

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

We're proud to be led by members like you.

May 2022

PowerLines



An invitation from Ed Gullickson, your co-op board president

On behalf of the directors and employees of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, I'd like to invite you to the 84th Annual Meeting.

The agenda includes a cooperative report by General Manager Steve Stroshane, results of the 2022 board election in Districts 4, 5 and 6 and a member Q&A forum, where you can ask questions and share comments through the online chat.

In addition, we're seeking member approval of three bylaw amendments. The purposes of these amendments are to 1) expand qualifications for a member to serve on the board, 2) align annual meeting bylaws with state statutes and 3) allow electronic notice of member meetings. You can review the proposed bylaw changes on our website or request them in writing.

The annual meeting is a time for co-op leaders to review and celebrate our progress, as well as to share priorities and challenges for the coming year. It's also a time for us to hear from you. We welcome your opinions and feedback on our performance. This is your cooperative and your voice is important as we plan for the future.

Please join us online June 10! Watch for your meeting notice, shown at right, in your mail or email. Visit polkburnett.com for complete details and registration.

Our mission: Reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service.

Pursuant to Bylaw Article IV, Meeting of Members, this is the OFFICIAL NOTICE of the

84th Annual Meeting

of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
Friday, June 10, 2022, 1 p.m., Online

AGENDA

1. State of the Co-op and Financial Report
2. Director Election Results
3. Bylaw Amendments for Member Approval
 - a. Bylaw Article V, Directors Section 2 (b) Qualifications. For the purpose of expanding qualifications for a member to serve as a director.
 - b. Bylaw Article IV, Meeting of Members Section 2 Annual Meetings. For the purpose of aligning bylaws with state statute.
 - c. Bylaw Article IV, Meeting of Members Section 4. For the purpose of allowing electronic notice of member meetings.
4. Member Q&A Forum

Co-op members, please join us!
REGISTER on polkburnett.com by June 9.
All who attend will be in a drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit. Ten names will be drawn.

See complete bylaw amendments on registration webpage, at co-op offices or upon request, 800-421-0283, ext. 313.
The meeting will be recorded and posted on polkburnett.com.
Printed reports available upon request.



Working to overcome supply chain disruptions

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

As you've seen in your own homes and businesses, the cost of most everything has gone up—from gas to groceries, and computers to cars. That's if you can even find the item on the shelf! Here at the co-op, our supply chain challenges are real. But for the most part, we have been able to get what we have needed. We have had to be flexible and pay more than we did last year, but we are still moving forward. This month, I'd like to share an update about how the supply chain—rising costs and long delays of much needed equipment—affects our work at the electric co-op.

Transformers: In 2022, the price of transformers increased 85% over last year. At the same time, the number of transformers we ordered for 2022 (460!), hasn't been this high since the building boom in 2005. The higher quantity is influenced by a few things, including an active housing market and our continuing push to convert areas to underground service. We are also in the final year of a systemwide upgrade to replace old underground cable, which requires additional transformers. Our supplier has done a nice job staying on schedule with deliveries, but we have purchased more to ensure we have enough for unplanned events or storms.

Poles: The price of power poles increased 12% this year over last year, mainly due to an increase in fuel costs. Diesel fuel is one of the key inputs in the pole treatment process. In addition, fuel prices impact transportation costs. Thankfully, delivery times have not been

a problem for power poles.

Polk-Burnett has 38,000 poles across the system.

Gas and diesel fuel: Unleaded gas has increased 25% since July 2021, and diesel has increased 44%.
Polk-Burnett used 26,960 gallons of gas and 22,698 gallons of diesel in 2021.

Trucks: Delivery of a 2021 digger utility truck for our Siren crew is delayed due to a lack of components to complete production. It was ordered in 2021 and expected by the end of last year. We anticipate delivery sometime this spring. Pre-pandemic, it used to take a year to get a utility truck built. Now that time has been extended by at least six months. Co-op utility trucks are replaced on a schedule that balances reliability with repairs, maintenance and resale value. Co-op trucks must be ready to roll when you need them.

Polk-Burnett maintains a fleet of 16 digger, bucket and service trucks, and more than 60 other vehicles and pieces of equipment.

Computers: Desktop computers, laptops and network servers are all up an average of 10% in cost. These items used to take two weeks for delivery; now we are looking at lead times of months.

Meters, EV chargers and heating: Two more items with long delivery times are EV chargers and our new meters. The meter delay is due to a shortage of internal components, primarily semiconductors. The lead time for meters is about five months. It's interesting that we have no issues with on-time delivery of water heaters and

electric thermal storage (ETS) heaters. However, we are seeing significant price increases on water heaters, along with twice-a-year increases on ETS units and have ordered ahead to beat price increases. Some of our members are trying to beat fuel price increases through the purchase of electric vehicles. We have already sold five EV chargers this year and forecast demand to remain strong.

Polk-Burnett employees are meeting the challenge

It is an ongoing challenge to stay ahead of supply chain disruptions, which are really no different than what we are all facing in our personal lives. Prices of copper, aluminum, steel, oil and fuel drive cost increases for materials and equipment we rely on. As we learn of price increases or delays, we work to get the best price in the most reasonable amount of time.

I'd like to express my appreciation for Polk-Burnett employees who work hard to make sure we have supplies and equipment on hand to fulfill our mission of providing you, our members, with reliable power and extraordinary service. Throughout the pandemic and now facing supply chain disruptions, these dedicated employees haven't missed a beat for our members. Miles of line are being built and maintained, meters are being upgraded, phones are being answered and members are finding solutions to energy problems. We have already started forecasting our needs for 2023, and like you, we hope that supply chain problems ease as 2022 goes on.

INFLATION AND LONG DELIVERY TIMES

TRANSFORMERS

Cost increased 85%, 2022 over 2021.

TRUCKS


Delivery of digger utility truck delayed four to six months.

COMPUTERS


Cost increased 10%, 2022 over 2021.

Delivery increased from weeks to months.

PLUG INTO SAFETY



May is Electrical Safety Month



Overloaded electrical outlets? It's time to call an electrician and install new outlets.

Calling all third graders!

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

Electrical Safety Poster Contest

Submit an original poster that supports electrical safety to Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op by **May 31, 2022**, for a chance to win prizes!

Top three local winners - \$25 Gift Card

Top three local posters will be entered in state contest.

1st place in state contest - Chromebook

2nd place in state contest - \$100 Gift Card

3rd place in state contest - \$75 Gift Card

Visit polkburnett.com or a co-op office for official entry form!



REBATES FOR CO-OP MEMBERS

Energy Sense



SPECIAL CO-OP MEMBER PRICE: MARATHON WATER HEATER
100-GALLON ON LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM



CO-OP MEMBER PRICE: \$750, plus tax

A 100-gallon Marathon® water heater is an investment that pays for itself in energy savings. When you install on the off-peak rate, it's one of the most cost-effective ways to heat water for your home.

- Costs no more to operate than 50-gallon tank.
- Durable and built to last with corrosion-free tank.

800-421-0283, x595 | polkburnett.com



Co-op awards \$77,500 in scholarships to Class of 2022

Congratulations to Polk-Burnett scholarship winners and all graduating seniors! This year, 62 students were awarded a Polk-Burnett scholarship in the amount of \$1,250 to continue their education after high school. Polk-Burnett's scholarship program recognizes the sons and daughters of co-op members who demonstrate community service.

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| 1. Audrie Amos, Luck High School | 32. Jordan Lee, St. Croix Falls High School |
| 2. Gage Asmussen, Rush City H.S. | 33. Samuel Lenk, Unity High School |
| 3. Emma Aubert, Siren High School | 34. Jonathan Lorsung, Amery High School |
| 4. Jackson Baillargeon, Osceola High School | 35. Jared Lundmark, Cumberland High School |
| 5. Lana Belz, Amery High School | 36. Kathryn Marek, Osceola High School |
| 6. Kylie Broten, St. Croix Falls High School | 37. Jaidyn McAlpine, Amery High School |
| 7. Sadye Bunting, Grantsburg High School | 38. Annabel McManus, St. Croix Falls High School |
| 8. Audrey Danniger, Wausau West High School | 39. Grace Measner, Osceola High School |
| 9. Emily DeMoe, Osceola High School | 40. Samantha Mortenson, Osceola High School |
| 10. Albert Dohrer, Open World Learning | 41. Morgan Mrdutt, Turtle Lake High School |
| 11. Charlotte Eichten, Somerset High School | 42. Taedon Nichols, Siren High School |
| 12. Alfred Flatten, Webster High School | 43. Malaky Olson, Webster High School |
| 13. Wyatt Gahm, Mahtomedi High School | 44. Alaina Rivard, Amery High School |
| 14. Anna Gingras, Unity High School | 45. Elizabeth Rosen, Clear Lake High School |
| 15. Ella Gould, Amery High School | 46. Cade Rysdam, Osceola High School |
| 16. Victoria Greene, Amery High School | 47. Sophia Saueressig, Luck High School |
| 17. Luke Haase, Osceola High School | 48. Oliver Schmidt, St. Croix Falls High School |
| 18. Sarah Harriman, Stillwater Area High School | 49. Hailey Schoeberl, Amery High School |
| 19. Hattie Harrold, New Richmond High School | 50. Alexis Slater, Grantsburg High School |
| 20. Sarah Hefty, Homeschooled | 51. Kalley Smith, Osceola High School |
| 21. Noah Hopkins, St Croix Preparatory Academy | 52. Garrett Swan, Spooner High School |
| 22. Kevin Jansa, Centennial High School | 53. Daric Swanson, Osceola High School |
| 23. Josephine Johnson, Webster High School | 54. Mia Sweeney, Cumberland High School |
| 24. Mallory Johnson, Osceola High School | 55. Isabella Thill, Turtle Lake High School |
| 25. Seraphina Johnson, Amery High School | 56. Tyler Ulrich, Osceola High School |
| 26. Maya Kazmierski, St. Croix Falls High School | 57. Terry Van Atta, Luck High School |
| 27. Samuel Kelling, Amery High School | 58. Jordan Vetter, Osceola High School |
| 28. Jacquelyn Kelly, Washburn High School | 59. Katie Weber, Woodbury High School |
| 29. Jenavieve Kinzer, Amery High School | 60. Kailee Wieser, Webster High School |
| 30. Julia Kloos, St. Croix Falls High School | 61. Dora Williams, Minneapolis SW High School |
| 31. Lauren Kremer, Osceola High School | 62. Harrison Zipperer, Unity High School |

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program does not affect electric rates; it is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that if not used for education would be forfeited to the state, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate Capital Credits to the scholarship fund. If you would like to donate your future Capital Credits to co-op scholarships, please visit our website or call us for an enrollment form, polkburnett.com, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL SURVEY, WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TO HELP US IMPROVE.

All members who submit a survey will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 bill credit.

Polk-Burnett is your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service.

Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter.

800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

