

DISTRICT MEETINGS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

At district meetings, you can exercise the privilege, responsibility, and benefit of being a member of Oconto Electric Cooperative—because you're not just a customer, you're a member-owner too. To make the cooperative system work, it is your responsibility to attend the district and annual meetings to have your vote count.

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-owner, can help decide who guides our cooperative.

Meetings are staggered so members in a particular district meet once every three years at a location within the district. Information is provided on new programs and services, as well as updates on electric utility industry issues that could affect your cooperative. The district meeting serves as a prelude to the upcoming annual meeting in April. The district meeting is held to place names on the ballot for director positions.

In January, members in Districts 1 and 7 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.

District 1

The incumbent director in District 1 is Dennis Langenberg. The meeting will be held Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at Elizabeth Washabeck Memorial Building (Brazeau Ambulance Facility), 12128 Parkway Road, Pound. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. District 1 includes members in the township of Beaver, Stephenson, and the north part of Brazeau Township (T31N-R18E).



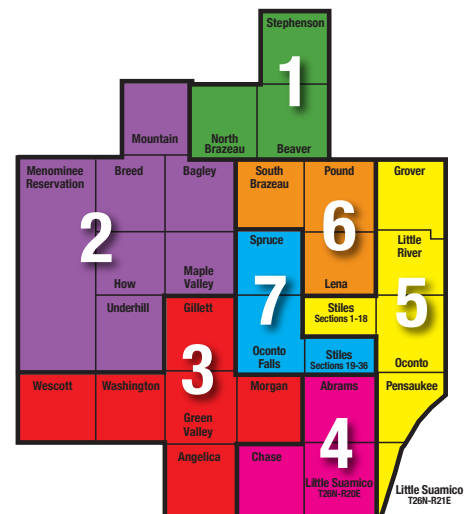
District 7

The incumbent director in District 3 is Todd Duame. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 4, 2024, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in the lower level, 253 N Franklin Street, Oconto Falls. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. District 7 consists of the townships of Oconto Falls and Spruce, and sections 19 through 36 in the township of Stiles.

In December, all members in Districts 1 and 7 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.

Any interested OEC member residing in Districts 1 or 7 wishing to be nominated to represent your district should stop in and see Kriss Krause, executive assistant, for more information and to complete a Director Qualification Form.

After the meeting door prizes will be awarded (\$93314) and a name will be drawn to win \$100 cash!



OEC DISTRICT MAP

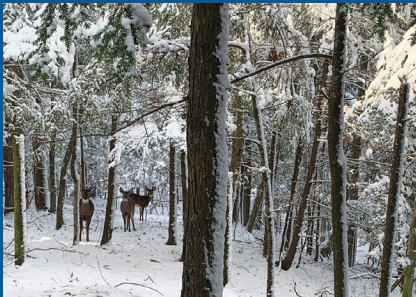
Districts 1 and 7 are all up for nominations to be elected onto the OEC board of directors.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 **WINNERS** OF THE MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST



JANUARY

Lisa Bowen



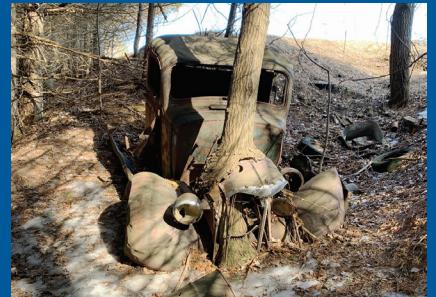
FEBRUARY

Kathleen Drews



COVER

Katie Jagiello



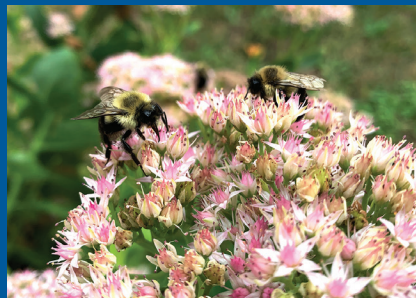
MARCH

Katie Jagiello



APRIL

Amy Winkler



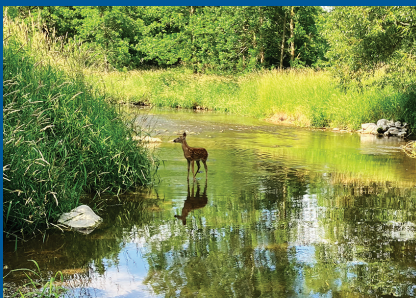
MAY

Diana Boulanger



JUNE

Donald Hein



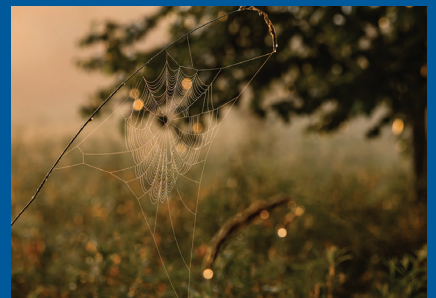
JULY

Clara Bieber



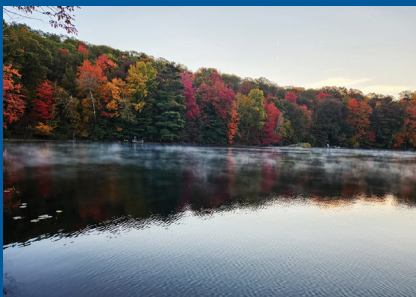
AUGUST

Katie Jagiello



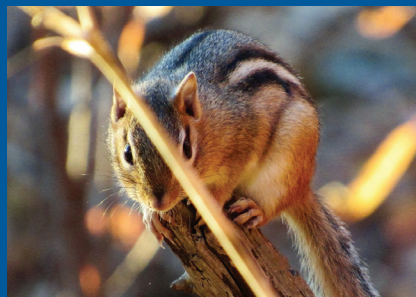
SEPTEMBER

Kerri Zastrow



OCTOBER

Carol Fredrikson



NOVEMBER

Donald Hein



DECEMBER

Sandi Kane



FIVE WAYS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles, and electrical items, the number of



home fires tends to increase during winter months. Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly

If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

Inspect electrical cords

We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords, or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...

Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips

When overloaded with (460302) electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency

There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

Practice safety in the kitchen

As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

OEC wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season.

Help us congratulate the following on their years of service with Oconto Electric Cooperative. Thank you for your dedication to the cooperative and helping keep the lights on.

25 YEARS

Jack Pardy
Line Superintendent

Kevin Thomson
Equipment Operator

20 YEARS

Byron Nolde
CEO

15 YEARS

Amy Winkler
Member Services Specialist

10 YEARS

Justin Schenkoski
Mechanic

5 YEARS

Dan Ruid
Line Clearance Tree Trimmer

Nicole Zaidel
Energy Services Representative



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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 Cheryl Voelker, Green Bay, and Mitchell and Cassandra Downing, Pound.

Byron C. Nolde, CEO

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Katie Jagiello, Editor

