



## OEC EMPLOYEES RAISE \$20,000 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 \$153,000 to charities and organizations.

OEC employees worked all year to raise \$10,000. The grants were made possible in part through the proceeds made at the charity golf outing, the Bag Lunch To Go, and through the sale of candy bars. CoBank, one of the co-op's lenders, also donated \$10,000 as part of its Sharing Success Grant program.

"On September 28, we held our 16th Annual Bag Lunch To Go. This event continues to grow each year thanks to the support of the local businesses in the area. In two hours we made 501 pulled pork sandwiches and delivered them," explained Katie Jagiello, co-op employee.

"The employees at OEC are grateful for the support that the community and OEC members give to the charity. A lot of work goes into fundraising, but it is all worth it when you see

how grateful the charities are," said Jagiello.

The following charities received \$5,000:

Abrams Fire Department — replacement of outdated personal protective equipment.

Oconto Falls Area Cycling Coalition — expanding the trail system and adding a storage building to house equipment.

Underhill Volunteer Fire Department — installation of foam system on fire engine.

Shawano Area Matthew 25, Inc. (SAM25)— new appliances and water softener system.

"If you've never heard of SAM25, please take the time to learn more about them. It was a real eye-opener for me after touring the facility and gaining an understanding of what they have available for those less fortunate right here in our back yard," said Jagiello. To learn more about SAM25 or to see how you can make a difference in someone's life, visit their website at [www.SAM25.org](http://www.SAM25.org).



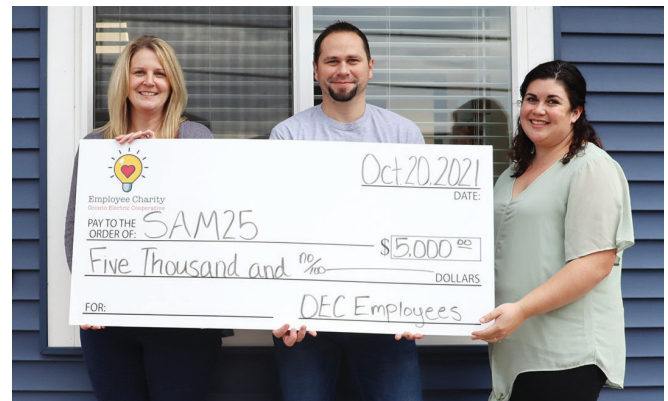
L to R: Stephanie Paitl, Abrams Fire Chief John Ferfecki, and Stachia Desterheft.



L to R: Katie Jagiello and Devin Wirtz (OFACC member).



L to R: Byron Nolde, Robin Banaszynski, Amy Winkler, Brenda Friction, Kriss Krause, and Underhill Fire Chief Mark Winkler.



L to R: Brenda Friction, SAM25 Executive Director Matt Kadlec, and Nicole Zaidl.



## DISTRICT MEETINGS SERVE AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION

Each year we have district meetings in accordance with your cooperative's bylaws. The district meeting serves as a prelude to the upcoming annual meeting in April. The meeting is held to place names on the ballot for director positions.

As a member of Oconto Electric Cooperative, you have a unique opportunity to take an active role in the business of your electric cooperative—because you're not just a customer, you're a member-owner, too.

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.

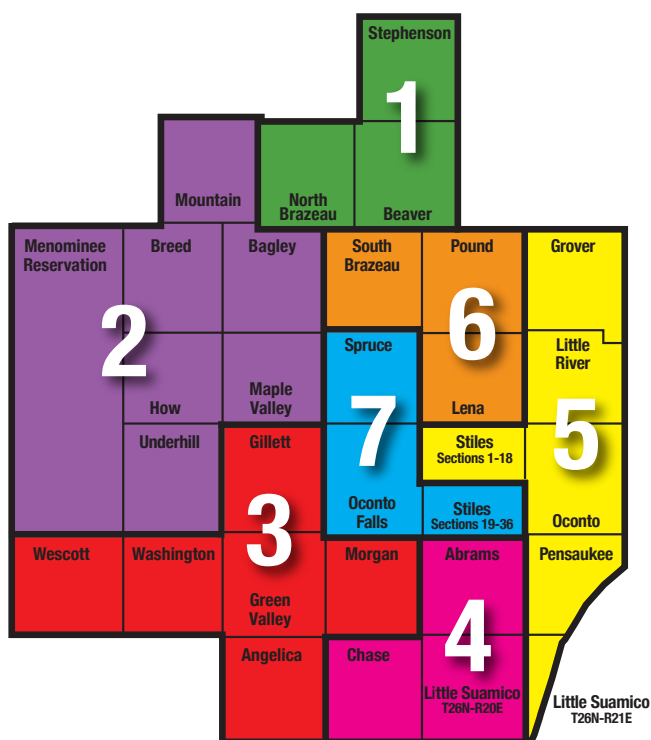
In January, members in Districts two, three, and five will be able to nominate candidates for election for the upcoming

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 upcoming annual meeting.

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 have your vote count.

In January, all members in Districts two, three and five 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.



**OEC DISTRICT MAP (198702)**

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

### DISTRICT 2

**Incumbent director — David Hischke**

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Registration begins 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.

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 — Tony Wagner**

Monday, January 17, 2022

Registration begins 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.

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 — Ronnie Kruse**

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Registration begins 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.

Oconto Town Hall • 6120 Cream City Road, 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.*



### 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.

# BE SAFE DURING THE *HO·HO·HOLIDAYS* 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



*Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:*

**1**

Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.

**2**

Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.

**3**

Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.

**4**

Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.

**5**

Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.

**6**

String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.

**7**

Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.

**8**

Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.

**9**

Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.

**10**

Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.

**Safe** LEARN MORE AT:  
**Electricity.org®**



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

### Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



MY CO-OP







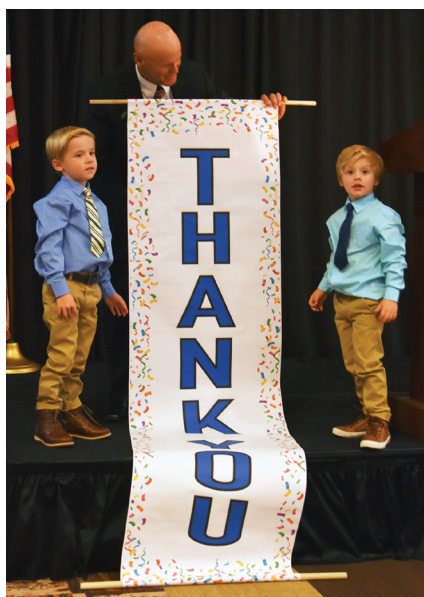
## CONGRATULATIONS BYRON NOLDE 2021 ACE Award Recipient

The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) awarded Byron Nolde, CEO of Oconto Electric Cooperative, the annual Ally of Cooperative Electrification (ACE) award. The ACE award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the electric cooperative industry.

Nolde graduated from Saginaw Valley State University and worked in business, finance, and accounting early in his career. (244502) He served as vice president and chief financial officer with Presque Isle Electric and Gas, where he started in 1989. He has served as CEO for Oconto Electric since 2003.

“As a member of Oconto Electric, I have witnessed Byron’s leadership in advancing positive change. Examples include: innovative rate structures, reliability enhancements, innovative wholesale electric power pricing contracts, green pricing programs, electric charging stations, and a host of other member-oriented initiatives,” wrote Barbara Nick, who recently retired as CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative.

WECA and OEC would like to congratulate Byron Nolde, recipient of the 2021 ACE Award, and thank him for his many contributions to the industry.



OEC offices will be closed December 23 & 24 for Christmas. We hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful holiday season filled with light, love and fellowship.

OEC wishes you a joyous 2022! OEC offices will be closed on January 3. May the New Year bring you happiness, peace and prosperity.



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

**10 YEARS**

**Ken Clausen**

**5 YEARS**

**Calvin Kilmer**

**Norman Peterson**

## 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 Claudia Bartz, Suring, and Donald Adams, Oconto Falls.

**Byron C. Nolde, CEO**

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**Katie Jagiello, Editor**

