

PEC HOLDS 79th ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly 200 members and guests attended the 79th Price Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members on June 6, 2019, at Phillips High School. Following a chicken dinner and time to socialize with friends and neighbors, members got down to business in the auditorium. Director elections were held for Districts 1, 2, and 3. In uncontested races, District 2 director Joan Points and District 3 director Ed Hainy were re-elected to three-year terms, while Mark Nyberg was newly elected to fill the role of District 1 director Michael Meier, who retired from the board.



CEO William Caynor's remarks revolved around the theme "We Are You: Member Owned and Operated Since 1940." PEC employees and directors are local residents and members who care about the community just like you do. Caynor also highlighted PEC's reliability record over the past year, which is the best in PEC's history.



Left: Linemen Jesse Heinz and Tom Valiga visit with Assemblywoman Beth Myers. Center and right: The annual meeting offers a chance for members to socialize with friends and neighbors.



Left: Manager of Operations Ben Orysen received a 20-year service award. Center: Linemen Andrew Reuterskiold and Jesse Heinz and Member Services Assistant Laura Palzkill received 5-year service awards. Right: Former PEC Line Superintendent Laddie Holoubek received the Excellence Award. This award was given in recognition of his 38 years of service to PEC, which included working as the line superintendent during the 1977 downburst, the largest storm in PEC's history, as well as his recognition as a World War II veteran.

MY CO-OP



Left: PEC employees were congratulated for reaching the milestone of 1 million miles driven accident-free. Right: Winners for door prizes were drawn throughout the evening. The grand prize winners of a 49-inch LED TV were Dean and Doris Witte.

SO LONG, FAREWELL...

We celebrated Tom Valiga's retirement with him on June 7. Tom has been a fixture at PEC since 1977, marking 42 years as an employee. He said the best part of his job has been the reward of members' gratitude, although retirement is a close second. Tom mentioned that one of the biggest challenges of linework is keeping everyone safe, from members to fellow employees and himself, and his parting advice to the crew is to "wear your gloves." One of the biggest changes he's noticed in the industry is in computer technology, from the crew now using



Crew Foreman Tom Valiga was recognized for 42 years of service and his retirement.



Retiring District 1 director Michael Meier was presented with the Paragon Award for excellence in his 12-year tenure on the PEC board.

iPads for daily work to increased metering capabilities. Tom is looking forward to enjoying his newfound time off with relaxation at the cabin, some extra fishing, and travel plans.

In June we also bid farewell to District 1 director Michael Meier. Michael and his wife, Toni, are off on a new adventure in the west. Michael has been a valued member of Price Electric's Board of Directors for 12 years. We will miss his ready smile and steadfast good humor, but wish him and Toni the best in their new home. Michael's retirement from the board will be filled by Mark Nyberg.



Welcome, Mark!

The vacancy left by Michael Meier's retirement from the District 1 seat was filled by Mark Nyberg. Mark was elected at PEC's 79th Annual Meeting, which was held on June 6. Mark brings to his seat a background in education and small business ownership, among other valuable experiences. We welcome Mark to his new position in the organization, and look forward to his perspectives.

IT'S RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING TIME!

In the Northwoods, we love our trees. They provide shade on a hot summer's day, they look festive covered in a Christmas snowfall, and the rustle of branches stirred by a light breeze provides the soundtrack to many happy backyard occasions with family and friends.

However, these trees that we enjoy can also be the source of many of our headaches—especially when they are the cause of a power outage. Due to the heavily wooded areas we serve, trees are one of the most common reasons for outages on PEC's lines.

Over the past few years, PEC members have noticed a reduction in the number and duration of outages. One of the major reasons for this is the right-of-way (ROW) clearing cycle implemented in 2011. The cycle is one year of brushing or clearing, followed by two years of growing, then two years of herbicide application, which is generally applied in the months of June, July, and August. Herbicide application is an effective and economical method of controlling growth of woody vegetation. Brush and trees are treated with the herbicide, while native grasses and flowers continue to grow.

Although the ROW clearing program

can't prevent all tree-related outages (for example, trees that fall on the line from outside the right-of-way), it has helped significantly reduce PEC's outage events. Another benefit of the ROW clearing program is improved accessibility for crews, which also results in reduced outage times.

This year, properties in the towns of Jacobs, Peeksville, Chippewa, Agenda, Mercer, and Lake will be part of PEC's regularly scheduled ROW maintenance cycle. If your property will be affected, you should have already received a letter from PEC. Overhead ROW clearing will take place in the towns of Hill, Spirit, Ogema, Hackett, Rib Lake, Westboro, and Prentice. PEC will contact members

whose properties will be part of this maintenance. Members who wish to opt out of herbicide use on their property are required to sign and return a No Herbicide-Use Request form. This form must be filled out annually and will only prevent herbicide spraying on the right-of-way. Mechanical clearing may still occur. Forms are available from the Price Electric office.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your right-of-way areas clear, allowing PEC to continue to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. If you have any questions regarding the right-of-way clearing please contact Price Electric at 715-339-2155.



MY CO-OP



Capital Credits Seminar

Thank you to the members who joined us for PEC's Capital Credits Seminar on May 8. Attendees left with a better understanding of what capital credits are, when they are allocated and retired, and why co-op members are entitled to capital credits.



Congratulations to Pamela and Peter Matis, who won the electric weed trimmer giveaway in May.

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 Puzzler was Ronald Sheldon. Congratulations!

What is the deadline for the member photo contest?

Answer

Name

Account Number

Phone

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,
W6803 Springs Drive, P.O. Box 110,
Phillips, WI, 54555

2019 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST

Members are invited to submit photos for inclusion in our 2020 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or 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, 2019.
- 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: PO Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
- Drop Off: Price Electric Cooperative Office—W6803 Springs Drive, 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.

REBATE UPDATE

So far in 2019, PEC members have received **\$4,401** in energy efficiency rebates from Price Electric and Dairyland Power Cooperative, and **\$8,212** in incentives and savings from Focus on Energy initiatives. 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!



The PEC Member Service Center will be closed on Thursday, July 4!

Stop in at the PEC Member Service Center on Wednesday, July 3, for a 4th of July Surprise!



William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

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

Theresa Raleigh, Editor



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