



ANNUAL MEETING WELL RECEIVED BY MEMBERS

A blustery cold morning didn't deter 266 OEC members and guests from attending their annual meeting on Saturday, March 30, in the Performing Arts Center at Oconto Falls High School.

David Hischke presented a chairman's report reflecting on the seven cooperative principles. Principle one: Open and Voluntary Membership – if you buy power from us, you are a member.

Principle two: Democratic Member Control – you, the member, elect a board.

Principle three: Members Economic Participation – in 2018 OEC was able to return about \$475,000 to our members in the form of capital credits. Hischke shared that OEC had another unqualified audit, which is a good thing. He also announced that over the next several years OEC will be updating your meters. The ones we have now are starting to show their age. The new meters will communicate over the power lines just like the old ones. They will provide us with information more frequently, detect meter tampering, allow us to detect outages sooner resulting in faster restore time, and enable us to detect if the electrical problem is on our side or the member's side.

Principle four: Autonomy and Independence – we spend a good deal of time and money working in Madison to preserve that right.

Principle five: Education, Training and Information – we make sure that staff finds the right training programs. For OEC, safety is key. Employees achieved the milestone of one million safe working hours.

Principle six: Cooperation Among Cooperatives – we belong to the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA). WECA's primary purpose is to maintain the low level of government regulation that goes with principle four.

Principle seven: Concern for Community – we reach out to help our community in many ways. We own a RadioShack store in Oconto Falls that has brought in \$1 million in sales,



OEC employee Kriss Krause receives military documents and a medal for her grandfather who served in World War I by Congressman Mike Gallagher.

which goes directly to reducing your cost of electricity.

The Community Change bill-rounding program has distributed 310 grants since 2000 for a total of \$160,458. Since 2001, \$26,200 has been provided to 59 families who suffered loss to their homes due to fires.

CEO Byron Nolde started his report with a moment of silence for all who have served in the military, which was followed by Echo Taps, played by two Oconto Falls high school band students.

Congressman Mike Gallagher presented Kriss Krause with information on her grandfather's service in World War I, along with a medal and pin.

Attorney Howard Eslein announced that three incumbents were the sole board nominees in prior district meetings, and the membership ratified the re-elections of David Hischke, Tony Wagner, and Ronnie Kruse on voice votes with no opposition heard. The meeting was followed by door prizes and a hot lunch.



Thirteen \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to area high school seniors. The money comes from unclaimed capital credits.



ELECTRIC METERS NEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE 24/7

At the annual meeting, OEC Chairman David Hische stated, “Over the next several years we will be updating your meters. The ones we have now are starting to show their age. The new meters will communicate over the power lines just like the old ones. They will provide us with information more frequently, detect meter tampering, allow us to detect outages sooner resulting in faster restore time, and we can detect if the electrical problem is on our side or the member’s side.”

Automated calls will be placed informing members that we will be in their area doing scheduled maintenance and they will experience a momentary outage.

Every time we do these calls, we have a few phone numbers that bounce back as disconnected, changed, or it’s the wrong person altogether. If you ever change your phone number, please call us at 920-846-2816, or there is a spot on your bill stub to make the change as well.

Even when located on your property, electrical equipment is the property of Oconto Electric Cooperative, and must be accessible to our crews at all times. Why?

Emergencies

In the event of a fire, crews must be able to

shut the power off before firefighters can begin their work. Every second counts during such a critical event.

Maintenance

OEC routinely checks and maintains meters to make sure equipment hasn’t been damaged and is in good working condition.

Outages

Some equipment must be accessed in the event of a power outage. If the equipment is inaccessible it can cause longer outages for you and your neighbors.

Locked Gate

If your property has a gate that requires a key, OEC can provide a lock that can be opened with both your key and the key held by OEC. We respect your privacy (965000) as a property owner, and will only access our equipment when needed.

If we can’t access the equipment, we will be contacting you and will return when the problem is resolved. This isn’t ideal for our crews, it’s costly to the co-op, and it could be a dangerous. Thank you for ensuring safety for our crews by keeping electrical equipment on your property accessible!



The meter is hidden.



Photo on the left: The service going into the home is circled. Can you see the meter? No. The meter is inside of the property and not properly installed where it is accessible. Middle: The path to the meter is blocked. Photo on the right: We can’t safely get into the meter that is surrounded by decking.

TAKE THE LEAP!

JOIN US AT
Youth Leadership Congress
 UW-River Falls | July 24-26, 2019



The annual **WECA Youth Leadership Congress** is a dynamic three-day event for youth leaders across Wisconsin to develop their **leadership skills** while learning about the purpose, operation and scope of cooperative businesses.

Meet Tai Crowell, OEC's 2019 YLC Youth Board Member



My name Tai Crowell. I am senior at Ashwaubenon High School, and my family is a member of OEC.

This past summer I had the opportunity to attend WECA Youth Leadership Congress (YLC). I learned how a co-op serves the community, how and why co-ops were created, and how they help communities across the United States.

At YLC I created new friendships while learning and connecting with other Wisconsinites. I was also given the chance to run for the Youth Board and made it.

It is the Youth Board's responsibility to plan and run YLC the following year. I also get to travel to Washington, D.C., in June. I'm really looking forward to it.

If you are a sophomore, junior, or senior high school student interested in attending this great leadership conference with me, please contact Katie Jagiello at OEC by calling 800-472-8410 or email kjagiello@ocontolectric.com. Space is limited. Deadline to sign up is June 17, 2019. More information can be found at www.ocontolectric.com/youth-leadership-congress.

TERRY FARRAR, ENERGY SERVICES SUPERVISOR, RETIRES



Congratulations to Terry Farrar on his retirement from Oconto Electric Cooperative later in May after 12 years with the cooperative. His primary duties

were handling the dual fuel and load management programs.

Terry has been great for members of OEC and will be missed. We wish him all the best in retirement as he looks forward to getting projects done around his farm that have been pushed to the side, and going on some horseback riding excursions.

With thankfulness and much appreciation, the board and staff of OEC wish Terry the best in the years to come!



Oconto Electric Cooperative and OEC's RadioShack in Oconto Falls will be closed on Monday, May 27, in honor of Memorial Day.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

NORTHWOODS VETERINARY CLINIC, LLC



Owners of the clinic, Dr. Corey Gallagher and his wife, Kaethe, who is the office manger.

Northwoods Veterinary Clinic, LLC in Gillett is a full-service small animal hospital that takes both emergency cases as well as less urgent medical, surgical, dental, and preventative care cases.

Dr. Corey Gallagher and his wife, Kaethe, purchased the clinic in 2011. Their kind, caring, professional staff is dedicated to enhancing the human-animal bond by providing quality care and service to its clients and patients.

Dr. Gallagher's passion to become a veterinarian began when he started raising and breeding English Springer Spaniels and training them for field trials. He finished his degree in 2010.

Dr. Gallagher's favorite part of the job is helping the clients keep their pets around as long as possible and get them through any sick events.

The clinic carries a variety of specialty cat and dog foods. Their website also has a very extensive online store that carries food, medicine, and supplies for cats and dogs.

For more information on Northwoods Veterinary Clinic, LLC, go to www.northwoodsvetcenter.com or follow them on Facebook.

They are located at 9920 Hwy. 22 E, Gillett, WI 54214. Phone: 920-855-2229.

Business hours: Monday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wednesday closed, Thursday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

If you have suggestions for businesses that are on OEC's power lines, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or call Katie at 920-846-2816.

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 April account numbers belonged to David Stodola, Lena, and Darryl Greetan, Oconto Falls.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor



Portabella & White Bean Stew

Submitted by Pam Langlay, OEC Employee

- 1 3/4 C. Chicken Stock
- 4 oz. Portabella Mushrooms, sliced
- 4 oz. White Mushrooms, quartered
- 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- 1 Onion, thinly sliced
- 2 Tablespoons Minced Garlic
- 1/2 Teaspoon Salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon Pepper
- 3 Small Tomatoes, chopped
- 1 Teaspoon Rosemary
- 1 (19 oz.) Can White Beans, drained and rinsed

Heat oil in medium pan over medium-high heat. Add onion, garlic, salt and pepper. Cook until onion is translucent, about 3 minutes. Add mushrooms; cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, rosemary, chicken stock, and beans. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; simmer until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com or mail it to Oconto Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154. If your recipe is printed, you will receive a gift.



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