



Price Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

ASSISTING OUR BROTHER AND SISTER COOPERATIVES



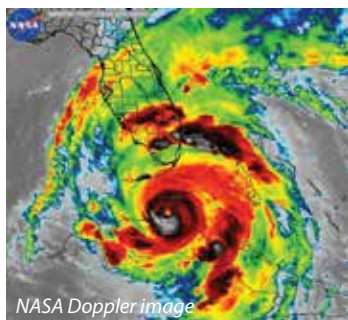
William L. Caynor Sr.,
Price Electric
Cooperative CEO

Have you ever wondered how an electric cooperative prepares or responds to a large-scale natural disaster while ensuring safety and managing the logistical requirements? These natural disasters are becoming more common in today's environment and the most recent

landfall of Hurricane Irma is a reminder of what's involved.

Looking back at Monday, September 4, Florida's Governor Scott declared a state of emergency in anticipation of the advancing storm of Hurricane Irma. The following day, Clay Electric Cooperative, nestled in beautiful northcentral Florida, and less than 60 miles from Jacksonville, initiated their Emergency Operations Plan and began discussing activating Restoration Of Power in an Emergency (ROPE) to bring in outside crews to assist in outage restoration. On Thursday, the Wisconsin statewide operations managers reviewed the possibilities of responding to ROPE to support the southern cooperatives. ROPE is an excellent tool used to call on other cooperatives for manpower and equipment in large-scale outage situations. That afternoon the Wisconsin general managers had a conference call and received updated information on the situation and they pledged their unanimous support.

Hurricane Irma struck the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm on Sunday, September 10, and the next morning



NASA Doppler image

18 Wisconsin electric cooperative managers and operations personnel joined a conference call shortly before forty Wisconsin cooperative vehicles, including a Price Electric Cooperative (PEC) bucket truck with two linemen, lined up and began their three-day long trek to Clay Electric

Cooperative. The travel was actually the easier part of the process as documentation requirements had been gathered throughout the weekend in preparation of the commute. Forms were completed to include federal requirements for driver licensing and permitting of vehicles to travel across state lines, along with all associated state proclamations, records, and documents.

Clay Electric had already forwarded its "Storm Restoration Guide" manual containing: contact information, construction guidelines, and uniqueness of their system and locality. Clay Electric is considered large by cooperative comparisons, as it is approximately eighteen times the size of PEC with almost 170,000 members. That particular Monday morning, 13 substations and 92 percent of its membership were without power.

The Wisconsin responders were now enroute to Clay County, which received up to 14 inches of rain and more than

12 hours of 45 to 72 mph of wind. Black Creek, the St. Johns River and other local waterways in the area were all flooded. The hurricane impacted 858 homes in the county. Of those, a total of 275 were destroyed, 175 sustained major damage, 124 had minor damage, and the remainder were affected in other ways. The flood waters of Black Creek, which flows into the St. Johns River and then the Atlantic Ocean, topped out at 28.5 feet on September 12, shattering the previous 1919 record of 25.3 feet for the northern end and 26.3 feet for the southern end, set in 1944.



Wisconsin electric cooperative vehicles en route to Florida.

The Wisconsin crews arrived on Wednesday night and reported for duty at the cooperative on Thursday morning. Reusable water containers, insect repellent, and sunblock were on the list of items loaded on the truck before Dave Pisca and Chris Burnis, PEC linemen, left the office in Phillips and would come in handy in their visit to the south. The weather was much hotter and humid than they were used to and when Dave was asked for a statement of his experience he said, "It was hot!" Chris exclaimed, "I was surprised of how thankful everyone was." The residents who endured much were still generous and very welcoming.

By the weekend, the Clay Electric outage management personnel were managing a workforce of 1,200 personnel in the field. Coordination to expedite outage restoration along with ensuring safety is of utmost importance when poles and wires are on the ground and covered by water, trees, or other debris. The importance of following operational procedure and protocol in moments like these is crucial. Linemen verify equipment and conductor openings and tag, test and ground for their protection.

By Sunday, 97 percent of Clay Electric's members were restored and the Wisconsin crews were back on the interstate heading for the Badger state. The 1,200 personnel, to include Wisconsin and Clay Electric crews as well as other crews supporting the Florida cooperative, can be very proud of the fact that they replaced over 400 poles, 369 transformers, and installed over \$785,000 in construction materials. We here at Price Electric Cooperative are thankful for the opportunity to help in their time of need.

Helping our brother and sister cooperatives is a good feeling and ROPE is assurance that help is a mere phone call away.



BOARD CANDIDATES SOUGHT

Due to the passing of Board Director Kirk Klassen, there is a vacancy on the Price Electric Board of Directors for District 2, which includes the townships of Catawba, Georgetown, Hawkins, Kennan, Ogema, and Westboro. Members who would like to be considered for this position should call PEC at 715-339-2155 or 800-884-0881 or email info@price-electric.com. A Director Applicant Information Sheet will be mailed to all interested applicants and must be returned to Price Electric by November 20 for consideration. Applications will be reviewed at the November Board Meeting.

DUAL FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE CONTROLLED NOVEMBER 15

As the heating season fast approaches, we are preparing for another Wisconsin winter. This includes a test of our cooperative's load management system. If you currently participate in our Dual Fuel Program, the load management system will be tested beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 15. During this time, electric heating systems in the program will be controlled and members will rely on their non-electric heating system backup. All electric heating systems will be turned back on by 11 p.m.

If you experience any problems with your heating system during this test, or if you would like more information, please contact your heating contractor or PEC Member Services at 715-339-2155 or 1-800-884-0881.

WIN A THANKSGIVING TURKEY!

PEC is proud to announce that we will be holding a Turkey Drawing for our members once again this year! Nine turkeys (to represent the nine districts in Price Electric's service area) will be given away to members who return this entry form or email the following information to info@price-electric.com. Winners will be drawn from all entries on November 13.



Price Electric Cooperative WEC News Turkey Drawing

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

CAPITAL CREDITS OF \$350,627 RETIRED TO PRICE ELECTRIC MEMBERS

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility, Price Electric Cooperative isn't in the business of providing a profit to investors. Instead, at the end of each year, any excess margins (also known as capital credits) are assigned to members based on their patronage for that year.

Allocations Capital credit allocations can be thought of like a savings bond—much like a savings bond acts as a loan to the U.S. Department of Treasury, PEC's capital credits help reduce our co-op's borrowing needs for projects such as constructing new power lines, replacing and repairing existing lines, or undertaking other system improvements. In the same way that a savings bond matures over a period of time, capital credits are retired and refunded to members when the board determines that the co-op is in a financial position to do so.

Retirement Each year, the board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the co-op and determines the amount of capital credits that can be retired, or paid, to members and former members. Retirement is currently on a 28-30 year cycle. When capital credits are retired, current members receive the payment as a credit on their electric bill, while former members receive a check. For checks returned without a forwarding address, the capital credits are noted as unclaimed. An unclaimed capital credit listing is posted on Price Electric's website and in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*. The legal heirs of prior members should contact PEC's office to claim any unretired capital credits.

Forfeiture PEC makes every attempt to contact and return capital credits to former members who are no longer served by PEC. However, capital credits that are not claimed for a period of not less than three years, nor more than five years after retirement are subject to forfeiture. PEC makes multiple attempts via mailings and postings to advise the owner to claim the capital credits by a certain date, otherwise the board of directors will forfeit the funds to the Federated Youth Foundation to be used for charitable and educational purposes.

This year, the board of directors is excited to authorize the retirement of approximately \$350,627 in capital credits. Capital credit patronage will be paid to members active in 1989, and a portion of capital credit patronage balance of those active in 1990.

For any additional questions on capital credits, please feel free to call our office at 715-339-2155 or 1-800-884-0881. PEC thanks all for your continued patronage and support!



The Price Electric office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24.

HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST

Youth whose parents/guardians are PEC members are invited to participate in our Holiday Coloring Contest! Color and return the picture below to win. Two winners will be drawn

from all entries on November 30. The winners will receive two movie passes to Cinema North in Phillips or Park Theater in Park Falls and their photos will appear in *WEC News*. Additional copies of the picture are available at the PEC office or via email.

Holiday Cookie Baking is Fun!

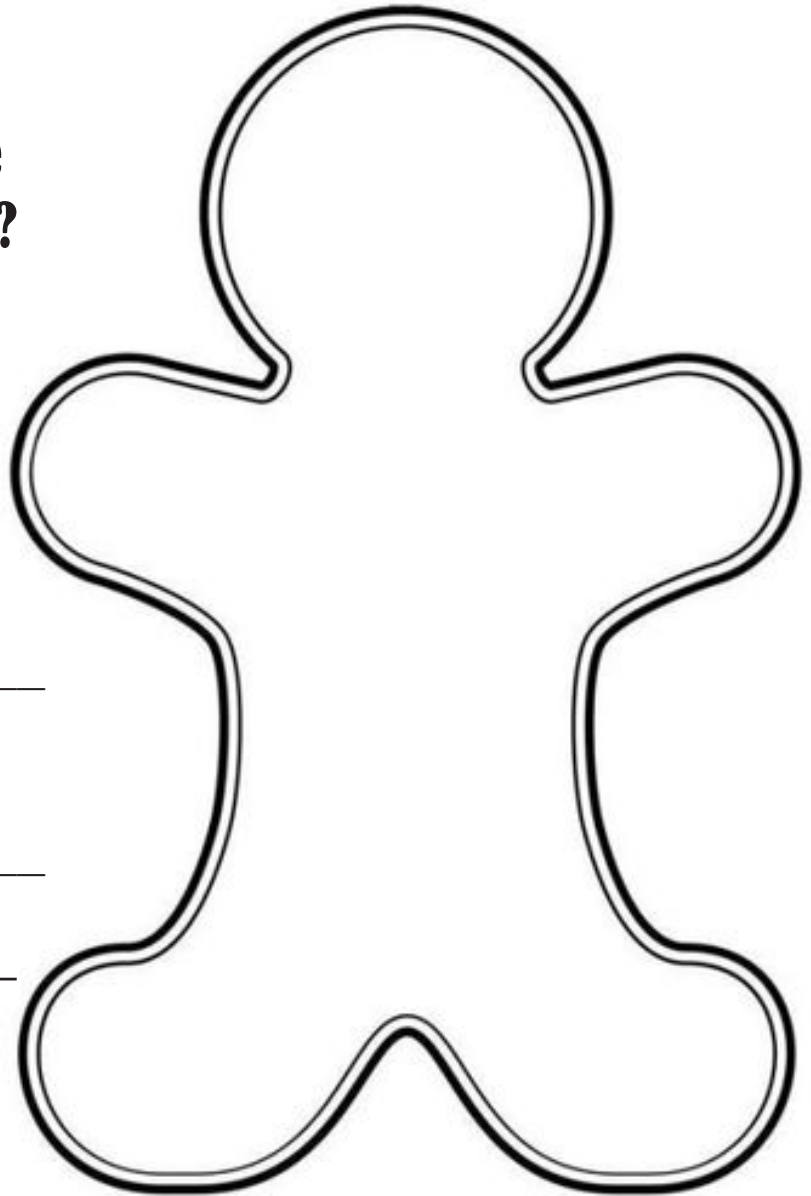
**How will you decorate
your gingerbread man?**

Name:

Parent/Guardian:

Phone: _____

Age: _____





2018 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED AT PRICE ELECTRIC!

PEC's 2018 calendars featuring the winners of our member photo contest are now available! Members are invited to stop by the PEC office in Phillips to pick up their free copy.

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 November 30.

The winner of the September PEC Puzzler was Marianne Kerner. Congratulations!

What is the value of the capital credit retirement paid out in 2017?

Answer _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

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

ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The winter heating season is here. It's important for you to make every attempt to keep current on your electric bill. We understand that things do happen that put financial burdens on people. Certain government organizations can offer heating assistance or point you in the direction of a group that can help.

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. Weatherization services are also available. LIHEAP and its related services help more than 230,000 Wisconsin households annually.

You may be eligible for energy assistance or weatherization services if:

- You received benefits from WHEAP or your gross income for the last three months is equal to or less than 60 percent of Wisconsin's state median income for your family size (see WHEAP Income Guidelines table).
- Your dwelling has not been weatherized before.
- Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, an elderly or disabled member, or a child under 6.

For more information and application details, please contact your local office:

Ashland County Health & Human Services: 715-682-7004
 Iron County Health & Human Services: 715-561-3636
 Lincoln County Department of Energy Assistance Programs: 715-539-1344
 Oneida County Department of Social Services: 715-362-5695
 Price County Health & Human Services: 715-339-2158
 Sawyer County Health & Human Services: 715-638-3320
 Taylor County Health & Human Services: 715-748-6123
 Vilas County Department of Social Services: 715-479-3668

Additional information is also available from WHEAP at 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947) or www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov or the Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund at 1-800-981-WARM (9276) or www.kwwf.org. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Brochure)

Visit the Giving Tree at PEC!

Price Electric will be hosting a "Giving Tree" to benefit the Santa's Elves Foundation beginning November 20. 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 they can be delivered in time for Christmas.

Holiday Food Drive

Members are invited to help PEC as we host a food drive to benefit local food pantries. From November 1-30, bring unexpired, nonperishable food items to the Price Electric office and enter to win a \$25 bill credit.

REBATE UPDATE

So far in 2017, PEC members have received **\$12,770** in energy efficiency rebates from Price Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative, and **\$17,496** in incentives and savings from Focus on Energy programs. These energy efficiency initiatives represent **5,167,828 kWh** saved by PEC members!

Please contact Price Electric or visit www.price-electric.com for more information on how you can take advantage of energy efficiency incentives available for PEC members!

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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