

SOLAR PROJECT, STEADY RATES

Price Electric Cooperative members hear exciting news at the 76th annual meeting



Price Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Price Electric Cooperative’s (PEC) 76th Annual Meeting of Members was held at Phillips High School on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Approximately 250 members and guests joined PEC for dinner and the business meeting. Outside the school, members were greeted by an eye-catching 10-foot Touchstone Energy balloon. They also had the opportunity to view a PEC bucket truck and examine various pieces of line equipment and tools used by Price Electric linemen, presented by PEC Apprentices Chris Burnis, Jesse Heinz, and Andrew Reuterskiold. Prior to the meeting, everyone enjoyed a dinner served by Marie’s on Fayette of Phillips and a Power Point presentation featuring a “2015 Year In Review,” as well as informative videos about the cooperative business model, power maintenance and restoral, and electric co-ops.

After the call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, and determination of quorum, CEO Bill Caynor welcomed the assembled members and thanked all past and present PEC

directors and staff in attendance. Members then approved the 2015 annual meeting minutes and had the opportunity to vote for director candidates in Districts 1, 2, and 3. Members voted to re-elect District 1 Director Michael Meier, District 2 Director Kirk Klassen, and District 3 Director Ed Hainy to three-year terms.

Caynor’s CEO report began with a review of electricity sales in 2015. Due to milder than historical weather, kWh sales and operating revenue in 2015 were lower than budgeted and lower than the previous year. Additionally, the number of new services remained relatively flat, with a net increase of only three services in 2015. Despite the lower sales, PEC was able to increase efficiencies through process and procedural adjustments to reduce expenses.

Caynor continued with a presentation pertaining to projects from 2015, including the new AMI metering deployment, system improvements to enhance reliability, the retirement ▶



MY CO-OP



of \$356,241 in capital credits to members, and scholarships awarded to graduating seniors. 2016 will see PEC continuing meter deployment through the spring of 2017, flat budgeting, continuation of the seven-year cycle of right-of-way clearing and pole and underground inspections, and new system line improvements to replace old deteriorated conductor connected to the Phillips and Glidden substations.

Caynor then communicated the potential acquisition of 37 acres of land and stages of an assessment for proposed construction of a new PEC headquarters facility. The building site selected is located on Springs Drive, south of Phillips, and the land purchase is contingent on road accessibility and rezoning.

An update on solar energy was given, including information on the proposed construction of Dairyland Power Cooperative's 12 utility-scale solar projects within their member-owned systems. PEC was one of the 12 selected and will have a 2.5 MW utility-scale solar array installed adjacent to its Crane Chase substation. The project is called, "Flambeau

Solar Partners LLC," and will be the largest utility scale solar project presently in the state. Groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in June or July, with a startup date between September and the end of the year.

The highlight of Caynor's presentation was the announcement that, despite potential cost of power increases and lower electricity sales, PEC members will not experience a rate increase this year.

The project... will be the largest utility-scale solar project presently in the state.

Francis Gwinn, who serves as Price Electric's delegate to the Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Board, gave a brief recap of Dairyland business, including the changes that DPC has made to its



energy portfolio in response to economic factors and the EPA's Clean Power Plan.

Throughout the evening, members had the opportunity to win several door prizes donated by Price Electric's vendors. The Grand Prize winners of a 43-inch LED TV were John and Joanne Hertlein of Phillips.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Caynor presented each member in attendance with a commemorative coin featuring Willie Wiredhand on one side and a quote from John F. Kennedy on the other: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Caynor noted that the PEC directors and staff strive to show appreciation to members by making their best efforts to serve them each day.

Price Electric Cooperative would like to thank everyone who attended this year's meeting and participated in director elections. Make plans to join PEC for the 2017 annual meeting! 

IMPORTANT OUTAGE INFORMATION

If you have an outage, please call 715-339-2155 or 800-884-0881.

When your power is out:

1. Check to see if electricity is off over your entire premises.
2. Check to see if there is power to your meter by physically walking out to your meter(s). If no numbers are displayed on your digital meter, then your power is out and you need to contact Price Electric Cooperative. If numbers are visible on the display screen, it is not a Price Electric outage; there is power to the meter and the problem is within the consumer's electrical wiring. An electrician will need to be contacted to fix any problems on the consumer's side of the service.
3. If you have a circuit breaker system, check that the breaker is not tripped. Push handle to "Off" position before flipping it to the "Reset" position. Be sure to check all breakers wherever they are located.
4. Check if fuses are blown and that they are secured in the holder.
5. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity. Knowing the extent of the outage will help find the reason faster.
6. The cooperative is allowed to perform service up to the meter. Any wires from the meter to your buildings belong to you and their repair is your responsibility. In most instances when the damage is to your wires, it is best to contact an electrician in your area.
7. When you've determined the outage is not on your wires, call Price Electric and give the following information:
 - Your name and the name of the person who is receiving service at the location. (Often we receive a call from someone other than the person whose name is the service is in and it is more difficult for us to locate the outage.)
 - The property address at your location.
 - Cause of the outage, if known. This will assist the crews in locating the problem and restoring the electricity.

To report outages, call 715-339-2155 or 800-884-0881 (Answered 24 hours per day, seven days a week).

Please note: A fee will be assessed if a crew is dispatched to the service site and the outage is found to be a consumer electrical wiring problem.



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 July 31.

The winner of the May PEC Puzzler was Albertina Leffel. Albertina let PEC know that she and her family have been PEC members for 54 years! Congratulations!

How many people attended the 2016 PEC Annual Meeting?

Answer _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

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



Introducing Price Electric's 2016 member photo contest! Members are invited to submit photos for inclusion in our 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future cooperative publications.

Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within the Price Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in northern Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.)
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Photos must be high resolution—at least 300 dpi and 8"x10".

Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Photos must be submitted by July 31, 2016.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- All PEC members 18 years and up are eligible to submit photos.
- A PEC member under 18 is eligible to participate, but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- A completed entry form must accompany each photo.
- Member must own rights to photo.
- PEC employees will determine the winning photos.

Photo Contest Entry Options:

- Email: info@price-electric.com
- Mail: P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
- Drop Off: Price Electric Cooperative Office—508 N Lake Avenue, Phillips

Entry forms and photo release forms can be downloaded from PEC's website at www.price-electric.com, picked up at the PEC office, or emailed upon request.

William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881
www.price-electric.com

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

Greg Bortz, Editor



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