efficiency project for your home or farm, high up-front costs no longer need to stand in your way.

With On-Bill Financing, you can have these upgrades completed and pay for them over time as part of your monthly electric bill with low interest rates and simple terms. Plus, if you choose to have the PPCS master electrician handle your project, you'll get an even better interest rate. Our team ensures your upgrades meet the latest efficiency standards, giving you peace of mind and more savings.

Looking for even more ways to save? More than half of our members are already enrolled in load control programs, and for good reason. By allowing PPCS to install a small device on your water heater, air conditioner, electric heat, or generator, we can help reduce energy use during peak demand times, saving everyone money. Members who participate typically receive **\$60 a year in bill credits**, and together, we help lower overall power costs with our wholesale supplier. That means your participation doesn't just lower your bill — it helps reduce rates for the entire cooperative.

Did you know PPCS is an authorized Generac dealer? We provide, install, and maintain Generac backup generators and battery systems — just like the systems we use ourselves to help keep our peak demand low. Whether you want a gas-powered generator for reliable backup power or a battery system paired with solar, we're here to help you find the right solution.

Lastly, I would like to take a minute to showcase our brand-new SwiftCurrent Connect website at [www.swiftcurrent.coop](http://www.swiftcurrent.coop). This project has been in the works for over a year now, and we couldn't be prouder of the finished product. Our marketing and customer service teams have been hard at work upgrading our website, providing new features, and making it easier to sign up for service. Our goal is to help ensure members who want service can efficiently select the best service type for their needs, add extra services such as Bark or Wi-Fi extenders, schedule their appointment, and make any up-front payments. The new website will eventually provide an enhanced platform for interacting

with SwiftCurrent Connect, including troubleshooting and knowledge base articles.

As we approach the end of summer, please remember to stay vigilant, especially with school buses soon back on the roads and new teenage drivers heading off to school. Safety remains a top priority for all of us. As part of our commitment to safety, we remind you to be aware, call before you dig, and look up before you go under power lines. And if you ever see a downed line, stay back, call our office, and do not exit your vehicle if power lines are nearby. Together, we can all ensure everyone arrives and returns safely each day. Visit us in the Round Barn at the Pierce County Fair to learn more about our new programs, pick up a gift, and register for our end-of-year prize drawing for three \$100 bill credits.

## ON-BILL FINANCING PROGRAM



**PIERCE PEPIN**  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES



### READY FOR AN ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADE?

Starting at 1 year 0% APR!

Backup Generators • Water Heaters  
EV Chargers • Home Battery Backup Units  
Electrician Services

Apply today: [piercepepin.coop/bill-financing](http://piercepepin.coop/bill-financing)



# DIVIDEND DETECTIVES:

## The Search is on for Unclaimed Capital Credits

**P**ierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is on a mission to reunite members with their unclaimed capital credit (dividend) checks! We've compiled a list of members we're eager to locate, which you can find on our website under **My Co-op > Capital Credits**. Additionally, a notice of forfeiture was published in the June 4, 2025, edition of The Journal, Ellsworth, Wisconsin. To return these funds, we need the current addresses of the listed members.

**Important Note:** Checks were issued only to members with over \$100 in capital credit retirements or inactive accounts. Others received their retirement as a credit on their energy bills.

If you recognize any names on the list, please reach out to us with the member's name and current address at:

- **Phone:** 715-273-4355 or 800-924-2133
- **Email:** [info@piercepepin.coop](mailto:info@piercepepin.coop)

Any unclaimed funds not located by **August 31, 2025**, will be forfeited to the Federated Youth Foundation and used for educational or charitable purposes as per our bylaws.

Help us spread the word and ensure these funds find their rightful owners!



## Insanely Fast. Incredibly Reliable.

### Why Choose SwiftCurrent Connect?

- ▶ Up to 2 Gig Speeds
- ▶ 24/7 Local Support
- ▶ Voice Service Available

### SIGN UP TODAY

Contact Us (715)350-7033

[www.swiftcurrent.coop](http://www.swiftcurrent.coop)

W7725 US HWY 10, Ellsworth, WI 54011



## GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING



The deadline for the October grants is approaching. Applications for Pierce Pepin Cares grants must be received by September 15, 2025, to be reviewed at the October Pierce Pepin Cares board meeting. Pierce Pepin Cares is funded by PPCS members who generously round up their monthly energy bills. Program information and applications are available online at [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop) under My Community.



## DON'T LET OLD ELECTRICAL WIRING POSE A PROBLEM

People who love older homes usually get drawn in by their grandeur. They see a Victorian home in the historic district and fall in love with its stately staircase and intricate architectural features. Once they sign on the dotted line, they painstakingly restore woodwork, make sure windows are in working order and tend to other repairs. One of the top priorities on their “To Do” list should be to get the electrical system inspected by

a qualified electrician.

Just because the wiring in a home is old doesn't automatically mean there's a problem, but there could be. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), many older homes that still have outdated wiring can't handle the electrical load of today's modern appliances. That's not good because old, outdated wiring could pose a fire hazard.

As electrical components age or become overloaded, the system can overheat and wear out insulation. This can lead to arcs (electrical discharge) and short circuits — the two main causes of home electrical wiring fires, according to the CPSC. In addition, old rubber wire insulation can become brittle and easily flake, leaving wires exposed.

Older wiring called knob and tube can be found in homes built around 1950 or earlier. If your electrical system was not thoroughly inspected when you bought it, or if it was inspected but it has been several years, have it inspected by an electrician to make sure it is safe and that it adequately meets the electrical needs of your home.



If your house was built between 1965 and 1973, it could be dangerous for another reason. Aluminum is great for cans, but not for wiring, since it can overheat. Unfortunately, it was used in 2 million homes that were built during that time.

Regardless of the age of your home, be sure to get any potentially dangerous wiring issues checked out by a professional, especially if:

- Your circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses blow often
- You notice unusual power draws, dimming, or flickering lights
- You see discolored (dark colored) outlets or switch plates, or they are warm to the touch
- You notice unusual odors like a burning smell, but can't find a source
- Your outlets only allow you to plug in a two-pronged plug (and not a three-pronged plug), which means they are not grounded
- You don't have ground-fault circuit interrupters near faucets or other sources of water in your home
- Your house was built more than 40 years ago

PPCS has a master electrician on staff who can assess your wiring. The new On-Bill Financing program can make necessary wiring upgrades more affordable. Contact us today at 800-924-2133 or visit our website at [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop) for more information.

Source: *Safeelectricity.org*

## NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER FOR THE LIVE BETTER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Do you know someone who embodies the seventh cooperative principle — Concern for Community — by helping others improve their lives through volunteer work? PPCS recognizes individuals who selflessly give their time and talents with the Live Better Community Service Award. This award is presented to individuals who engage in community volunteerism, performing valuable services that benefit and improve the quality of life within the communities served by PPCS. The award, a \$100 MasterCard Check Card, is presented to one individual each month during January, April, July, and October. Nominations for the October award are due on September 15. Nomination forms and program details are on our website, [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop), under My Community.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW JOURNEYMEN

**P**ierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) is proud to announce that two of its apprentices, Brent Paulson and Brady Schommer, have completed their apprenticeships through Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and are now officially recognized as Journeymen Linemen by the State of Wisconsin.

This achievement marks the culmination of over 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and classroom instruction spanning four years. The journeyman certification is a significant milestone in the career of an electrical lineworker, demonstrating a high level of technical skill, safety knowledge, and field expertise.

“Looking back at it, [the process] is humbling... It’s rewarding at the end of the day,” said Paulson on his experience as an apprentice in the field. Linework is one of the most physically demanding and critical roles in the electric utility industry. Journeymen linemen are responsible for building and maintaining infrastructure that delivers safe, reliable electricity to homes, farms, and businesses across the PPCS service area.



**Congratulations to Brent Paulson (left) and Brady Schommer (right) on becoming journeymen!**

Schommer offered advice to those just starting: “Stick with it. It took me six years to get an apprenticeship. There were quite a few times I was going to quit and do something else, but I’m glad I didn’t.”

PPCS remains committed to

workforce development and training programs that equip employees with the skills necessary to meet the growing demands of the energy industry.

Congratulations to Brent Paulson and Brady Schommer on this well-earned accomplishment!

## SHIFT for Savings

Reduce your energy use between 2 and 8 PM.

With your help, we can lower demand, keep rates stable, and decrease stress on the electric grid.



## WE'RE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 1

*Have a Safe & Happy  
Holiday Weekend!*

**Report Power Outages in SmartHub or Call 800-927-5705  
Report Internet Issues to 715-350-7033**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Nate Boettcher, President & CEO  
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