



William L. Caynor Sr.,  
Price Electric  
Cooperative CEO

## JUNE HISTORICALLY BRINGS THE STORMS

Some of you experienced storm-induced power outages this past month, which is common for June, as history can attest. For two nights of the week of June 5, we had all the linemen out restoring electricity to your homes, as well as me, Line Superintendent

Ben Orysen, Manager of Member Services Greg Bortz, and Warehouse Person Dave Shipley. Although I come from the lineman trade, I'm still amazed at the fortitude, resilience, and concentration of these linemen during large-scale outage scenarios. These two nights accounted for over 3,500 member outages, or almost 40 percent of our membership.

Another storm on June 25 caused another 1,000 members to be searching for their flashlights. Safety is foremost, and these men demonstrate this with a record of two and a half years without a lost-time injury or vehicle accident. That's pretty remarkable given the environment they're working in during these storms.

Trees were the major outage contributor, triggering six broken poles, and in 2014–15 trees accounted for twice as many outages than any other cause. This year the number has been down as total outage numbers have been down. Our good fortune is attributed to not having any major storms thus far this year. This month's outage causes will drastically change this number within next month's reporting.

To counteract the tree concern we are presently establishing the first seven-year cycle of right-of-way (ROW) clearing in cooperative history. The cycle is due to be completed by the end of 2017. Although, from my observation the other night, this will only minimize restoration times, which is the time to locate and access the problem, but will not prevent the occurrences. The trees causing the outages are of a tall, spindly species, falling from outside the ROW, either uprooted from wind and rain or weakened from decay. We are addressing this issue with the institution of a "danger tree" identification and removal cycle in order to fell decayed and dying trees. This procedure will reduce some of the tree-related outages in the future, but not all.

I tend to hear quite a bit that the outages on the system are much less today than they were in years past. The question is why? Some of this is accredited to the right-of-way program, but most is attributed to replacing old conductor and upgrading the system coordination. System coordination begins at the substation with a recloser and electronic controller that coordinates with the next downline recloser and sometimes up to five in series, along with fused cutouts (switch) to protect the side taps (a circuit running perpendicular to the mainline, but connected to it) off the main distribution line. The purpose of all this is to keep these devices open to safeguard the public



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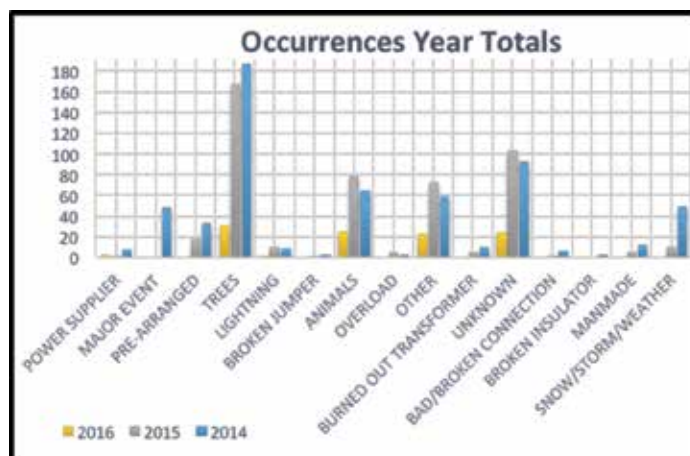
and isolate the fault to minimize the number of members affected by the outage. So the outage still occurs, but fewer members are affected today.

Also, the maintenance on the system has improved with regular line inspections as well as seven-year pole and underground inspections that are utilized as preventive measures to identify potential problems before they cause an outage. We are now able to collect data from our reclosers and our new metering solution to monitor deviations on the system and better locate outages, and to enhance that further, we are currently implementing an Outage Management System. This will assist with identification and reduce outage restoration times. The data it collects will assist with diminishing the causes.

A new program of regular inspections of field reclosers and regulators has also been added. A regulator does just that—it regulates the primary voltage on the line so that it is consistent and within requirements. This consistency ensures that the voltage you receive at your home is within specified perimeters.

In short, outage occurrences have decreased last year; however, the reasoning is associated with several as opposed to one factor. PEC's outage minutes in recent years, in relation to the national average, are relatively high. This is partially due to transmission-related events from our power supplier and more pre-arranged outages to perform needed maintenance on the system that can't be done energized. This needed maintenance is beneficial as it is also a preventive measure to reduce outages.

Ultimately, our goal is to minimize the outages affecting you by reducing the causes. Reliability to you, our members, is of utmost importance as exemplified in our mission statement, "to provide access to safe, dependable, and affordable electric service."





## CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION NOTICE

Price Electric members will receive their capital credit allocation notice in August. The notice provides your 2015 allocation and your total-to-date balance, which represents the amount of ownership you have in your cooperative.

There are three things you should know about your capital credit allocation notice:

- It is not a bill—do not pay the amount shown on the face.
- It is not a credit that can be used to pay your current bill.
- Price Electric has no provisions to make early payment of capital credits to members who leave the service area. It is important that we are kept updated on changes to your address to ensure future mail delivery.

You will receive a capital credit allocation notice only for the years in which you are a member of Price Electric Cooperative. It is a good idea to keep all of your notices with other important documents as a record for future years. Members with questions about patronage capital credits or their allocation notices are encouraged to contact the PEC office.

## METERING SOLUTION UPDATE

Beginning in August, PEC will begin its final stage of meter deployment as part of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system improvements.

Throughout the summer, PEC staff have been working on final preparations at the Butternut, Catawba, Ogema, and Prentice substations for the remaining meter deployments. Currently most meters fed by the Phillips, Glidden, and Crane Chase substations have been installed. Meters fed by the Butternut, Catawba, Ogema, and Prentice substations are scheduled to be installed by Spring 2017.

As a reminder, members do not need to be present at their property when the meter is exchanged. If any meter on your property is not accessible by PEC personnel (for example: if it is in a basement, garage, or locked area), please let PEC know so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Please contact PEC with any questions.



## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

**PEC is excited to support local students and schools this fall by hosting a school supply drive—and members are invited to help!**

From August 1–30, bring school supplies (folders, notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, rulers, etc.) to the Price Electric office and enter to win a \$25 bill credit for each item donated.



# Congratulations

## to our 2016 Scholarship Recipients

Price Electric is proud to announce our 2016 scholarship recipients. Each school in PEC's service area was eligible to award two scholarships to graduating seniors whose parents/guardians are PEC members, plus two at-large scholarships were awarded to students not attending a local high school. Each of these students has earned a \$500 scholarship based on academic achievements, community involvement, and plans for post-secondary education.



**Sidney Bauer**  
Mayville High School  
(At-Large Scholarship)



**Alena Boushon**  
Chequamegon High School



**Abby Brown**  
Butternut High School



**Brooke Buehler**  
Rib Lake High School



**Emily Ernest**  
Chequamegon High School



**Elise Ertl**  
Phillips High School



**Carli Hora**  
Prentice High School



**Matthew Mikolajczak**  
St. Thomas Academy  
(At-Large Scholarship)



**Hanna Parisi**  
Prentice High School



**Jade Scholz**  
Phillips High School



**Megan Wiitala**  
Rib Lake High School



# Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading your issue of *WEC News*? Each month, we will present a question whose answer can be found in the issue. Return the answer, and you could receive a \$25 bill credit!

Please drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to [info@price-electric.com](mailto:info@price-electric.com). A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on August 31.

The winner of the June PEC Puzzler was Annabelle Revak. Congratulations!

***When is deployment of PEC's new metering solution scheduled to be completed?***

Answer

Name

Account Number

Phone

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,  
508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

## WHERE YOUR PUBLIC BENEFITS DOLLARS GO

Price Electric Cooperative, like all utilities in the State of Wisconsin, is required to collect a non-taxable fee which is referred to as "public benefits." This fee provides low-income energy assistance and supports energy efficiency initiatives for all PEC members.

In order to be in compliance with state law, electric cooperatives are required to collect an average of \$16 per meter per year to fund public benefit efforts. PEC's public benefits fee will be 3 percent of each member's bill, not to exceed \$1.67. This is an increase from a prior maximum of \$1.45. This increase will be made effective with the September 2016 billing.

Half of public benefits funds collected by PEC are sent to the State of Wisconsin for low-income energy assistance programs, which have benefited PEC members. For the past several years, the amount of energy assistance funds claimed by PEC members has been in excess of what Price Electric has sent to the state.

The remaining half of public benefits funds are sent to Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program. Focus on Energy provides Wisconsin residents with energy efficiency information, resources, and financial incentives. PEC members are able to utilize Focus on Energy information and funds to improve energy efficiency and save money at their homes and businesses. Visit [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com) for more information on Focus on Energy's programs.



Mark your calendar  
for Price Electric  
Cooperative's

### **BREAKFAST IN THE NORTHLAND!**

**Saturday, October 15, 2016  
7-10 a.m.**

**At Butternut Park Pavilion**  
(One block west of Highway 13  
on Michigan Street in Butternut)

***Free breakfast for PEC  
members and community  
members!***

### **William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO**

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### **Greg Bortz, Editor**



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