

Meet the 2015 OEC Scholarship Recipients



This year Oconto Electric Cooperative is very pleased to award 10 one-thousand dollar scholarships to area students whose parents or guardians are members of the co-op. Scholarship money comes from unclaimed capital credits. Recipients are selected by a committee of seven cooperative members who are not employees or directors of OEC.



Faith Baldwin – Faith is a graduate from Coleman High School and plans to attend Concordia University to earn a degree in nursing. Faith says, “At a young age I formed a passion for taking care of babies; since then my mind has never changed, and I have pushed to prepare myself for my nursing career.” Faith’s parents are Jay and Nicole Baldwin.



Matthew Lyng – Matthew is a graduate of Oconto Falls High School and will be attending Purdue University where he plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in business management. Matthew says, “My goal is that I will create a legacy that will accomplish ten times more than I ever could do within my own lifetime.” Matthew’s parents are Kent and Rosemary Lyng.

Benjamin Giesler – Benjamin will be attending Michigan Technological University where he plans to major in engineering. Benjamin says, “I became interested in engineering at a very young age. I find myself striving to become an engineer more and more upon my upcoming graduation.” Benjamin is a graduate of Oconto High School and his parents are Ed and Cindi Giesler.



Austin Noffke – A graduate of Peshtigo High School, Austin plans to attend Michigan Technological University to major in mechanical engineering. Austin says, “I want to take my passion, and work hard to achieve my degree. Maybe one day I can help inspire someone else to do the same.” Austin’s parents are Perry and Bev Noffke.

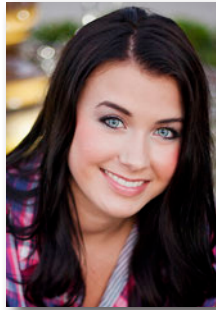


Christina Jagiello – In the fall she will attend either UW Marinette or UW River Falls to pursue an undergraduate and master’s degree in agriculture and biochemistry so that she can become a top seed geneticist for a leading seed company. A graduate of Lena High School, Christina’s parents are Bruce and Deborah Jagiello.

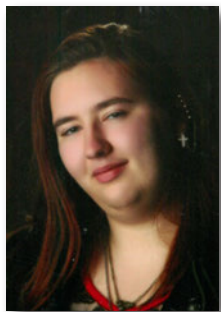


Jordan Koppa – Jordan plans to attend the University of North Dakota pursuing an Aeronautics Bachelor of Science degree with an Air Traffic Control major. Jordan says, “I desire to be enthusiastic about my profession, as well as focused and driven. I want to be a person that others will appreciate and follow.” A graduate of Oconto Falls High School and Jordan’s parents are Lyle and Brenda Koppa.

Tess Rosner – Tess will attend the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire to become a speech and language pathologist. She states, “Assisting people in their ability to communicate with others is a way to better myself as an individual and fulfill a purpose.” She is a graduate of Coleman High School. Tess’s parents are John and Kim Rosner.



Jackson Boulanger – Jackson is a graduate of Pulaski High School. After graduation he will be enrolled in the Automotive Technology Program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College. Jackson says, “I am choosing this educational path due to my love of cars. I’d rather be working in a career that I love than one I dislike.” Jackson’s parents are Dan and Diana Boulanger.



Jenna Langlay – Jenna will be attending the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Jenna is undecided in a major at this time, but she will be joining the Reserve Officer Training Corp program that would lead her into the military serving our great country as an officer. Jenna is a graduate of Oconto Falls High School and her parents are Brent and Denise Langlay.



John Blaser – John will be attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in their Criminal Justice program. John states “I would like to come back to my community and be a police officer. I believe in serving and protecting where I grew up.” John is a graduate of Oconto Falls High School, his parents are John and Amanda Blaser.

Community “Change” Continues to Touch Peoples Heart

“How is an OEC member different from a cow?” This is how Community “Change” Board of Directors President, Dale Baker started his presentation at the April OEC Annual Meeting.

Several years ago when Dale first moved to Little Suamico he asked his father-in-law, a dairy farmer, “How much milk do your cows give you? He replied, “They don’t give me anything, I have to squeeze them for every drop I can get.” Unlike those ornery cows, OEC members are generous in spirit and in action, so we don’t have to squeeze anyone to get a few cents each month.

In 1999, OEC introduced Community “Change” to their members. Members could choose to have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. As the Community “Change” fund grew, charitable or service organizations, civic groups, or individuals with special needs could apply for the money.

Over the years \$164,000 has been granted to house fire victims, libraries, individual medical funds, playground equipment, wheel chair ramps, defibrillators and much more.

Community “Change” has a separate board of directors made up of OEC members that are not OEC employ-

ees or OEC board of directors. The board meets quarterly to look over applications for Community “Change” grants and decide who will receive grant money and how much. The board of directors consists of Dale Baker, President; Ron Korzeniewski, Vice President; Joy Campushure, Secretary/Treasurer; Dan Olson, Director; Denise Langlay, Director; Virgie Damp, Director; Bob Oseland, Director.

“Thank you for reaching out and touching my heart with your kindness and support. The community change check you sent has provided the help I needed to persevere through this challenging event.” This is the kind of appreciation we frequently receive from recipients of Community “Change.” (1024300)

If you would like to contribute to Community “Change” by simply having your electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar, all you have to do is call the OEC office and tell us that you would like to be a Community “Change” contributor. ■



Summer Storm Safety

Summer is full of outdoor activities, such as graduation parties, little league games, parades, and yard work. We want to make sure that you stay safe.

Lightning strikes, power outages and electrical hazards in the aftermath of storms are top concerns during warm weather, and often cause injuries and death, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Most of these deaths could be avoided with an increased awareness of electrical safety.

Lightning awareness week is June 21-27. Lightning strikes the U.S. millions of times each year, and every strike is a potential killer. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a thunderstorm. If you are outdoors and it looks like bad weather is approaching (141600) seek safety indoors immediately. Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Water is also a conductor of electricity, so avoid contact with plumbing.

After a storm, wait until 30 minutes have passed without lightning or thunder before returning outside. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area it is raining. If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being shocked or electrocuted by the victim.

The month of June has the highest numbers of torna-



Summer storms can bring down power lines and poles, so when outdoor activities begin, adults and children alike should remember to stay away from downed lines because you can't tell if electricity is still flowing through them.

does. If a tornado or a severe storm goes through your area, please follow these tips:

- Avoid the storm damaged area
- Never drive through a flooded roadway; a downed power line could be submerged
- Stay away from downed lines and report them immediately to OEC
- If you are in your vehicle and a power line falls on top of it, stay inside your vehicle and call for help. ■

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation, Safe Electricity

OEC Annual Meeting Recap

The 78th Annual Meeting of Oconto Electric Cooperative was held on Saturday, April 11 at the Oconto Falls High School Performing Arts Center. There were 224 members registered at 10 am when the meeting was called to order.

Director terms were expiring in districts 1 and 7. Since there was no one running against the incumbent director in district 1, a motion was in order to cast an unanimous ballot for Vern Gisenas. The motion was made, seconded and carried. In district 7 incumbent director Todd Duame was challenged by Jim Gilmet, result of the vote brought Todd back for another 3 year term.

The members ratified a bylaw amendment removing the requirement for the Cooperative to issue certificates of membership. The chairman, CEO and treasurer gave their reports. The 2015 OEC scholarship recipients were presented to the membership. ■



There is Still Time to Sign Up for Our AC Load Management Program

Oconto Electric Cooperative is offering a one-time \$25 credit on your electric bill for new participants in our AC Load Management Program (Central air-conditioning units only, NOT for room units). You will also receive an \$8 credit on your electric bill during the months of June, July, August and September, provided that you have used at least 400 kilowatt hours during the billing month. If you sign up for the program, we will install a Load Management Receiver (LMR) on your air conditioner just like the receivers we install on electric water heaters.



If you are concerned about having your air conditioner controlled all day, that is not how it will work. There will be cycles of approximately 30 minutes on and 30 minutes off during the control periods. Your home will still be cool, and OEC will still be saving money. Control periods are Monday–Friday approximately 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

We have over 1,475 satisfied members already on the program. This equates to an approximate overall co-op savings of \$54,000 per month in demand charges and we are trying to increase that savings.

If you are interested in this program and would like to receive the \$25 bonus, please call us at 800-472-8410. ■

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 May account numbers belonged to Clyde Steiner, Oconto Falls and Judy Kobs, Pound.

OEC Insight



Dave Hischke
Recently
Recognized
for Years of
Service



Oconto Electric board chairman Dave Hischke recently received a gift

as a recognition for all the years of service on the Cooperative Network board and contributions as a Personnel Committee member.

Dave served on the Cooperative Network board of directors from 2005–2014. He was on the Executive Committee from 2008–2014 and on the Personnel Committee from 2009–2014. Congratulations Dave! ■



Katie Jagiello - Editor

Byron C. Nolde - CEO

7479 REA Road

PO Box 168

Oconto Falls WI 54154

(800) 472-8410

(920) 846-2816

www.ocontoelectric.com