

# EMPLOYEES STAND UP FOR VETERANS

## OEC Charity Donations Stronger Than Ever

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) employees were ecstatic to be giving back to the U.S. veterans with a donation of \$14,000. This is the greatest amount of money that OEC employees have raised since the program began in 2004. Donations were split between Old Glory Honor Flight and Patriot Guard Riders of Wisconsin.

This is the 13th year that co-op employees have raised funds for designated charities. Including this donation, they have raised a total of \$82,000. “I think it is pretty cool that a lot of money has been raised by our small co-op of 40 some employees/directors,” said OEC employee Amy Winkler.

OEC employees worked all year to raise \$9,000. The largest events were the charity golf outing, a motorcycle ride, and the Bag Lunch To Go. Co-Bank, one of the co-op’s lenders, also donated \$5,000 as part of its Sharing Success program.

“In March, we held our popular Bag Lunch To Go. In two hours, we delivered 330 bag lunches, 100 more than the previous year, to businesses in the community,” explained Katie Jagiello, co-op

employee. “People enjoyed the pulled pork sandwich and the fact that lunch is delivered to them at their workplace and that all proceeds go to charity.”

Old Glory Honor Flight is dedicated to transporting our local WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials built in their honor. It is a one-day trip and completely free of charge to the vet!

Old Glory Honor Flight is funded primarily from individuals across Northeast Wisconsin who recognize the great accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans and want them to have the chance to visit their nation’s capital.

The Patriot Guard Riders of Wisconsin is an all-volunteer organization that provides support for active military personnel and veterans and their families. They are completely funded by donations and other than minor administrative expenses, all funds go directly to benefit those they serve.

Their main mission is to honor our fallen heroes, their families, and communities by attending memorial services and funerals. They also participate in ceremonies and events to welcome our

troops home from overseas or to give them a resounding show of support when they leave the states for foreign countries. In 2016 they were able to bring some hope and Christmas cheer to 550 veterans and military families through their Operation Christmas Angel program.

Funds raised by OEC employees will go towards the Patriot Guard’s Help on the Homefront Services. Under that program, they provide the essentials for veterans who have completed rehabilitation programs and are again contributing to society. Most often, veterans leaving VA recovery programs leave with little more than the clothes on their backs. Patriot Guard Riders provide veterans with a bed, tables, chairs, TV, entertainment center, kitchenware, bed and bedding, all usually donated by individuals. When there is a lack of donated goods, Patriot Guard Riders will use monetary donations to purchase items for the veterans.

The employees at OEC are grateful for the support that the community and OEC members give to the charity.



### CHECK PRESENTATION

OEC employees distributed a total of \$14,000 to Old Glory Honor Flight and Patriot Guard Riders of Wisconsin. (Checks accepted by Old Glory Honor Flight Board Member Steve Trinkner and Assistant State Captain for Patriot Guard Riders, Mark Goebel)



# Interested in being a director?

Each year members of Oconto Electric Cooperative have the opportunity to run for election to the board of directors. The process is based on Cooperative Principle #2: Democratic Member Control. OEC's service area is divided into seven geographic districts and each one is served by a director. In 2018, two board positions will be up for election. The following board members are currently serving Districts 1 and 7 and have the option to run again for these positions:

## District 1

The incumbent director in District 1 is Vern Gisenas. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 4, 2018, at Beaver Town Hall, W8405 County Road P, Crivitz. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 1 consists of the townships of Beaver, Stephenson, and the north part of Brazeau Township (T31N-R18E).

## District 7

The incumbent director in District 7 is Todd Duame. The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at St. Anthony Parish, 253 N. Franklin St., Oconto Falls. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 7 includes members in the entire townships of Oconto Falls and Spruce, and sections 19 through 36 in the township of Stiles.

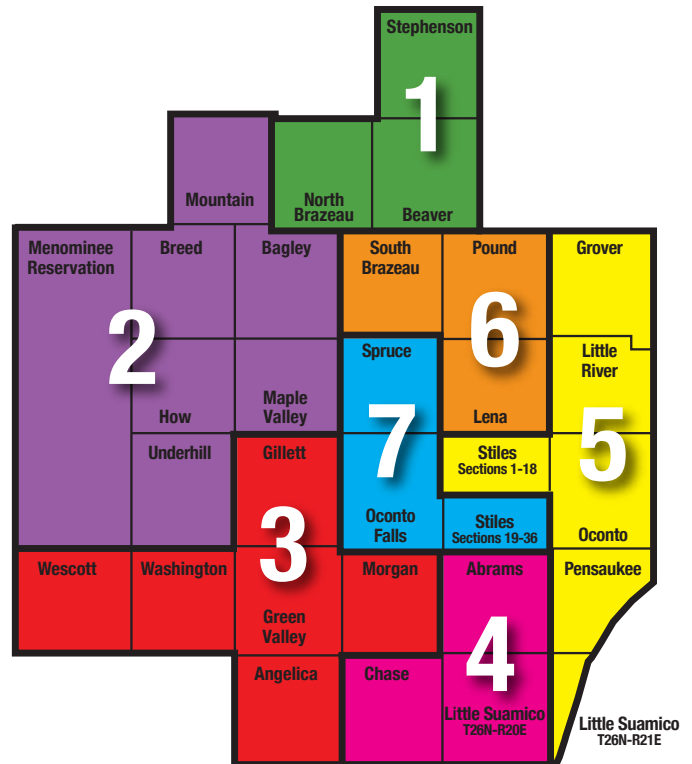
A district meeting is held primarily to nominate candidates to stand for election to fill the new term. OEC members interested in being elected to the board are nominated at their district meeting. At least one, but no more than two people, can be on the ballot to run for director from a district. If more than two people are nominated to run for director, an election will be held at the district meeting. The two people receiving the most votes will be placed on the ballot for the general election, which is held at the co-op's annual meeting on March 24, 2018.

If you have any questions about the director election, please contact Kriss Krause at 920-846-2816. All inquiries will be

kept confidential.

In late December, all members in Districts 1 and 7 will receive an official notice of the meetings. All OEC members are welcome to attend district meetings, but only the members from the specific district will be eligible to vote.

After the meeting a hot lunch will be served and door prizes awarded. And one lucky member at each district meeting will win \$100 cash prize!



OEC DISTRICT MAP

Districts 1 and 7 are all up for nominations (754100) to be elected to the OEC board of directors.



## Cooperative Principle #2

### Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



## Shop Local This Christmas

### Give the Gift of Energy

Do you have a friend or family member that is hard to buy for at Christmas? Try the gift of energy. If they are members of Oconto Electric you can pay their electric bill for a month, a year or any amount in between. Go to [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) and click on billing and choose gift certificates, or call Oconto Electric at 1-800-472-8410.



### Give the Gift of Technology

Oconto Electric RadioShack located in Oconto Falls has a wide selection of electronics and is a certified Cellcom dealer. You'll find gifts for all ages.

- Power banks
- Tablets
- Wireless speakers
- Drones
- Cell phones
- Batteries

Oconto Electric RadioShack is located at 323 E Highland Dr. • Oconto Falls • Phone: 920-848-1234

### Give the Gift of Chocolate



OEC and RadioShack in Oconto Falls have Vande Walle's candy bars available for \$1.00. Proceeds go to the 2018 OEC Employee Charity. They make a great stocking stuffer or teacher gift.

Flavors: English Toffee, Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Mint Truffle, Chocolate Truffle, Caramel Nut, Peanut Butter Meltaway, Caramel.

### Give the Gift of Independence

Do you have an aging family member who lives alone and you worry about all the time? Never know what to get them for Christmas? OEC offers MainStreet Messenger, an emergency response service that helps make independent living a reality while giving peace of mind to the families whose loved ones prefer to stay in the comfortable surroundings of their own home.

- They're never really alone with this personal emergency response system
- Help is only moments away with the push of a button
- Fall detection buttons available
- Installation within days
- Serving parts of Oconto, Marinette & Shawano Counties

For more information call Oconto Electric at 1-800-472-8410.





Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year

Your friends at  
Oconto Electric Cooperative wish you a  
safe and happy holiday season!

OEC Board of Directors

Doug Allen, Todd Duame, Vernon Gisenas, David Hischke,  
Dan Kanack, Ronnie Kruse, Tony Wagner

OEC & RadioShack Employees

CEO - Byron Nolde

Amy, Ben, Brenda, Brian, Cal, Chris, Chuck, Debra, Dick,  
Jack, Jan, Janae, John, Justin, Karen, Karrie, Katie, Ken, Kent,  
Kevin, Kriss, Makayla, Norm, Pam, Robin, Ron, Scott, Stachia,  
Stephanie, Steve, Sue, Terry, Tyler, Zach

During the holidays OEC will have some changes in hours of  
operation to allow employees time with their families.

Oconto Electric Cooperative will be closed on December 25, 26 and January 1.

OEC's RadioShack in Oconto Falls will be open on Sunday, December 24, 9am – 1pm  
and closed on December 25, 31 and January 1.

**TRIP OF A LIFETIME  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,  
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

Our teens are our future, and it's looking brighter every day. We hope you will consider urging your teen to "take the leap" and join our next Youth Tour delegation.

OEC is pleased to choose one delegate to represent our local co-op at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The trip is hosted by NRECA and all expenses are paid by Oconto Electric, according to our cooperative principles to support youth and community. (9100)

Any current high school sophomore or junior whose parent or guardian is a residential member of Oconto Electric Cooperative is eligible. (Residential is defined as having the primary residence within OEC's service territory.)

Applications can be found at [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) or picked up at the OEC office in Oconto Falls. Applications must be submitted on or before January 5, 2018. Applications received after January 5, 2018, will not be considered.

**HIDDEN ACCOUNT  
NUMBERS**

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The November account numbers belonged to Tim Zima, Cecil, and James Teal, Oconto.

**Byron C. Nolde, CEO**

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[www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com)

**Katie Jagiello, Editor**

