



MAINSTREET MESSENGER PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Oconto Electric Cooperative can help ease your mind

Oconto Electric Cooperative (OEC) has provided the MainStreet Messenger program since 1999 with excellent results. MainStreet Messenger is 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.

We have over 130 clients, who, along with their families, are very pleased with our program. We provide ongoing support to our valued MainStreet Messenger clients. We're just a phone call away to answer your questions or provide service on the equipment. We are here to help you.

MainStreet Messenger Unit Options

We have units available which connect to your working home telephone line, or units that can work off of a cellular network. Landline units cost \$30 per month with a one-time installation fee of \$25. Cellular units cost \$40 per month with a one-time installation fee of \$35.

How MainStreet Messenger Works

A medical alert pendant will be given to you to wear around your neck or on your wrist. When you push the button on your pendant, it will signal the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) that you need help. Within seconds, someone from the response center will attempt to speak with you through the speaker on the unit. At that time you will communicate with CRC to request the help you need. CRC will then contact someone from the list of responders that you provided during

the installation, and let them know that you need assistance. Responders should be people who live near you so they can respond to your need for help quickly. CRC can also call a rescue squad if the situation requires additional help.

Customer Support

A cooperative employee is available seven days a week to help you with such things as maintenance of the unit or pendant. There are no extra fees for these services. At the time of installation we will gather information including your address, phone number, and medical history, as well as names and addresses of the people you would like called if you need help. If any of this information changes, simply give us a call and we will take care of getting those changes to the response center.

How do I get my MainStreet Messenger?

Simply call the office at (920) 846-2816 or toll-free 1-800-472-8410 and ask for Katie Jagiello. She will schedule the installation or answer any questions you might have.

"I've had my MainStreet Messenger since 2014 and I am a very firm believer in it! I have had to use it twice already. I was also a responder for a friend who had one. I had gotten a call to go and help her because she had fallen and hit her head. She was on blood thinners at the time and bleeding a lot. If she hadn't been able to push her button and get help, I really think she would have bled to death."
—Verna Peterson, Oconto Falls

SAFETY FOR SENIORS AT HOME



MainStreet Messenger allows seniors to be safe while being independent and living at home.

- You're never really alone with this personal emergency response program
- Help is only moments away with push of a button
- Installation within days

PEACE OF MIND FOR ONLY A DOLLAR A DAY!



(920) 846-2816

Serving parts of Oconto, Marinette & Shawano Counties
www.ocontoelectric.com



IT'S DISTRICT MEETING TIME AGAIN!

One of the best differences between OEC and most other utilities is where the control (the power to guide the way the utility is run) lies. When you buy power from an investor-owned utility, the control lies with the chief executive officer. You have no say in who that person is, and you probably don't know what state that person lives in, or even where the board meetings are held. The profits made by investor-owned utilities go to the investors.

When you are a member of OEC, you are also a part owner. The profits made by OEC go to you in the form of capital credits. The control lies with our board of directors. The seven people on our board are all local people who live and work in this area and are elected by you. The decisions they make affect their lives as much as yours and mine. You, our member,

can help decide who guides our cooperative.

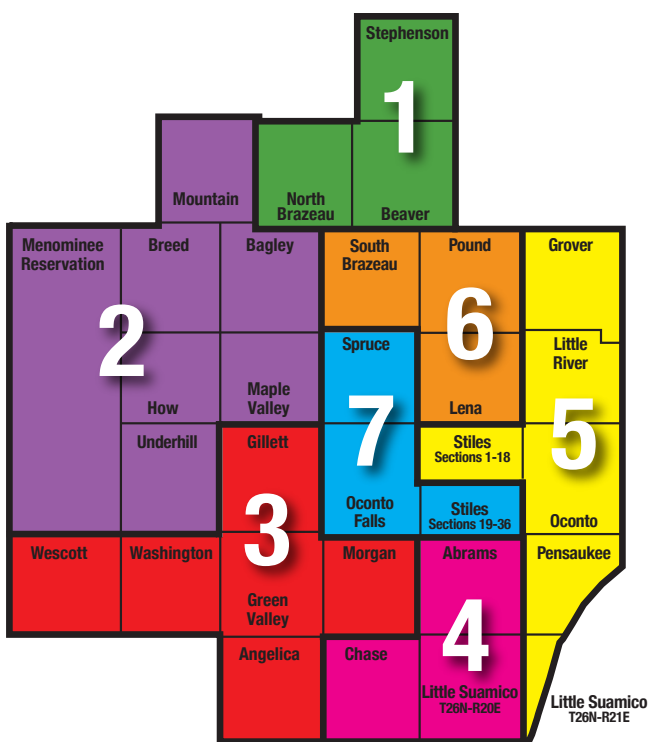
January is district meeting time for OEC. District meetings are held for members to nominate candidates for election for the upcoming board of director terms. The persons nominated must reside within the district they are running for. If there are two nominations, those names will be placed on a ballot, and every member of OEC is entitled to vote at the annual meeting on March 28, 2020.

Being a cooperative member has benefits and responsibilities. To make the cooperative system work, it is your responsibility to attend the district and annual meetings to cast a vote and make your voice heard.

In December, all members in Districts 4 and 6 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.

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



OEC DISTRICT MAP

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

DISTRICT 4

Incumbent director is Doug Allen

Monday, January 6, 2020

Registration begins 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, 1253 County Road J in Little Suamico

District 4 consists of the townships of Abrams and Chase, and Little Suamico township that lies in T26N-R20E, also in Oconto County.

DISTRICT 6

Incumbent director is Dan Kanack

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Registration begins 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.
Lena High School, 304 E Main Street in the Village of Lena

District 6 consists of the Townships of Lena and South Brazeau in Oconto County, and the township of Pound in Marinette County.



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.

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

APPLY TODAY!

NRECA Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

June 19–25, 2020

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, according to our cooperative principles to support youth and community.

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 must be submitted on or before January 3, 2020. Applications received after January 3, 2020, will not be considered. Application can be found at www.ocontoelectric.com.

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

Visiting a place like Washington, D.C., might sound like a far-away dream for

high school students who grow up in rural Wisconsin. But every year, several cooperative students are given the opportunity to travel to the capital for an intensive weeklong tour—and it doesn't cost them a dime.

In June, the Wisconsin Government-in-Action Youth Tour, sponsored by the state's rural electric cooperatives in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), sends select students on an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital. In Washington, tour participants get to see with their own eyes sights many have only experienced in history books or on television.

In addition to visiting monuments, museums, and historical sites that would be part of any standard tour, the students also fulfill the goal of then U.S. Sen. Lyndon Johnson, who inspired the Youth Tour when addressing the NRECA annual meeting in 1957, for

young people to “actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Tour participants get to meet their members of Congress, hear inspirational speakers, and interact with other Youth Tour participants from across the country. Additionally, Wisconsin students have the chance to witness the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, see the Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima War Memorial, and tour the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives chambers.

During the intense week on the go—traveling, eating, and touring together—many of the Youth Tour participants form fast friendships that continue after they return home. Inspired by their trip, many Youth Tour alumni have gone on to become co-op leaders or perform other public service. Ask almost any of the alumni about their experience, and they will describe it as “the trip of a lifetime.” (959600)



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**

*Our offices will be closed on
Dec. 24 & 25 and Jan. 1.*

OCONTO ELECTRIC
OEC
COOPERATIVE

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. Call Oconto Electric at 1-800-472-8410.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip:
Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov





BUSINESS SHOWCASE

MY SISTER'S SHOP

My Sister's Shop is a great little gift shop located off of Hwy 141 in Stiles. In October of 2016 sisters Cathy Hodkiewicz and Lisa Staidl decided it was time to have a place to go with their creativity and share it with others. Their family (siblings, spouses) has always had a passion for artwork, crafting, and woodworking. You can find some of their creative pieces in the store as well as Cathy and Lisa's.

Whether you're shopping for Christmas, a birthday, wedding, baby, or housewarming gift, My Sister's Shop has a little bit of everything. You can find up-cycled items, crafted and new gifts, decor and re-purposed furniture. You can also find their homemade pure soy candles, a definite favorite of their shoppers. The scents of the candles change with the seasons.

If you have that difficult person to shop for, My Sister's Shop has gift certificates, or they can help you come up with a personalized item.

My Sister's Shop is located at 6246 Duane Rd., Lena, WI 54139. They can be reached at 920-604-2144 or found on Facebook under My Sister's Shop.

Hours of operation are: Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Open Fridays in December until Christmas, 5 –8 p.m.



Chocolate NO BAKE Xmas Balls

Submitted by Audry Ganzel, OEC Member

- 2-½ Cups Graham Cracker Crumbs
- 1 Tub Chocolate Frosting (can use no sugar version, but regular works just as well)
- ½ Stick Butter at room temp. (don't melt)
- 1 Carton Dipping Chocolate (Bakers in section by chocolate chips)
- 1 Cup Walnuts (ground up)

Mix butter and frosting with mixer, add graham crackers. Make into 1" balls (I used my drop cookie utensil). Cool in refrigerator for half hour. Melt chocolate in microwave according to instructions on carton. Dip chocolate balls half-way into chocolate and then dip into nuts. Refrigerate until set. Store in air tight container.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please email kjagiello@ocontolectric.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.*

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 Terry Middlestaedt, Little Suamico, and Paul Kust, Coleman.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor

