



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Christmas is almost here and I wanted to take a moment to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas.

Christmas is a time for family.

I'm very excited to spend time with my grandchildren and make new memories to cherish down the road. I hope that you are able to spend time with your family and friends this Christmas season. (54502)

Can you recall your most memorable Christmas? I was in fourth grade. That Christmas I received my first new bike. I had bikes in the past, but they were hand-me-downs from my older siblings. I am the second child from the bottom

out of five kids in my family. I was very accustomed to hand-me-downs, so receiving my very own new bike was super exciting.

Do you have a Christmas tradition? I've continued a tradition that my mother started when I was a child. She would find someone who needed help and do something good for them anonymously. Sometimes it was buying gifts for a family or simply sending a Christmas card with some money in it. It brings me great joy knowing that I have brightened someone's holiday season.

As I reflect on OEC's accomplishments in 2016, I am very pleased. We hired a line-clearance tree-trimming crew, eliminating the need for paying a contractor. We are able to get more work done than in the past with the

same amount of money and by increasing the working hours.

The employees continue to focus on safety. We are way ahead of other cooperatives in Wisconsin with working over 900,000 hours with no lost-time accidents.

Going forward in 2017, I am excited to negotiate a new wholesale power contract and to start developing electric rates that would go into effect in 2019 when the new contract is active.

On behalf of OEC, I wish all of our valued members a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year in 2017.



CEO - Byron C. Nolde



DISTRICT MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN 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 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 25. The 2017 district meetings will be held in Districts 4 and 6.

District 6

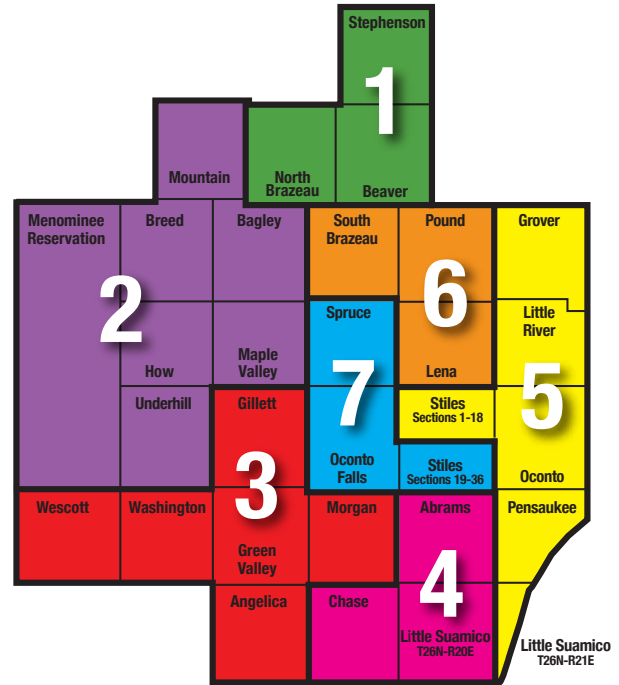
The incumbent director in District 6 is Dan Kanack. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 5, 2017, at Lena High School, 304 E Main Street in the Village of Lena. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 6 consists of the townships of Lena and South Brazeau in Oconto County and the township of Pound in Marinette County.

District 4

The incumbent director in District 4 is Doug Allen. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 19, 2017, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1253 County Road J in Little Suamico. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. District 4 includes members in the township of Abrams, Chase, and Little Suamico Township that lies in T26N-R20E also in Oconto County.

In late December, all members in Districts 4 and 6 will receive an official notice of the meetings. 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 will be served and door prizes awarded. And one lucky member at each district meeting will win \$100 cash prize!



OEC DISTRICT MAP

Districts 4 and 6 are all up for nominations of candidates to be elected onto the OEC board of directors.

CONGRESSMAN MIKE GALLAGHER PAYS A VISIT TO OEC



OECO employee Chuck Wellens meets Mike Gallagher. Congressman Reid Ribble is in the background.

Prior to winning the seat of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District during the November 8 election, Mike Gallagher along with Congressman Reid Ribble stopped at Oconto Electric Co-operative for a meet-and-greet. OEC invited some local business owners and members to the event.

Mike said that if he is elected he will work tirelessly to fix big problems rather than punting to the next generation. With that being said, OEC's CEO Byron C. Nolde and board members hope to be in regular contact with Mike to discuss policy issues that affect our member-owners.

Byron thanked Reid Ribble for the great working relationship they have developed over the years that he has been in office. (344413) He hopes to develop the same working relationship with Mike and his staff.



GIVE THE GIFT OF ENERGY

Do you 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.



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 2017 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.





Apply today! NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. June 8-15, 2017



It's the trip of a lifetime for sons and daughters of co-op members

Oconto Electric 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, exemplifying our cooperative principles to support youth and community.

More than 1,500 high school students

from across the county gather for a week in June in our nation's capitol to learn about cooperatives, the rural electric program, U.S. government, democracy, and history. Youth Tour delegates meet congressional leaders and tour our national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Smithsonian Museums.

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 or picked up at OEC. Applications must be submitted on or before January 6, 2017. Applications received after January 6, 2017, 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 John Heidersheid, Abrams, and Michael Fedor, Oconto Falls.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor

