

DISTRICT MEETINGS WILL HIGHLIGHT FUTURE RATE CHANGES

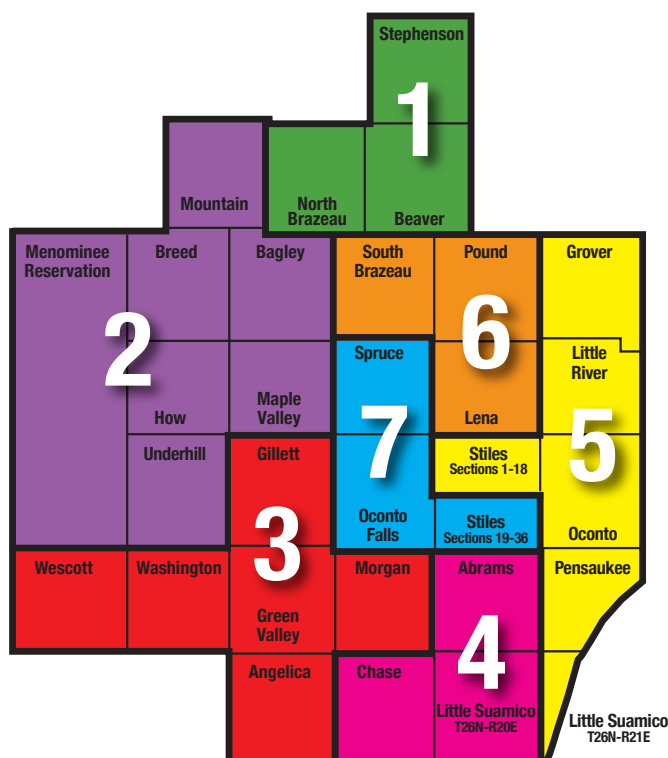


January is district meeting time for OEC. District meetings are held for members to nominate candidates for election for the upcoming Board of Director terms. In December, all members in Districts 2, 3, and 5 will receive an official notice of the meetings. All OEC members are welcome to attend district meetings, but only the members from the specific district will be eligible to vote. If you would like more information about

the director election, please call our office at 920-846-2816.

These meetings also provide Oconto Electric the opportunity to keep our members updated with co-op information. This year we will be highlight the change in rates.

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



OEC DISTRICT MAP

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

DISTRICT 2 Incumbent director is David Hischke

Friday, January 4, 2019

Registration begins 6:30 pm; Meeting begins 7:00 pm
How Community Center on State Hwy 32 west of the Village of Suring

District 2 consists of the Townships of Bagley, Breed, How, Maple Valley and Underhill in Oconto County and the Menominee Reservation.

DISTRICT 3 Incumbent director is Tony Wagner

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Registration begins 6:30 pm; Meeting begins 7:00 pm
Morgan Town Hall • 3276 County Rd C, Oconto Falls

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 Incumbent director is Ronnie Kruse

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Registration begins 6:30 pm; Meeting begins 7:00 pm
First American Lutheran Church • 511 Madison St, Oconto

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.

MY CO-OP



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.



OEC EMPLOYEES DID IT AGAIN

\$14,000 raised for local organizations

Co-op principle number seven: commitment to community. Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) employees really take this principle to heart. Since 2004, OEC employees have awarded \$96,000 to charities and organizations. (883801)

OEC employees worked all year to raise \$9,000 and promote awareness for the selected charities. The largest events were the charity golf outing, candy bar sales, and the Bag Lunch To Go. CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders, also donated \$5,000 as part of its Sharing Success program. Employees were able to distribute \$7,000 to Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW) and \$7,000 to Bridge the Gap, Inc.

DSAW Green Bay Chapter serves approximately 60 families across Brown, Oconto, Marinette, Door and Kewaunee counties. It is a volunteer driven organization that is 100% funded by private individuals, corporations and foundations.

DSAW, which started in 2008, provides support through awareness, education, information, programs, services and the exchange of ideas and experiences. The organization holds monthly events for individuals with down syndrome and their families.

It is estimated that more than 3.5 million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder. Bridge the Gap, Inc., founded by Lesley Laluzerne in 2008, helps families navigate the challenges that those face living with autism, with special attention paid to individual needs.

Bridge the Gap provides programs such as daily living skills, individual/group therapies, summer camps, preschool, sensory swim, teen programs, individualized education plan assistance, social skills classes, friendship groups, employment and community support. Located in Shawano, this incredible non-profit organization funded by donations and grants, continues to grow.

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference."
Kathy Calvin - Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Foundation



Rate Announcement

Dear Oconto Electric Cooperative Member:

At the October 2018 board meeting, the OEC Board of Directors approved a change in rates to take place under our new wholesale power contract. We have not had a rate adjustment since 2014. The new rates and changes will apply to your usage beginning on January 1, 2019.

Please watch your mail for a more detailed letter and the January magazine will feature all the rate changes.

NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

June 14-20, 2019

Trip of a lifetime for sons and daughters of co-op members

Apply today!

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, (423501) according to our cooperative principles to support youth and community.

More than 1,500 high school students

from across the country 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 2, 2019. Applications received after January 2, 2019 will not be considered.



Holiday LIGHTING Safety

- Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL label**.
- Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.
- Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.
- Don't throw lights over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.
- Always unplug lights before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

OCONTO ELECTRIC
OEC
COOPERATIVE



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

TAKE A PEEK GIFTS & GOURMET FOODS

Whether you're shopping for Christmas, a birthday or housewarming gift, Take A Peek Gifts & Gourmet Foods has it all. There's something to please everyone on your list!

When you walk through the door you will be greeted with a smile and a warm welcome from shop owner Cheryl Bushmaker. Cheryl opened the shop six years ago with her husband Chuck.

The initial purpose of the shop was to offer something in a small town that you usually might drive to Green Bay or Appleton for, yet could still accommodate a small town budget. And that is just what Cheryl has done with her shop.

Cheryl's shop has a great assortment from gourmet foods, home goods and accessories, seasonal and home decor, to jewelry, soaps, lotions, candles and more. She even does complimentary gift wrapping.

Take A Peek Gifts & Gourmet Foods is located at 218 Sunset Ave, Coleman, WI 54112.

Hours of operation are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. She can be reached at 920-897-2266 or takeapeek@centurylink.net.



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 Joan Gauthier, Oconto Falls and Cleve Lipp, Abrams.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor

