



OFFICIAL NOTICE

# 82ND ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 1 p.m.  
Online Only



Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will hold its 82nd Annual Meeting as an online meeting. No in-person meeting will be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting will provide members with 1) a state-of-the co-op report, 2) financial report, 3) board election results and 4) an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

**Registration opens June 15 on polkburnett.com.**

Once you register, an invitation link will be emailed to you to join the online annual meeting July 8. No special software is required beyond an internet connection.

For those who can't join us online July 8, the annual meeting will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Printed reports will also be available in co-op lobbies or upon request following the meeting.

## POWERLINES JUNE 2020



### In the field, in the office and at the annual meeting, we're here for you

by General Manager Steve Stroshane

We're all learning to do things differently and our lives have forever changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm grateful for our essential co-op employees in the field and in the office who continue to provide reliable power with efficiency and extraordinary service, even as all of our families, schools and communities have been affected.

Work in every co-op department is ongoing to ensure a strong future for the co-op and our members. Below is one example of how the co-op is working to improve reliability and provide the energy you need to power your lives.

### Upgrades coming to restore substation outages faster

One of the areas Polk-Burnett prides itself on is providing reliable service. Our goal is less than one hour of outages per year per member. However, sometimes situations are out of our control. When a problem occurs on a high-voltage transmission line, it impacts multiple substations in a large geographic area. The people impacted may even be served by different utilities.

Polk-Burnett does not own, operate or maintain any transmission lines. We only own the lines from the substations to your electric meter. One of our strategic initiatives has been to improve service when a transmission line has a problem. When a transmission outage occurs, we would like to install technology that would transfer the flow of electricity, so your home receives power from a different substation.

The first substation to get this technology upgrade is the Meenon Substation, serving the area around Webster (towns of Union, Meenon, Lincoln and Oakland). The Meenon Substation is served by a Northwestern Wisconsin Electric transmission line and has experienced an above average number of outages.

The improvement plan will occur over three years. We began last year by upgrading the substation equipment. This year, new equipment will be installed on the power lines, and in 2021, we plan to be able to remotely control all of the equipment installed in 2019 and 2020. While these upgrades cannot prevent the outage from the transmission lines, we hope that it will restore power faster. If it works at Meenon, it will be deployed to other areas of the system.

I invite you to learn more about the work of the cooperative at our 82nd annual meeting. Because of uncertain times, we will host a virtual annual meeting July 8. We hope you can join us as we try this new format!



## Special member price on Marathon water heaters



For co-op members in Polk-Burnett's load control program

**\$750** plus tax for electric replacement

**\$250** plus tax for new home construction or gas replacement



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

- Long-lasting tank will not rust or corrode. Guaranteed not to leak.
- Highly efficient, costs no more to operate than standard 50-gallon tank.
- 2.5 inches of foam insulation minimizes heat loss.
- Titanium lower element for superior resistance to lime buildup.
- Bowl-shaped tank drains completely, preserving life of elements.

Polk-Burnett's EnergySense program helps members make smart energy choices for the environment, your home and pocketbook. Contact us to learn about a Marathon® water heater for your home, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



## Hannah Orf and Nick Erickson selected for Co-op Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

**Congratulations to Hannah Orf and Nick Erickson**, who were chosen as Polk-Burnett delegates for the Electric Co-op Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their trip has been postponed until next summer.

Orf is a 2020 graduate of Turtle Lake High School and the daughter of co-op member Dan and Jessica Orf. Erickson is a 2020 graduate of Amery High School and is the son of co-op member Mark and JoAnn Erickson. Both are Polk-Burnett scholarship winners and will receive \$1,250 for college in the fall.



To be selected as Polk-Burnett's Youth Tour delegates, students demonstrated community service and wrote essays about the value of electricity and why they wanted to represent our local co-op.

Youth Tour is a gathering of 1,500 high school students representing co-ops across the country. Students learn about the rural electric program, U.S. history, government and democracy. They meet with congressional leaders and tour Capitol Hill, national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithsonian Museums. The tour is

hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA), with local sponsorship by Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative.

Polk-Burnett's Youth Tour 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. Members may donate their Capital Credits to Polk-Burnett's scholarship and Youth Tour fund. For information, visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) or call 800-421-0283.

**CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICE ON PROPANE SUMMER FILL, ext. 411 or 378.**

## Two ways you can lower energy costs and carbon

**TOGETHER WE SAVE!** When you reduce electricity during peak times:

- You reduce the wholesale cost of electricity, which helps hold rates steady.
- You reduce the need for power generation, which cuts carbon and is good for the environment.



### 1) Do the Summer Shift

Shift your electricity use away from the hours when demand and cost are highest. Reduce electricity 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays this summer.

### 2) Enroll in Beat the Peak

We'll send you a peak alert by text, email or phone asking you to reduce electricity when demand and cost are high—about nine summer alerts and three winter alerts. Enroll on [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) or 800-421-0283.



## A/C notice for members in load management

Power to air conditioners controlled by the co-op's load management program will be cycled every 15 minutes during peak demand hours from 2 to 6 p.m. This reduces the co-op's cost for peak-demand power, which benefits all members. Historically, control periods are on the hottest days of the summer; however, they are based on electricity demand throughout the entire Midwest region and may occur when local weather conditions are not extreme.

## Summer rate in effect June to September

Your summer rate is 11.6¢ per kWh, for invoice dates June to September. Your winter rate is 10.1¢ per kWh, for invoice dates October to May. Rates reflect costs: Polk-Burnett pays a higher summer rate for wholesale power because members use more electricity systemwide during the hot days of summer, making demand and costs rise. For help lowering your energy costs, visit [polkburnett.com](http://polkburnett.com) or call member services, 800-421-0283, ext. 595.



## Why it's good to see co-op workers on your property?

Polk-Burnett employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. We're working to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors, and that means we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush
- Restoring power outages
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment



All field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted during normal working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 800-421-0283. We appreciate your cooperation.

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC CO-OP



**Did you know that you can buy renewable energy from the co-op?**

**100 kWh blocks are just \$1 per block per month**

*Added to your monthly electric bill*

**Visit our website to buy one block or enough to power your whole house!**

**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](http://polkburnett.com)**



Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer | Member Owned | Community Focused

