



GET READY 2020 GRADUATES – OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL BE AWARDING TWELVE \$2,500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO AREA STUDENTS



- ✓ apply to college
- ✓ pick major
- ✓ find money for school

Scholarship applications now available

MY CO-OP

Additional Scholarship

Oconto Electric Cooperative is also offering one \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating senior who is attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in the Electrical Power Distribution program.

Applying for a Scholarship

Scholarship applications are available from local high school guidance counselors, online at www.ocontoelectric.com, or call OEC at 800-472-8410 to have an application mailed.

A parent or guardian of the applicant must be a residential member of Oconto Electric Cooperative (residential is defined as purchasing power from OEC for your primary residence).

Scholarship Deadline

Completed scholarship applications should be at OEC's office no later than Friday, February 14, 2020.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a volunteer committee of OEC members who are not employees or directors of the co-op. Recipients will be asked to attend the cooperative's annual meeting on March 28, 2020, to receive recognition from the membership.

Where does the scholarship money come from?

At the end of each year, when the financial books are closed and OEC determines that year's profit margins, those margins are allocated back to the members in the form of capital credits. That money stays at the co-op and is used for approximately 20 years, at the end of which time it is retired back to the members.

As capital credits are retired, members who still purchase power from Oconto Electric after 20 years will receive either a bill credit or refund check when a retirement is made. For anyone who no longer purchases power from OEC, the co-op will mail their checks to the last known address.

After a number of attempts to get the funds to the people they belong to, any money that is not claimed goes into the scholarship fund.

Questions?

Information can be found at www.ocontoelectric.com. If you have questions, you can also call OEC at 800-472-8410 or email planglay@ocontoelectric.com.

Apply on or before February 14, 2020.



Don't Wait. Be Prepared Before the Storm.

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers, and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm.

On November 30, Winter Storm Ariana moved through Northeast Wisconsin bringing a mix of rain, sleet, and 8–12 inches of snow. The heavy snow caused tree branches to hit—and in some cases go through—the power lines, causing numerous outages throughout our service territory. Some members were without power for a continuous 38 hours.

Crews worked on average 16 hours a day to restore

power. On December 2, we were able to have two linemen from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, and four linemen from the City of Oconto Falls Municipality help us with the power restoration.

Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener, and

portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.
- Do you have an alternative place to go?

With Advance Warning

Fully charge all cell phones, laptops, and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch that prevents back feed, which happens when energy from your generator goes back onto the utility electrical equipment. This is very dangerous. A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

During a Prolonged Outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers, and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas or snow where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs—including on your property.

Power in Planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Act today, because there is power in planning.



Thank you to everyone who entered the 12 Days of Christmas Giveaways. All prizes were purchased from Oconto Electric Cooperative members. (541501)

- Day 1: Carole Reinke, Oconto Falls – \$25 Club 32
- Day 2: Susan Mortier, Lena – \$25 OEC Bill Credit
- Day 3: Jay Boucher, Oconto Falls – \$25 Shell Gas Station
- Day 4: Kathy Morris, Suring – \$25 Meatskis
- Day 5: Ken Nasgovitz, Pound – \$25 Kwik Trip
- Day 6: David Konop, Pound – \$25 Coleman Floral
- Day 7: Maribeth Vincent, Abrams – \$25 Steel Moose Bar & Grill
- Day 8: Tammi Garsow, Gillett – \$25 Sandy Corners Bar & Grill
- Day 9: Tony Dybdal, Pound – \$25 Take A Peek
- Day 10: Richard Stein, Little Suamico – \$25 OEC Bill Credit
- Day 11: Steve Wirth, Oconto – \$25 Jo Jo's Diner
- Day 12: Donna Staidl, Oconto – \$25 Subway



Winner, Carole Reinke.

Congratulations

The following employees were recently recognized for their years of service.

45 YEARS
Chuck Wellens

40 YEARS
Pam Langlay

35 YEARS
Karen Friedman

30 YEARS
John Havemeier
Kent Lyng

20 YEARS
Robin Banaszynski
Ron Friedman

5 YEARS
Katie Jagiello

The following directors were recently recognized for their years of service.

35 YEARS
Doug Allen

30 YEARS
Tony Wagner



BUSINESS SHOWCASE

WAYNE'S JERKY

For over 25 years, Wayne Ward worked at a local paper mill. When he retired, he spent most of his time fishing. Wayne also began making beef jerky for friends and family using a few dehydrators and his own recipes. Soon, he was getting calls from complete strangers wanting his jerky. So much for retirement, it was back to work for Wayne.

Wayne and his friend Jim designed and built both a regular and stainless

steel dehydrator. He found beef, spice, and packaging suppliers, and his brother Jimmy helped him make and package the jerky. Wayne's girlfriend kept the books and his daughter-in-law designed a logo that looks a bit like him.

Finally, in 2006, "Wayne's Jerky" became available for Wisconsin residents. At first, local bars carried his beef jerky. Then, area grocery and convenience stores picked it up. He also sold directly to his customers at both the Green Bay

Farmers Market on Broadway and the Downtown Appleton Farmers Market.

Now Wayne's Jerky is sold in over 40 grocery and convenience stores in Northeast Wisconsin. Since Wisconsin summers are so short and more and more

people are asking to buy jerky directly from him, Wayne felt the time was right to make his jerky available online.

Now you don't have to worry if you miss the markets or your favorite flavor sells out at the

store. You can get Wayne's Jerky anytime; he's got many delicious flavors that come in beef, turkey, and mushroom.

Wayne's Jerky is located at 625 W. Frontier Rd., Little Suamico, WI 54141. He can be reached at 920-639-4842.

Website is www.waynesjerky.com, and he can be found on Facebook too.

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. December account numbers belonged to Peter Gard, Lena, and Rita Debauche, Oconto.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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www.ocontoelectric.com

Katie Jagiello, Editor



Easy Banana Bread

Submitted by Lonnie Pillath, OEC Member

- 1 Box Yellow Cake Mix
- 4 Mashed Bananas
- 2 Eggs

Mix all together. I like to sprinkle brown sugar on top. Makes 2 loaves. Bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes or until done when toothpick comes out clean.

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.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov (6302)

