

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY

*Cooperative*

March 2018

# NEWS

## MADISON MEET UP

COOPERATORS CONNECT WITH LAWMAKERS

PPCS Annual Meeting  
Saturday, March 24

**PIERCE PEDINI**  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**PIERCE PEPIN**  
COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting!

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Registration: 9 a.m.

Business meeting: 10 a.m.

Ellsworth High School  
323 Hillcrest Street  
Ellsworth, WI

- Complimentary Chicken Dinner, Ellsworth Fire Hall
- Refreshments
- Prize Drawings: Visa gift cards
- Meet the Director Candidates
- Election of Directors
- Vote on Bylaw Amendments

For wheelchair assistance at the high school, please contact the cooperative at 715-273-4355, Ext. 151, prior to the annual meeting.

MY CO-OP

## ANNUAL REPORT AND VOTING BALLOT

The 2017 Annual Report and election information will be delivered to your mailbox in early March in an envelope marked “Voting Ballot Enclosed.” Be sure to read about the director candidates for Districts 7, 8, and 9.

One of the benefits of cooperative membership is democratic member control. You have a voice in the way your electric cooperative business is run, and you can exercise that right by voting for those you think will best represent you on the board of directors. Members may vote for one candidate in each district, even if they do not reside within the districts up for election.

You can vote by mail using the mail-in ballot, but we encourage you to attend the annual meeting where you have an opportunity to hear from the candidates before casting your vote.





Roger Wiff,  
Board Chairman

## ANNUAL MEETING OFFERS MORE THAN FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The purpose is to ensure good governance through holding elections for the board of directors, sharing important financial information, and occasionally voting on other matters such as bylaw changes.

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to invite you to the 81st Annual Meeting of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, which will be held on Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m. at the Ellsworth High School.

Our annual meeting is designed to take care of the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While safe, reliable, and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

This year, in addition to presenting the financial report, reporting on 2017 cooperative activities and conducting the election of directors, we have proposed several bylaw amendments. These proposals represent a continuing effort to best position the cooperative to meet the members' needs today and into the future.

The first proposed amendment revises the procedures for nomination of candidates for director. As proposed, the bylaws would direct members interested in running for the board in the district up for election to submit a petition with 10 signatures from members in their district to be placed on the ballot. Currently, members need 25 signatures on a petition or

be recommended by the nominating committee. The proposed process would result in candidates expressing their interest to pursue election to the board with other members in their district while seeking the 10 signatures on their petition. This expression of interest with other members and support shown by those signing the petition provide a good basis for placing the member on the ballot as a candidate.

The second section of proposed changes clarify the voting procedures and allows in the future for using an outside firm to count ballots. Currently, the bylaws do allow for electronic

**Pierce Pepin is connected to you by more than just power lines.**

voting in addition to our current process of mail-in ballots or voting at the meeting. The proposed changes adjust the deadlines and mail location of ballots. This would be necessary if the cooperative would add electronic voting to our current process as it might require use

of an outside firm to facilitate all the voting.

The balance of the proposed changes to the bylaws make bylaw wording uniform or provide additional clarification. These proposed amendments have been reviewed by the cooperative's attorney and are recommended by the board of directors for the members' adoption at the annual meeting.

In closing, if you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to attend with your fellow co-op member-owners. Pierce Pepin is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting. And don't forget, all meeting attendees receive a coupon for a free chicken dinner at the Ellsworth Fire Department's Chicken Feed Fundraiser.

## DAIRYLAND ANNUAL MEETING DELEGATES WANTED

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our power supplier, will hold its annual meeting on June 6, 2018, in La Crosse, Wis. As a cooperative member, would you like to represent PPCS as a delegate?

If you're interested, complete the form at right and return it by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 23. Delegates will be drawn during the reorganizational meeting of the board of directors immediately following PPCS' annual meeting on March 24. For more information, please contact Charity Lubich at 715-273-4355 (Ext. 151) or clubich@piercepapin.coop.

### Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting Cooperative Delegate June 6, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to:

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services  
Attn: DPC Delegates  
P.O. Box 420  
Ellsworth WI 54011-0420

Deadline: March 23, 2018

## BRIANNA HASS PRESENTED LIVE BETTER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Brianna Hass is Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services' Live Better Community Service Award winner for the first quarter of 2018. While on break from college, she received the award and a \$100 Visa® gift card on December 19 for her generous volunteer work as a Pepin County 4-H member.

Hass has brought her plethora of talents to many aspects of 4-H. She has volunteered to participate in numerous 4-H Club community service projects, including highway and park cleanups and health-care center visits. She continues to work as a 4-H team leader through coordinated projects such as the Military Halloween Candy Collection, making blankets for families in need, and repackaging items for the Food Bank. Hass has even taken her volunteerism out of state, serving needy families in Boston, Mass., through a 4-H Service Learning trip. She also serves as an ambassador for Reality Check, a high school financial event, and has taken on the responsibility of a 4-H camp counselor.

“Brianna, since becoming a 4-H member nine years ago, has continued her selfless acts of volunteerism on behalf of Pepin County 4-H,” said Marie Ritscher, 4-H youth development agent, Pepin County. “She is a shining example for today’s youth.”

In her spare time, Hass enjoys playing basketball for Western Technical College and serving on their student government.

Congratulations, Brianna, and thank you for truly making a difference!



### Nominate a Volunteer for the Live Better Community Service Award



Nominate a volunteer from the communities within our service area by completing the nomination form available at [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop) under Community or contact the office at 800-924-2133. The deadline for the April award is March 15, 2018.

## WATT'S UP? Inquiring Members Want to Know...

**Q. The PPCS board meets monthly. How can I find out what they are discussing?**

A. There are a lot of different ways that you can find out about what our board of directors does. For instance, our magazine that you receive monthly, *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*, discusses different topics that the board has reviewed during the year. You could also attend the annual meeting each March, or you can contact your director.

Another way that you can learn about what the directors discuss is by viewing the agendas and a summary of the minutes on our website. The monthly agendas are posted to our website at [piercepipin.coop](http://piercepipin.coop) > about us > board of directors > agendas and minutes, on the Monday before each meeting (meetings are usually held the first Thursday of each month). The agenda will list everything that the directors will be reviewing and discussing along with a brief synopsis of the items. Once the board approves the minutes from the prior month's meeting, a summary of the meeting will be posted to the website.

We believe making the agenda and summary minutes available will help our members understand the work that is being done by the directors on their behalf. If there are ever any questions about the agenda or the meeting summary, please contact our office for more information.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counter-clockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



Our office will be closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, for employee training. Outages can be reported through SmartHub or by calling 800-927-5705.





# JAY TALKING...



Jay Nesseth, Member Relations Manager

## Off-peak Electric Heating Offers an Efficient, Cost-Effective Alternative

I'm frequently asked by members what's more economical for heating—propane or electricity? Off-peak electric heating options are both economical and dependable, so let's look at the options PPCS offers.

Off-peak electric heating is available in two forms through PPCS if the equipment is connected to our load management system—storage and dual fuel.

Off-peak electric storage heating systems convert electricity into heat during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is low. The stored heat is distributed later, as needed, to heat your home 24 hours a day. Storage heating systems primarily include radiant floor heating using electric cable or mats, and electric thermal storage (ETS) room or central furnace units.

Dual fuel heating uses two separate sources, electricity along with another fuel source for backup such as propane, natural gas, or oil. The heating system will automatically use the backup source when the electricity is switched off through our load management system when the demand for electricity is high. This application can be used with any type of electric resistant heating system such as geothermal (ground source) and air-source heat pumps, baseboard, cove or plenum heaters, or hydronic boilers for radiant floor heating.

Using the tables at right, compare for yourself how our off-peak electric rates measure up to propane and other fuel types. Remember, too, when replacing an existing off-peak heating system with a new one, please contact us to verify proper installation and connection to our load management system.

Winter Storage Rate		Break Even Points		
Electric Winter Storage Rate/kWh*	Fossil Fuel Furnace Annual Efficiency	L.P. Gas Gallon	Natural Gas/Therm	#2 Fuel Oil/Gallon
5.5¢	60%	89¢	97¢	\$1.35
5.5¢	70%	\$1.04	\$1.13	\$1.58
5.5¢	80%	\$1.19	\$1.29	\$1.80
5.5¢	90%	\$1.33	\$1.45	—
5.5¢	92%	\$1.36	\$1.48	—
5.5¢	95%	\$1.41	\$1.53	—

Winter Dual Fuel Rate		Break Even Points		
Electric Winter Rate/kWh*	Fossil Fuel Furnace Annual Efficiency	L.P. Gas/ Gallon	Natural Gas/Therm	#2 Fuel Oil/Gallon
7.0¢	60%	\$1.13	\$1.23	\$1.72
7.0¢	70%	\$1.32	\$1.44	\$2.01

Winter Dual Fuel Rate		Break Even Points		
Electric Winter Rate/kWh*	Fossil Fuel Furnace Annual Efficiency	L.P. Gas/ Gallon	Natural Gas/Therm	#2 Fuel Oil/Gallon
7.0¢	80%	\$1.51	\$1.64	\$2.58
7.0¢	90%	\$1.70	\$1.85	—
7.0¢	92%	\$1.74	\$1.89	—
7.0¢	95%	\$1.79	\$1.95	—

\*Cost reflects the per kilowatt-hour energy charge. It does not include any applicable Power Cost Adjustment. Electric resistance heat is 100 percent efficient, including cove, electric furnace, and storage (radiant in-floor heat and electric thermal storage units) heating systems.

## Rebates and Incentives

It's important to consider energy efficiency when making home improvements or purchasing new equipment and appliances for your home or business. As a PPCS member, be sure to explore the variety of rebates and incentives available through our Energy Sense program and Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program. Visit our website at [www.piercepepin.coop](http://www.piercepepin.coop) for more information.

## PIERCE PEPIN COOPERATIVE SERVICES

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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

**Power Outages and Emergencies: 800-927-5705**

## Larry Dokkestul, President & CEO

### Board of Directors

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