

# POWERLINES

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | DECEMBER 2019



## May your holiday season be merry and bright

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

The holiday season is a time many of us anticipate; we cherish family traditions, special foods, decorations, and time with family and friends. Across our service territory, people come together to celebrate and light up our hometowns. I've heard from many of you who enjoy the Christmas display outside our Centuria office, and we're proud to be a part of Light Up Osceola and Siren's Christmas in the Park each year. Beyond the holiday lights, Polk-Burnett hosts an annual gift drive to help make the season bright for local kids. Now in our 14th year, we're thankful for our ongoing partnership with Operation Christmas in Polk County and Interfaith Caregivers in Burnett County. And we thank all of you for your generous donations.

The holiday season is the perfect time to thank you for your membership. We especially appreciate the community support following July storms across Polk County.

Looking back on 2019, I'm also grateful that we were able to make a positive impact in our community through Operation Round Up, scholarships, employee volunteers, school solar tours and power line safety demonstrations. On behalf of all of us at Polk-Burnett, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright!



## Class of 2020: Win a \$1,250 co-op scholarship and trip to Washington, D.C. Youth Tour!

For sons and daughters of co-op members. Apply on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) by January 3, 2020.

## Win a trip of a lifetime: Washington, D.C. Youth Tour

Visiting Washington, D.C. might sound like a far-away dream for high school students, but every June several from our state's cooperatives are given the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital for a fun and educational weeklong tour – and it won't cost them a dime!

The all-expense-paid Co-op Youth Tour is sponsored by Wisconsin rural electric cooperatives, including Polk-Burnett, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Tour participants get to see with their own eyes the historical sights, museums and monuments that many have only seen in history books or on TV. Wisconsin delegates meet members of Congress, witness the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, see the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima War Memorial and tour the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives chambers.

During the week on the go, Youth Tour participants form fast friendships that continue after they return home. Inspired by their trip, many Youth Tour alumni have become co-op leaders or perform public service. Ask almost any of the alumni about their experience and they will describe it as the trip of a lifetime.

### How to win a trip to the 2020 Co-op Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Polk-Burnett is seeking two delegates for the June 19 to 25, 2020, Youth Tour. All applicants of Polk-Burnett's Scholarship Program are invited to apply for the optional Youth Tour. Scholarship candidates must be 1) the son or daughter of a Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op member, 2) graduating from high school in 2020 and 3) continuing education at an accredited technical school, college or university after high school.

Polk-Burnett's Scholarship and Youth Tour Program is based on community service, not academic grades, athletic performance or financial need. All candidates are required to demonstrate community involvement, and those interested in becoming a Youth Tour delegate are required to write essays about the value of electricity and why they want to represent their local co-op on the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

*"As a rural electric co-op, Polk-Burnett is pleased to support youth leadership opportunities for the children of our members, according to our cooperative principles."*

~ General Manager Steve Stroshane

Youth Tour delegates from Wisconsin electric cooperatives visit Washington, D.C. every year in June. If you are graduating in the class of 2020 and your parents are members of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative, you are invited to apply for this all-expense-paid trip of a lifetime. The application form for **Polk-Burnett's Scholarship and Youth Tour Program is on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com).** Please invite co-op kids in the class of 2020 to apply!



*Polk-Burnett's Scholarship and Youth Tour Program does not affect electricity rates. It is funded with unclaimed Capital Credits that if not used for education would be forfeited to the state.*



## Co-op members: Get rebates to improve energy efficiency and comfort in your home!

See rebate offers and apply on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) by January 1, 2020 for purchases in 2019.

## First notice: Members invited to apply for board election

Polk-Burnett will hold an election for board directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3 in May 2020. Members residing in Districts 1, 2 and 3 have the opportunity to get involved in co-op decision making by running for a seat on the co-op board. Directors serve three-year terms and represent co-op members at monthly meetings. The deadline to apply is March 6, 2020.

For a district map and election details, visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com). To apply, call 800-421-0283, ext. 313.





# Light up your holiday season

## Seven SAFETY TIPS for the holidays

A commitment to safety is a core value at Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative; our linemen and employees always put safety first. Safety should come first at your home, too:

1. Do not use decorations with frayed wires and broken parts.
2. Do not connect more than three light strings.
3. Make sure extension cords are in good condition.
4. Keep outdoor extension cords and lights clear of snow and water.
5. Place fresh-cut trees away from heat registers, fireplaces and radiators.
6. Always unplug decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.
7. Stay clear of power lines when using a ladder and hanging outside decorations.

## Five ENERGY SAVERS for the holidays

1. Holiday entertaining involves extra cooking and baking, which requires extra energy. *Don't peek! Opening the oven door can lower temp by 25° and causes the oven to use more energy.*
2. Holiday guests use more hot water for showers, laundry and dish washing. *Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine to conserve energy.*
3. Holiday lights and decorations use electricity. *Switch to energy-efficient LEDs for all your decorating and home lighting. LEDs use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs.*
4. Shorter days and longer nights mean lights stay on longer, both inside and out. *Use timers to turn holiday lights on and off automatically.*
5. Space heaters are often used in garages, basements and rooms for extra warmth. *Shut them off when you leave the room for safety and savings.*

## #HolidaySafety

Consider using LED lights for all your decorating needs this holiday season. LEDs use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights!



## CO-OP VALUE: COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative supports scholarships and Operation Round Up grants.

## Your small change makes a big difference

**\$868,637** donated by Operation Round Up since 1998, including **\$65,876** in 2019!

Thank you to **11,400 co-op members** who participate in Operation Round Up!

Since its beginning in 1998, Operation Round Up has awarded **\$868,637!** **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!** Your small change makes a BIG difference.

When you have electric bills rounded up to the next dollar amount, your monthly contribution could be as little as a penny, but never more than 99¢. The **average donation is \$6 per year**. Contributions are tax deductible and printed on your electric bill each month, with the annual total on your January bill.

Funds are pooled and awarded **quarterly to nonprofit organizations** that improve our local quality of life. Recipients are selected by a board of co-op members.

*Above: Clear Lake High School is using a \$1,000 Operation Round Up grant for mental health awareness and suicide prevention this school year.*

*In October, \$15,900 was awarded to 18 local nonprofits, including \$1,000 to the Siren High School band, center, and \$1,500 to Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County, bottom.*

To see all 2019 Operation Round Up awards and learn how your organization can apply, visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com). To round up your bill in support of Operation Round Up, contact our billing department, 800-421-0283, ext. 335.



## CO-OP MISSION:

Polk-Burnett provides reliable electricity with efficiency and extraordinary service.

## BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS AND POWER OUTAGES

Report power outages on SmartHub or call 800-421-0283.

Stay informed if your lights go out on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com)

SEE LIVE OUTAGE MAP & SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUTAGE TEXT ALERTS.

Handy on smart devices, even when your power is out!

*We restore power safely and quickly, while keeping you informed.*

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](http://polkburnett.com)



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

