



Price Electric
Cooperative

Your Sustainable Energy Partner



William L. Caynor Sr.,
Price Electric
Cooperative CEO

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we ease into another holiday season and we gaze back on the recent election of our 45th president, we look toward the unforeseeable future of our cooperative, community, state, and country. This time of year, most of us are focusing on church-related affairs, activities with friends and family, along with volunteering, as well as

searching for that elusive gift that a loved one will cherish forever. Oh, and most assuredly, the children. They tend to reveal the greatest of enthusiasm on that festive Christmas morning. Santa's arrival is the focus of many young minds as they are forced to wait with bated breath for the days and weeks leading up to this moment and now impatiently linger, while scouring the gifts and hanging around until the rest of the family is awake so that they can ravage the wrapping paper withholding the object of their young, curious minds. These are my sharpest images of this glorious morning, from my childhood, to my children's, and now to my grandchild's.

The leaves are gone, but some of the trees are now filled with illuminated colored lights along with wreaths hanging on the doors and the grandeur of a Christmas tree in our homes, with Christmas presents stacked underneath as high as the lower branches will allow. The genuine delight is not only in stringing lights around the piney needles and placing ornaments (some of which were made by your children and others passed through generations), but the conclusiveness of fitting the tree topper of an angel or star, all of which would be typically placed in a window for neighbors and passersby to see and examine, enlightening the air with the spirit of Christmas.

This is a time of giving, and thus those of you who were members in 1988 would have received a bill credit in November from your cooperative for the capital credit retirements of that year. In fact, approximately \$350,218 were retired this year. Also, your cooperative will once again offer the Santa Elves Giving Tree in our front lobby. It has done well in years past, and we thank those who have graciously donated to those of our community in need.

The end of a year and the beginning of a new one is also a time of reflection. We remember those no longer with us, times of days gone past, and think of the accomplishments we achieved and commit to those new resolutions for the

coming year. Some are as straightforward as staying fit and healthy or losing weight, which are the top two New Year's resolutions of 2015. Living life to the fullest was the third. Now, that's one we all should strive for.

The directors and staff also have resolutions in the form of mission and value statements, the seven cooperative principles, a five-year work plan, an annual budget, and a strategic plan.

I would like to thank you for working with us, and allowing us to serve you this past year from construction activities to right-of-way clearing, to accessing your property to identify outage-related problems on your distribution system. You have been more than good to us, which makes it easier to minimize expenses and serve you to the best of our abilities.

Our demographics have changed over the years, and logging and farming are no longer the prevailing professions. Farms have actually dwindled to less than 200 within the service territory, with dairy being the hardest hit and representing only 41. Wisconsin's DNA is dairy; however, the current supply has exceeded the demand, triggering 400 or so Wisconsin dairy farms to cease operations in the last year. The profit margin for the dairy farmer on a gallon of milk is reported to be a mere 3 cents. Our empathy and support are with these farmers as they wait for the market to shift.

One thing's for sure, our membership has always consisted of hard-working, family-oriented, community-minded, and driven gentlemen and women, and we salute you!

From the directors and staff, who work for you, our members, we would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Photo credit: barnimages.com/snowy-landscape-winter-house



Breakfast in the NORTHLAND



On October 15, 2016, Price Electric members had the opportunity to have breakfast cooked and served for them by their board of directors and Price Electric’s management team. One hundred twenty-seven members and their families took advantage of the cool, rainy autumn morning and joined PEC staff and directors at the Butternut Community Park to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausages, biscuits and gravy, and all the fixings.

Along with the main breakfast event, there were demonstrations of PEC’s portable safety unit, with Line Superintendent Ben Orysen on hand to explain and show the hazards that can exist around power lines in an everyday setting; a food drive to benefit The Lord’s Cupboard; and a number of giveaways throughout the morning. Members from every corner of Price Electric’s service territory attended and savored not only the delicious food, but also conversation with fellow member-owners and directors.

The winners of the drawings were: Christine and Charles Miesbauer—Rachael Ray casserole set; Gary Russ, Todd Pydo, and Cassy Schemberger—75th anniversary PEC

afghans; Lynn Kallas, Leo Schmidt, and Jill Franck—tote bags filled with PEC vendor gifts; Kal Patzer—Brewers emergency car kit and cooler tote; and Jeff Hoogland—Brewers camp chair.

The board and employees of Price Electric wish to thank everyone who attended and shared part of their Saturday with us in fellowship, those who contributed to making the food drive successful, and all who participated in the safety demonstrations. We look forward to serving you throughout the next year, and seeing you at next year’s breakfast!



Above: The generosity of PEC members contributed to a successful food drive. Thanks to all! Left: Christine Miesbauer was a lucky winner of a Rachael Ray casserole set. Far left: Line Superintendent Ben Orysen operates PEC’s portable safety demonstration unit for interested members and their families.

POLICY UPDATE

Policy 119 - EXAMINATION OF BOOKS AND RECORDS

I. OBJECTIVE

To set forth the rights of Price Electric Cooperative (PEC) members to examine the books and records of PEC. This policy shall not be construed to create or describe any rights on behalf of any person or entity other than the Cooperative's members and it shall not be construed to expand in any respect a member's right to examine books and records as set forth in Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 185.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to requests for public examination of PEC's annual Federal tax return and related forms. PEC will respond to any such requests and make documents available for examination and copying in a manner consistent with the Internal Revenue Code.

II. POLICY

- A. Any active member of PEC may in person or through a duly authorized agent or attorney, examine the books and records of PEC subject to the limitations set forth in this policy and provided that:
- (1) such member is acting in good faith;
 - (2) the examination sought is for a proper purpose and is directly related to the business of the Cooperative;.
 - (3) the books and records sought to be examined are pertinent to such proper purpose;
 - (4) the examination would not be contrary to the best interest of the Cooperative;
 - (5) the examination is at a reasonable time; and
 - (6) written application substantially in the form attached hereto is made not less than one week prior to the requested time of examination, which shall include agreement to use the information only for the purpose(s) identified in the application.
- B. The right of examination under A above shall extend only to books and records of PEC, in its possession, as defined in Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 185.
- C. PEC shall not open to examination of any member of the Cooperative except in extraordinary cases by specific authorization of the PEC Board of Directors or pursuant to a court order or other legal proceeding the following books and records of PEC including but not limited to:
- (1) The personnel file or records of any employee or of any other person if disclosure of such files or records would violate or run significant possibility of entailing, an invasion of the privacy of such employee or person. Actions such as promotions, demotions, disciplinary matters and compensation of individual employees or persons by name (but excepting compensation of employees by classification, provided no individual's

- compensation is discernible from that information).
- (2) Individual member information such as billing data, communications and other information identified by member name unless the member is making a request to examine their own billing and capital credit account information. In such cases, the member is not required to obtain written notice and approval from the President/CEO.
- (3) Price or bid quotation for equipment, material and similar prior to acceptance.
- (4) Confidential interoffice memorandum or communications prior to acceptance by management as part of management policy.
- (5) Material or communication possibly libelous in nature.
- (6) Trade secrets and like information where disclosure might cause competitive disadvantage to PEC.

- D. The initial determination of whether a request meets the requirements and conditions of this policy shall be the responsibility of the President/CEO of PEC. In case of doubt, the President/CEO may refer such determination to the PEC Board of Directors and in the event of an adverse initial determination by the President/CEO, the applicant may appeal such initial determination to the Board of Directors. In all cases, any determination by the Board of Directors shall be final subject to any ruling or order of court having jurisdiction.
- E. Interpretations of the foregoing principles and particularly the determination of good faith and proper purpose shall be made in the Cooperative's reasonable business judgment. In exercising that business judgment, the President/CEO or Board may consider court decisions in Wisconsin and other jurisdictions interpreting the common law and statutory rights of shareholders of business corporations and members of cooperatives to examine the books and records of the enterprises in which they have an ownership interest. It shall be presumed that for the purpose of examination to be a proper one, such purpose must be one to protect the financial interest of the individual applicant in the Cooperative and not one merely to satisfy curiosity, promote some political or social goal, or promote the non-cooperative commercial interest of another person or enterprise.
- F. An active member of PEC may make notes of or copies of such records on request provided the applicant pays the reasonable cost thereof, including employee time, duplicating materials and use of duplicating equipment and upon advance deposit of an amount estimated to cover such work.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The President/CEO and Board of Directors are responsible for the administration of this policy.



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. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on December 31.

The winner of the October PEC Puzzler was Richard Pilch. Congratulations!

How many members attended the 2016 Breakfast in the Northland?

Answer _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

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



Five-Year Service Awards

President/CEO Bill Caynor presented five-year service awards to Member Services Manager Greg Bortz (top photo) and Meter & Load Control Specialist Jon Ocker on October 5.

VISIT THE GIVING TREE AT PRICE ELECTRIC!

Price Electric will be hosting a "Giving Tree" to benefit the Santa's Elves Foundation beginning November 18. Anyone is invited to pick a card off the tree to help brighten a local child's holiday! Gifts will need to be dropped off at the PEC office by December 8 so that they can be delivered in time for Christmas.



LAST CALL FOR 2016 REBATES!

The deadline for submitting 2016 energy efficiency rebate forms to PEC is December 31. Rebates are available for new Energy Star appliances, refrigerator/freezer recycling, energy efficient lighting, HVAC, and more. Please visit www.price-electric.com or stop by the Price Electric office in Phillips to get your rebate forms.

2017 rebate forms will be available after January 1, 2017.

**The Price Electric office will be closed
for the Christmas holiday on
Monday, December 26,
and January 2, 2017, for New Year's Day.**

William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

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

Greg Bortz, Editor



**Price Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner