

DISTRICT MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN EARLY JANUARY



Oconto Electric Co-op's service area is divided into seven geographic districts, and each one is served by a director. Every three years the term of the director from either two or three of the seven districts expires.

A district meeting is held primarily to get nominations 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 April 9. The 2016 district meetings will be held in Districts 2, 3, and 5.

District 2

The incumbent director in District 2 is David Hischke. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 7, 2016, at How Community Center, on State Hwy 32 west of the Village of Suring. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 2 includes members in the township of Bagley, Breed, How, Maple Valley, and Underhill in Oconto County and the Menominee Reservation.



District 3

The incumbent director in District 3 is Tony Wagner. The meeting will be held Monday, January 4, 2016, at St. John Lutheran Church, 2274 County Road C in Morgan Township. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 3 consists of the Townships of Gillett and Morgan in Oconto County and Angelica, Green Valley, Washington, and Wescott in Shawano County.



District 5

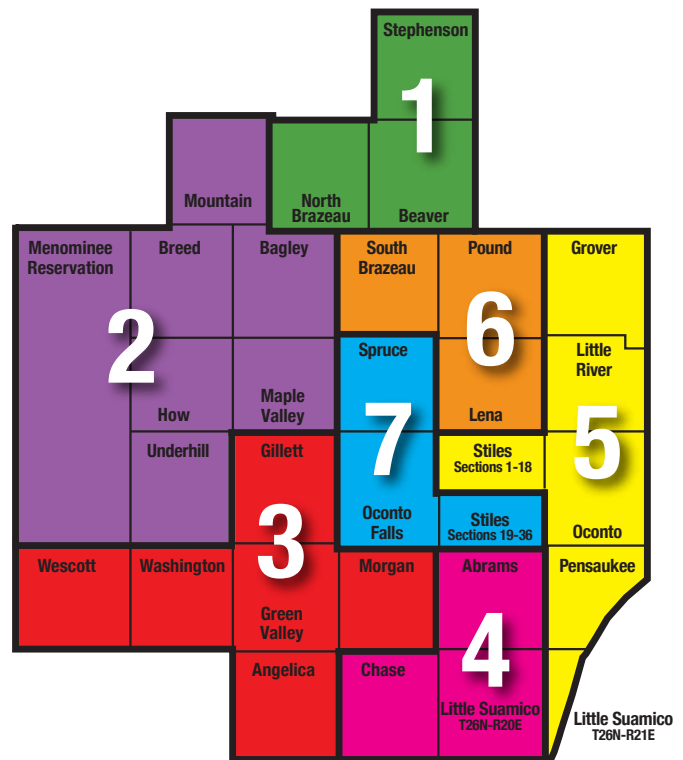
The incumbent director in District 5 is Ken Cisar. The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at First American Lutheran Church, 511 Madison Street in Oconto. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 5 consists of the townships of Grover in Marinette County and Little River, Oconto and Pensaukee in Oconto County. It also



includes sections 1-18 in Stiles Township and that part of Little Suamico Township that lies in T26N-R21E also in Oconto County.

All members within each district will receive a special invitation to the meeting late in December. All OEC members are welcome to attend a district meeting, but only the members from the specific district will be eligible to vote.

After the meeting a hot lunch is served and door prizes are awarded. At the end of each meeting a name will be drawn to win \$100 cash!



OEC DISTRICT MAP

Districts 2, 3, and 5 are all up for nominations to be elected onto the OEC board of directors.

MY CO-OP

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting at 7 p.m.

Monday, January 4 — District 3

Tuesday, January 5 — District 5

Thursday, January 7 — District 2



SENATOR THOMAS TIFFANY PAYS A VISIT TO OEC

Senator Tiffany, pictured on the right, stopped in at Oconto Electric Cooperative to discuss issues that may affect OEC's members. CEO Byron Nolde appreciates the senator's concerns for our members and the working relationship they have developed over the years that he has been in office.

Give the Gift of Energy

Do have a friend or family member who 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 and click on billing and choose gift certificates, or call Oconto Electric at 1-800-472-8410.



READY, SET, WINTERIZE!

With winter just around the corner, knowing how to prepare your home this fall can help reduce the amount of money you spend on heating this winter.

In 2014, energy.gov reported that home heating accounted for approximately 42 percent of the total energy used in an average American home. Since it makes up a significant portion of a utility bill, heating is a sensible area of focus for energy efficiency improvements and savings.

Make a habit of cleaning your furnace annually in the fall months. Removing a season of built-up debris (especially if you have pets) can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently. (88800)

Also, remember to replace your furnace filter during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the air flow and make your home more energy efficient (with the added benefit of cleaner air in your home).

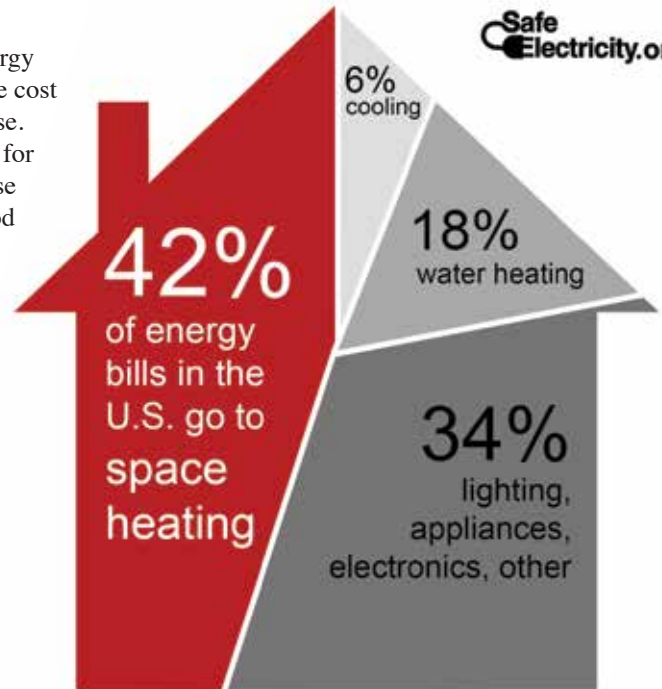
If it is time to replace the furnace itself, look for energy-efficient models or call OEC to find out more about our dual fuel program. Furnaces with an Energy Star rating usually exceed federal standards for energy efficiency and can make choosing the right model that much easier. Installing an energy-efficient furnace

can reduce your energy consumption and the cost of heating your house.

Check your home for air leaks. You can use the following method to check for them. On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick or smoke pen next to anywhere you think a leak may be (usually windows, doors, attic hatches, or any other opening to the outside). If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have found an air leak.

There are a variety of actions you can take to plug the leak, depending on its location. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following steps:

- Caulk and add weather stripping to doors and windows that leak air.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places



research collected from the U.S. Energy Information Administration

where air may leak out.

- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.

For more information on energy efficiency as well as electrical safety, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.

Avoid the 12 Dangers of Christmas
brought to you by ESPI

- 1 Do not use electronics near water.
- 2 Never sleep with electronics under the pillow.
- 3 Keep batteries safely stored in their packaging; they can be deadly if swallowed.
- 4 Do not leave space heaters unattended when in use.
- 5 Keep decorations at least 3 feet away from any open flame.
- 6 Never play with fire.
- 7 Do not run cords under carpets, rugs, furniture, or out of windows.
- 8 Do not overload outlets.
- 9 Sometimes less is more; be careful not to over decorate.
- 10 Always turn off decorations when you're sleeping or leaving your home.
- 11 Inspect all decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn.
- 12 Keep your natural Christmas tree hydrated and water it daily.

OEC EMPLOYEE WINS LOGO CONTEST

The Wisconsin REC Member Services Association noticed that their association did not have a logo to represent them. In May they decided to open up a logo design contest to their creative members. OEC's communications and marketing specialist Katie Jagiello took the opportunity to submit a logo (1013900). At the end of August, Katie received a notice that her logo had been chosen to represent The Wisconsin REC Member Services Association.

Congratulations, Katie!



Logo created by Katie Jagiello.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Oconto Electric Cooperative will be closed on December 24 and 25 and January 1 to celebrate the holiday season.

OEC's RadioShack in Oconto Falls will be closing December 24 at noon. It will be closed all day December 25 and January 1.



WINTER WORK ZONE TRAFFIC SAFETY

Each year many workers are injured or killed in work zones by being struck by a motorized vehicle. Winter driving conditions of snow and ice cause many drivers to skid or lose control of their vehicles.

Please inspect your vehicle and clear off any snow that may be on the vehicle's windows, lights, brake lights, signals, and mirrors. Accidents can be avoided if you can see and be seen.

Please slow down in work zones this winter to ensure the safety of our workers and yourself.—Source: OSHA



EDITOR'S CORNER

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving whether it was cooking, overeating, spending time with family, hunting, watching football, or shopping. Now it is time to get ready for the Christmas holiday.

What do you think of when you hear the word Christmas? When I hear *Christmas*, I always think of my grandmother's rosettes. For those of you who don't know what a rosette is, it is a thin, delicate, deep-fried pastry of the Scandinavian origin.

In an earlier issue I had mentioned that I grew up on Washington Island and that my family owns Mann's Grocery Store. Every year, a week or two before Christmas, the grocery store will host a Christmas party for its customers, and Santa will make an appearance for the kids.

My grandmother, LeVaun, will make



Photo from Wikipedia.

around 100 of her famous rosettes sprinkled with powdered sugar for the party. At the age of 89, she is still making this delicious treat for everyone to enjoy.

I hope that you have a memory or family tradition that puts a smile on your face like the thought of my grandmother's rosettes does for me.

May you and your family have a very safe and blessed Merry Christmas. —

Katie Jagiello

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 Dennis DeJardin, Little Suamico, and Dawn Kelley, Shawano.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
800-472-8410 • 920-846-2816
www.ocontoelectric.com

Katie Jagiello, Editor

OEC INSIGHT

Robin Banaszynski and Ron Friedman Recognized for 15 Years of Service



Robin has been an OEC employee since August 2, 1999. She was hired as a member services representative. In the fall of 2000, Robin

moved into her current position as the manager of retail operations at OEC's RadioShack store located in Oconto Falls. Robin says that she loves to help customers solve problems, and that it is very rewarding to her. When Robin isn't at work she is very involved at her church and loves spending time with her husband and daughter.



Ron was hired September 13, 1999, as a groundsman. He later enrolled in the apprentice lineman program, completing the program in 2004 to

become a journeyman lineman.

In Ron's free time he enjoys hunting, gardening, and riding his bicycle. Ron can also be found volunteering after work installing barn quilts that are made at New View Industries.

