



# May 2023 PowerLines



## 85th Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation Day is June 9, with guest speaker Dairyland CEO Brent Ridge

Your official notice and invitation from General Manager Steve Stroshane

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will hold its 85th Annual Meeting Friday, June 9, at the co-op office in Centuria, 1001 State Road 35. Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative, will provide the keynote address on the state of the power market and its impact on local electric co-op members. The annual meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. and is preceded by a member appreciation open house and lunch beginning at 11 a.m. All co-op members are invited to attend.

### Member Appreciation Open House

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, chips, root beer floats and anniversary cake served by co-op directors and employees. Hot dogs will be available for children.

All members who attend the open house will receive an 85th anniversary mason jar mug, and the first 150 children will receive a \$5 DQ card. Members can also enter a drawing to win an electric battery-powered yard tool (three winners drawn) and a \$50 electric bill credit (10 winners drawn).

Open house guests can see electric vehicles on display and learn about the co-op's local solar developments: SunTuria is the area's first utility-scale solar in Centuria, and the new Georgetown array is planned for development in 2023.

Kids are invited to take a bucket truck ride with co-op lineworkers, meet Polk-Burnett's Solar Sam mascot and try on safety gear at a selfie station. We'll also have music and corn hole games.

The open house is a great time to have fun, meet co-op directors and employees, and learn about your co-op membership. Following the open house, we invite members to stay for the annual meeting.

### 85th Annual Meeting

The annual meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. I'll start the meeting with a cooperative performance and financial report. The agenda also includes a keynote presentation on the state of the power market by Dairyland Power Cooperative President and CEO Brent Ridge, and results of the 2023 board election in districts 1, 2 and 3. The meeting will conclude with a Q&A member forum, where members can submit questions and comments for co-op leaders.

All members who stay for the meeting will receive a commemorative 85th anniversary coaster, plus you can enter the annual meeting attendance prize drawing for a \$50 electric bill credit (10 winners drawn).

### Streaming Online

Polk-Burnett's 85th Annual Meeting can also be viewed online, with live streaming provided by the WE ARE NETWORK. Tune in to Polk-Burnett's Facebook page or your favorite WE ARE NETWORK's local school page. Online guests are invited to participate in the Q&A forum using the online chat feature, but you will not be registered for voting, giveaways or prize drawings.

For members who can't attend in person or online, the annual meeting will be recorded and posted on polkburnett.com. Printed reports will be available upon request at co-op offices in Centuria and Siren following the meeting.

We look forward to gathering with members to share our appreciation and celebrate our 85th anniversary. Our co-op was established in 1938 with lines, poles and the notion that we all prosper by helping each other. Today, that cooperative spirit continues. We hope you will join us Friday, June 9.

*Annual meeting and open house guests are asked to enter Polk-Burnett on the north side of the building. All activities take place in the garage and outside. Doors open for registration and lunch at 11 a.m.*

### Members will see another PCA credit on electric bills this month

Your **credit** is based on the energy you use and reflects our **lower** cost to purchase power on your behalf. A PCA is a Power Cost Adjustment on your electric bill. It can be a charge or a credit, depending on the power market. In late 2022, natural gas prices spiked and coal supply was limited, resulting in a higher cost of power. The good news this spring: The price of power has gone down and instead of PCA charges, Polk-Burnett will receive a PCA **credit** from Dairyland Power Co-op, our wholesale power supplier. We pass the PCA credit through to you. *As a not-for-profit cooperative, our rates are based on actual costs; they are not set to generate profit.*

## Calling all third graders: Enter electrical safety poster contest and win prizes!

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association are seeking entries for our 2023 Electrical Safety Poster Contest. All local third graders are invited to submit an original poster that supports electrical safety for a chance to win local and state-level prizes.



Three local winners will receive a \$25 gift card and their winning posters will be submitted to the state contest for a chance to win a Chromebook for first place, a \$100 gift card for second place and a \$75 gift card for third place.

The contest is open to all third-grade students in communities served by Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative. There is no cost to enter. Posters must be original artwork by the student with electrical safety theme.

Official entry forms and contest rules are available at co-op offices in Centuria and Siren, and on polkburnett.com. The deadline to submit entries to Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative is May 31, 2023.

*As your local provider of safe, reliable electricity, Polk-Burnett sponsors this youth poster contest to promote electrical safety in recognition of National Electrical Safety Month in May. We remind everyone to be safe around electricity and electrical equipment at home and school.*

### Solar energy tours for school and community groups

Visit the 10-acre SunTuria Solar array behind our co-op office in Centuria, where 4,840 solar panels are capturing the power of the sun. Find tour details on polkburnett.com or call 800-421-0283.

REBATES FOR CO-OP MEMBERS



# 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 it 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
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## Electric co-op awards \$145,500 in scholarships to Class of 2023

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will present 97 scholarships to children of co-op members in the Class of 2023. Each scholarship winner will receive \$1,500 to continue their education after high school. A total of \$145,500 will be awarded.

Polk-Burnett's scholarship program recognizes children of co-op members who demonstrate community service. "Supporting our local youth is part of our mission as a co-op," said Polk-Burnett Communications Director Joan O'Fallon. "This year in honor of the co-op's 85th anniversary, we're helping more kids with larger scholarships than ever before!"

Since 1987, Polk-Burnett has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to high school seniors, without affecting electricity rates for members. Scholarships are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that would be forfeited to the state if not used for education, and by the generosity of co-op members who donate their Capital Credits. To donate your Capital Credits and learn more about Polk-Burnett scholarships, visit polkburnett.com or call 800-421-0283.

### Congratulations, Polk-Burnett's 2023 Community Service Scholarship winners (by name and high school):

- |                                                    |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Taylor Andersen, Turtle Lake                    | 49. Karli Mayer, Osceola              |
| 2. Blu Anderson, Amery                             | 50. Brianna McCurdy, St. Croix Falls  |
| 3. Wyatt Anton, Siren                              | 51. Mackaylan McGown, Simley          |
| 4. Nathan Aubert, Siren                            | 52. Brock McKinley, Webster           |
| 5. Seth Baxter, Siren                              | 53. Kaitlyn McMillin, Centennial      |
| 6. Kylie Blakeslee, Grantsburg                     | 54. Isabelle Measner, Osceola         |
| 7. Paetyynn Bliese, Osceola                        | 55. Delilah Micheels, Clayton         |
| 8. Michael Boland, Unity                           | 56. Bryant Molampy, Unity             |
| 9. Mia Brotzel, Amery                              | 57. Madeline Monchilovich, Cumberland |
| 10. Maggie Brown, Unity                            | 58. Jack Nelson, Osceola              |
| 11. Sarah Carlson, Osceola                         | 59. Gavin Olson, Osceola              |
| 12. Madilyn Carlson, Webster                       | 60. Emily Oman, Amery                 |
| 13. Taylor Childs, Spooner                         | 61. Robert Orf, Turtle Lake           |
| 14. Bryn Connors, St. Croix Falls                  | 62. Hunter Pickard, Clear Lake        |
| 15. Grant Cook, Amery                              | 63. Drew Pingel, Osceola              |
| 16. Jordyn Craker, Home School                     | 64. Ella Quist, Osceola               |
| 17. Sophia Crowe, Unity                            | 65. Ethan Race, Osceola               |
| 18. Myles Curtis, Amery                            | 66. Haley Reger, Somerset             |
| 19. Dahlia Dorn, Webster, Youth Tour delegate      | 67. Wyatt Reindahl, Clear Lake        |
| 20. Tyler Dorweiler, Shell Lake                    | 68. Lexi Rosenbaum, Webster           |
| 21. Connor Eichel, Unity                           | 69. Madison Schafer, Grantsburg       |
| 22. Ashton Erickson, Webster                       | 70. Olivia Schiebel, Osceola          |
| 23. Jason Evenson, Luck                            | 71. Aurora Schwartz, Amery            |
| 24. Matthew Fjestad, Stillwater                    | 72. Sara Sellent, Luck                |
| 25. Amanda Fogelberg, Osceola, Youth Tour delegate | 73. Michael Shannon, St. Croix Falls  |
| 26. Hattie Fox, Osceola                            | 74. Garrett Slater, Osceola           |
| 27. Brin Freer, Unity                              | 75. Matthew Slechta, Osceola          |
| 28. Marlee Gibson, Osceola                         | 76. Sydney Smith, Unity               |
| 29. Autumn Guckenberger, Osceola                   | 77. Caleb Smith, Webster              |
| 30. Ryan Hafner, Stillwater                        | 78. Jack Stang, River Falls           |
| 31. Hannah Hebert, Stillwater                      | 79. Aiden Steffen, Osceola            |
| 32. Ethan Henry, Blaine                            | 80. Kobe Stinson, Amery               |
| 33. Joel Hillman, Siren                            | 81. Connor Svoboda, Luck              |
| 34. Carson Hollman, Osceola                        | 82. Ivy Sweeney, Cumberland           |
| 35. Alexander Hopkins, St. Croix Preparatory       | 83. Derek Thiex, Siren                |
| 36. Kadynd Hudak, Prescott                         | 84. Erika Tiedemann, Turtle Lake      |
| 37. Tyler Hutter, Somerset                         | 85. Hadley Tims, Shell Lake           |
| 38. Nolan Imhoff, St. Croix Falls                  | 86. Jack Trandum, Amery               |
| 39. Aleah Jensen, St. Croix Falls                  | 87. Rachel Ulrich, Osceola            |
| 40. Josie Johnson, St. Croix Falls                 | 88. Ava Ulrich, Osceola               |
| 41. Abigail Jonas, Osceola                         | 89. David Valentine, Unity            |
| 42. Amelia King, Luck                              | 90. Caysie Ward, Osceola              |
| 43. Katelyn Kozak, St. Croix Falls                 | 91. Ava Washburn, Webster             |
| 44. Madeline Kramer, Grantsburg                    | 92. Alexis Wedin, Grantsburg          |
| 45. Carson Lee, Grantsburg                         | 93. Amber Wedin, Grantsburg           |
| 46. Kylee Lindquist, Siren                         | 94. Grace Weitzel, Stillwater         |
| 47. Roselyn Lundquist, Frederic                    | 95. Vanessa Wickstrom, Grantsburg     |
| 48. Brigitta Maas, Cumberland                      | 96. Miles Wilson, St. Croix Falls     |
|                                                    | 97. Annie Zinn, Amery                 |

### Help us protect the endangered Karner blue butterfly

The Karner blue butterfly is often found near purple lupine plants in sandy soil. We mark habitat sites under power lines and ask employees and members to tread carefully in these areas each spring and summer. Thank you.

**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.

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800-421-0283 • polkburnett.com



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