



Left to right: Jordan Hockers, Aidan Spillane, Ethan Hischke, Logan Liptak, Tai Crowell

Five young men attend YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

In the early morning of July 25, 2018, five young men set out on a journey to the University of Wisconsin–River Falls to attend Youth Leadership Congress (YLC).

YLC is a fun, educational, and unique event that is planned by and for teens. All students had the opportunity to run for one of six spots on the Wisconsin Electric Cooperation Association Youth Board, which is tasked with planning and helping run the next year's conference. Congratulations to OEC delegate Tai Crowell, who was elected by his peers for a spot on the 2019 Youth Board.

"The WECA Leadership Congress was a wonderful experience and I'm very excited to go to Washington, D.C., next year," said Crowell.

The event is focused on educating students about cooperatives, (1008702) helping them develop or improve leadership skills, all while experiencing college life.

There were a variety of workshops, hands-on activities, group discussions, and team-building exercises. These opportunities gave students the freedom to test out their own leadership skills.

Nationally acclaimed motivational speaker Craig Hillier returned for another year. Hillier has spoken to over 2 million students in his career. He is engaging and upbeat while being 100 percent engaged with his audience. He focuses on inspiring students to exceed their potential and motivate their peers to do the same.

On the last night of the event, UW-River Falls professor Melissa Wilson led a formal, five-course etiquette dinner where students learned the basic principles of proper dinner table etiquette. The dinner was then followed by a dance.

The conference wrapped up mid-morning on Friday. Everyone had a great time and many new friendships were made.





PICNIC-GOERS ENJOY FOOD, FRIENDS, PRIZES, AND FUN!

On Saturday, August 4, OEC celebrated our annual Member Appreciation Day Picnic to show members that their patronage is greatly appreciated.

A picnic-style lunch was served from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Music was provided by DJ Scott from Tequila Jukebox. Brazeau Rescue Squad was busy doing blood pressure checks. Numerous vendors had displays set up and were available to answer questions.

We had many activities for the kids to enjoy. Lena and Oconto Falls FFA chapters had a petting zoo, Lena Swamp Archery taught members how to shoot a bow and arrow, Sid's Balloons twisted and shaped some amazing balloon animals and objects, and Holtger Brothers Inc., a contractor for OEC, provided a bounce house for the kids.

Jack Parady presented a hot-line demonstration to remind members just how dangerous electricity can be. The demonstration illustrated what can happen when objects like kites, trees and animals make contact with a live wire.

Employees held bucket raffles raising money for the 2018 employee charity that will benefit Bridge the Gap, Inc. and Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin.

Thank you to all the OEC employees, directors, friends and families who helped make the day a success.





MY CO-OP





LOOK 360° AND BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL ELECTRICAL HAZARDS!

The rush to harvest can result in farmers working long days with little sleep. Before working in a field or around shops or grain bins, always take the time to note the location of power lines, so that you can make sure to remain a safe distance from them.

Power lines can pose a major hazard for farmers. Typically, power lines over streets and rural areas have a minimal clearance of 18 feet and 12.5 feet over residential private property.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, Safe Electricity urges farm operators and workers to:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.
- If contact is made with a power line, remember, it is almost always safest to stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call the local utility provider immediately. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, “bunny hop” away.

If you see someone’s equipment in contact with a power line, the best help you can give is at a safe distance. During one of these situations, make sure to yell out to, signal, or call the equipment operator to make sure he remains in the vehicle, and notify the local utility.

For more farm and electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.



An OEC crew works to fix power lines that were recently taken down by an airplane that was dusting farm fields.

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 August magazine did not have any hidden numbers.



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