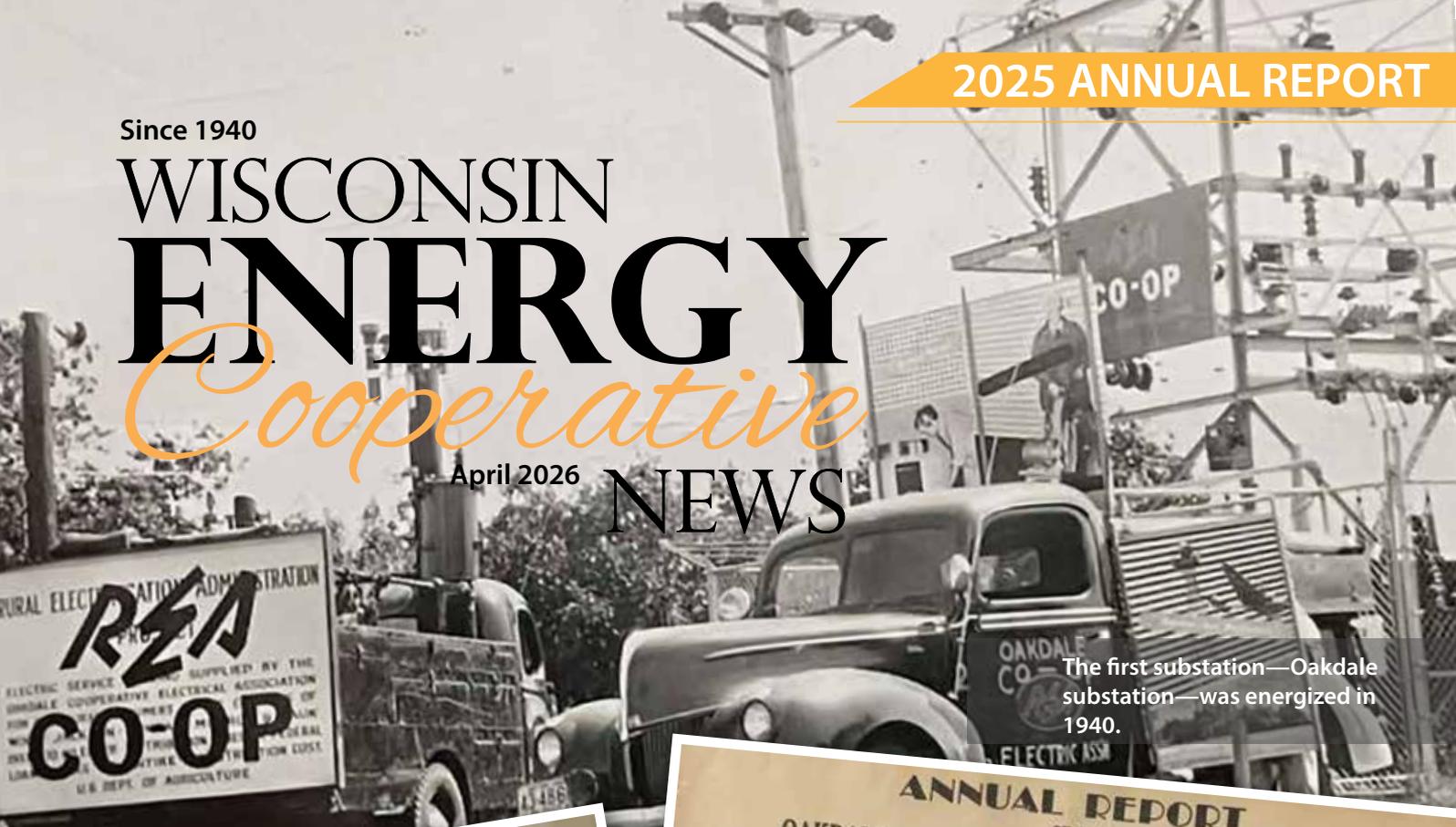


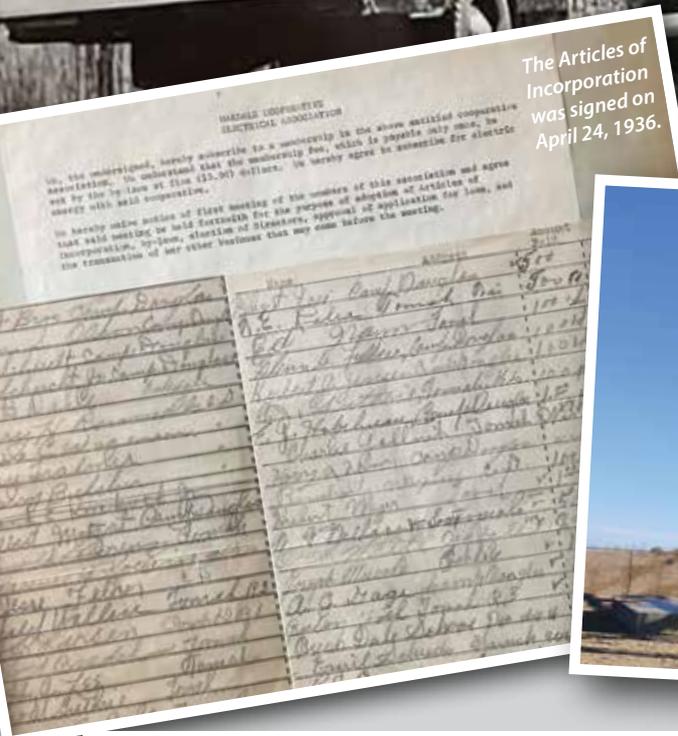
Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

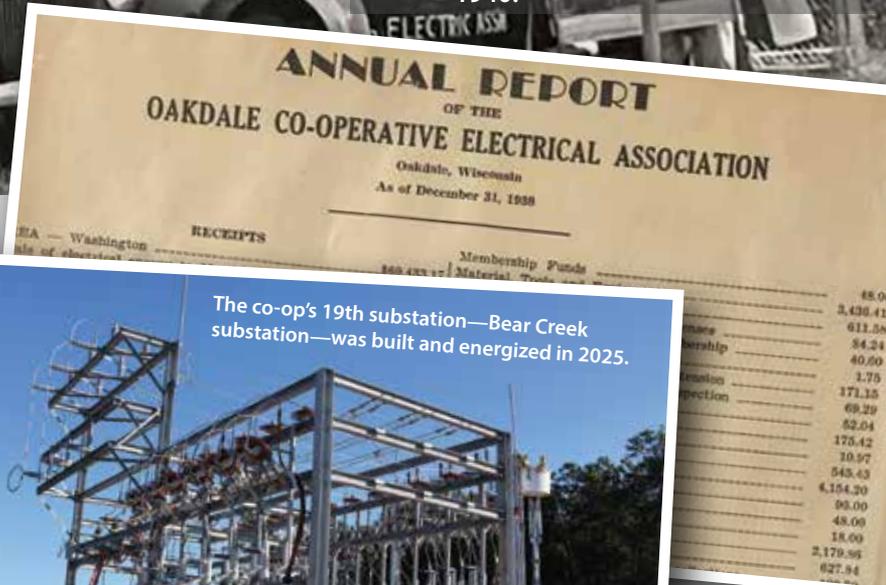
April 2026



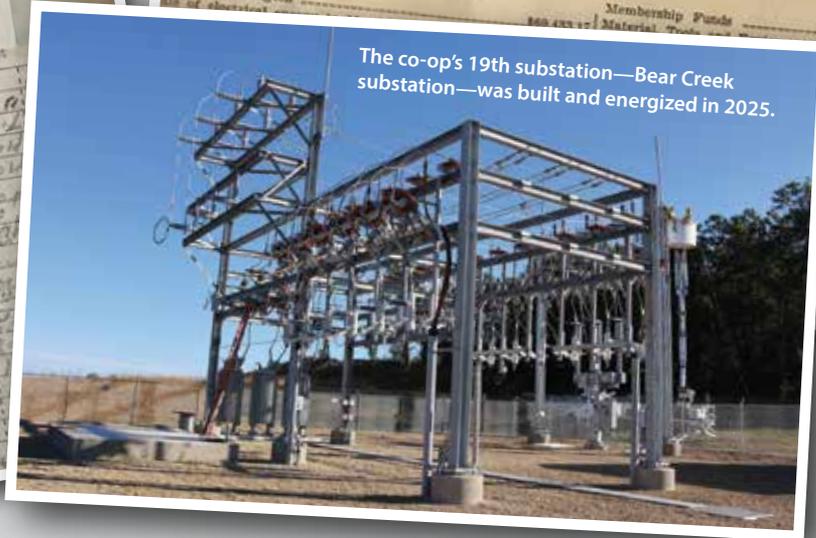
The first substation—Oakdale substation—was energized in 1940.



The Articles of Incorporation was signed on April 24, 1936.



The co-op's 19th substation—Bear Creek substation—was built and energized in 2025.



**89th Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2026**  
**Tomah Recreation Park - Recreation (gold) Building**  
1625 Butts Ave, Tomah  
(see inside cover for details)

# CALL AND NOTICE

## of Annual Meeting of Oakdale Electric Cooperative

The Annual Meeting of the members of Oakdale Electric Cooperative will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Tomah Recreation Park in the Recreation (gold) Building, with registration beginning at 8 a.m.

Action will be taken on the following:

1. Reading of the notice of the Meeting and proof of the due publication of mailing thereof.
2. Reading of the unapproved minutes of last year's meeting of the members and taking of necessary action thereon.
3. Election of a director from District #1 (comprised of the Townships of City Point, Hiles, Dexter, Remington, Cranmoor, Port Edwards, Finley, Armenia) for a three-year term to fill the vacancy of the term of Robert Hess, 9748 Hoffman Road, Pittsville, WI 54466.
4. Election of a director from District #7 (comprised of the Townships of La Valle, Winfield, Dellona, Lyndon, Reedsburg) for a three-year term to fill the vacancy of the term of Robin Craker (incumbent), S1877 County Road K, Reedsburg, WI 53959.
5. Reports of officers, directors, committees, and employees, summarized in the Annual Report previously distributed to membership and published in the Annual Meeting webpage.
6. Consideration of the adoption of amendments to the Cooperative Bylaws.
7. Such other business, regular or special, which may come before said meeting.
8. Adjournment.

*The 2025 Annual Meeting minutes can be viewed at [oakdalerec.coop](http://oakdalerec.coop).*

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- Notice of Annual Meeting – inside front cover
- Program – inside front cover
- GM & CEO and Board Chairman Message – page 15
- Oakdale Electric Co-op's Numbers – page 16
- Financial Report – page 16a
- Director Districts – inside back cover

# ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**Tomah Recreation Park –  
Recreation (gold) Building  
1625 Butts Avenue, Tomah**

**8:00 a.m.**

- Registration of Members – Doughnuts and refreshments prior to meeting

**9:00 a.m.**

- Business Session
- Meeting Called to Order – Richard Barrett, Chairman
- Invocation – James Van Wychen, Treasurer
- Certification of Quorum Present
- Approval of Program Agenda
- Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing
- Approval of Minutes and Prior Meeting
- Director Election Process – Attorney John Behling
- Presentation of General Manager & CEO and Director reports as summarized in the Annual Report previously distributed to membership – Christopher Tackmann
- Proposed Bylaw Amendments – Attorney John Behling
- Any Other Business
- Adjournment

## CULVER'S GIFT CARD

Receive a Culver's \$15 gift card and Culver's fresh frozen custard following the meeting.

## DRAWINGS

Various prizes from Oakdale Electric Cooperative members' businesses and \$750 in bill credits will be drawn to registered voting members in attendance at the annual meeting.

## GIFTS & FOOD

Enjoy doughnuts, coffee, juice, and milk prior to the business meeting. Each member account will receive one 90th anniversary limited edition gift.



Chris Tackmann,  
General Manager & CEO



Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER & CEO AND BOARD CHAIRMAN



Rick Barrett,  
Board Chairman

Our Annual Meeting is set to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Recreation Park in Tomah. All members in attendance will receive a \$15 Culver's gift card and Culver's fresh frozen custard. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the business meeting starts at 9 a.m., please come early for doughnuts and refreshments.

The Articles of Incorporation for Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) were executed on April 24, 1936. This year marks our 90th anniversary. While many aspects of our cooperative have evolved over the decades, our dedication to delivering safe, reliable, and competitively priced energy services remains unwavering.

In 2025, OEC actively pursued multiple construction projects, investing approximately \$6.0 million in new construction, electric line upgrades, and the addition of 233 new services. The approved capital budget for 2026 allocates \$5.6 million towards system improvements, with initiatives planned in Mauston, Plymouth, New Lisbon, and Oakdale. To further strengthen power capacity, completion of a substation in the Armenia area is scheduled, along with an upgrade to an additional substation in Tomah.

OEC had another successful year in sales and financial performance. Annual sales surpassed 395 million kilowatt-

hours, setting a record for the co-op. Due to rising costs and to fairly allocate cost among members, a residential demand charge was implemented in 2026, reflecting a \$0.25 per kW charge. This change has raised most residential members' bills by an average of \$2.50. Looking ahead, further increases might be necessary, but we are committed to doing everything possible to reduce the impact on you.

OEC received another clean report from external auditors for its financial systems and controls. We are pleased with this achievement and the ongoing retirement of capital credits. In the past year, OEC gave back \$1.3 million in capital credits to our members and aims to retire another \$1.4 million by the end of 2026.

In 2025, thanks to the generosity of members participating in rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we awarded \$105,600 to various organizations within our local communities. This represents the largest amount distributed within a single year, in OEC's history. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support of this community-focused initiative.

Our members play a vital role in the cooperative business model. Oakdale Electric Cooperative owes its success to your support, feedback, and appreciation. We are grateful—thank you!



1956



1967



1976

Board of Director  
Arthur Robinson, Pres.



1952



1965

Annual Meeting Lunch line

# 2025 REVIEW



**19,324**  
METERS

**5.2**  
MEMBERS PER  
MILE OF LINE



**14,983**  
MEMBERS



**187**  
PRIVATE  
GENERATION  
SYSTEMS



CAPITAL CREDITS  
RETURNED TO  
MEMBER-OWNERS

**\$34.5**  
MILLION



COMMITMENT  
TO COMMUNITY  
IN 2025

Operation Round Up:  
**\$105,600**

Scholarships:  
**\$15,500**

Donations &  
Sponsorships:  
**\$23,300**

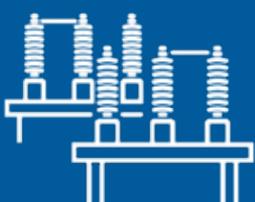
**7** MEMBER-ELECTED  
DIRECTORS

Rick Barrett, chairman  
Greg Eirschele, vice chairman  
Jim Van Wychen, treasurer  
Jon Williams, secretary  
Bob Hess  
Martin Potter  
Robin Craker



**2,866**  
MILES  
OF LINE

**19**  
SUBSTATIONS



**38**  
FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYEES



# 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

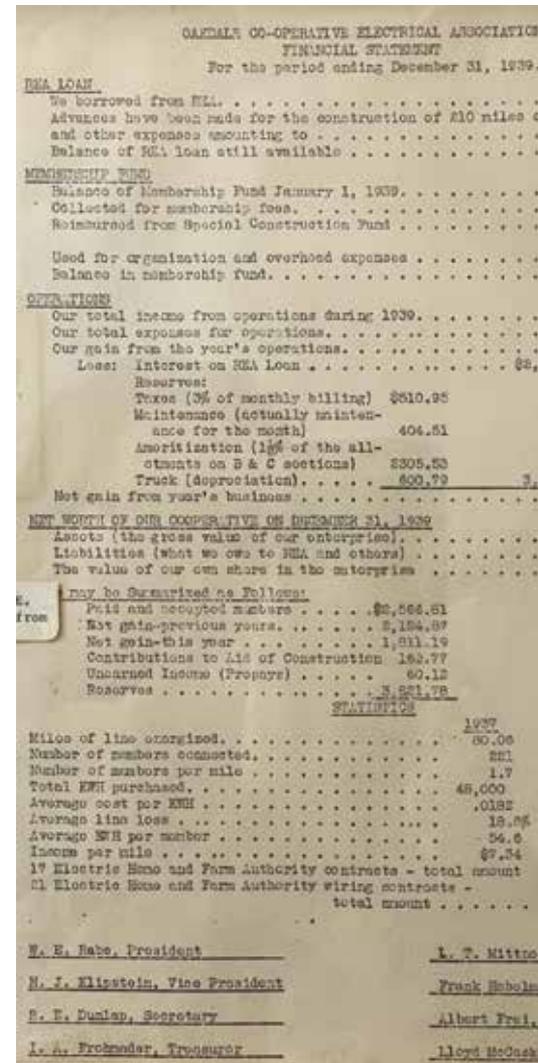
## 1939 Financial Statement

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024
Operating Revenue		
Elec Sales Revenue	48,156,404.00	46,297,997.00
Other Elec Revenue	103,077.00	110,903.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,259,481.00</b>	<b>46,408,900.00</b>
Operating Expenses		
Cost of Power	31,331,833.00	29,284,179.00
Distribution Expense – Operations	2,008,226.00	1,934,319.00
Distribution Expense – Maintenance	2,028,877.00	2,082,001.00
Administrative & General Expense	3,228,878.00	3,042,847.00
Depreciation Expense	4,563,899.00	4,330,888.00
Tax Expense	539,992.00	546,279.00
Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,737,797.00	2,475,304.00
Other	30,058.00	47,896.00
<b>Total Cost of Electric Service</b>	<b>46,469,560.00</b>	<b>43,743,713.00</b>
Operating Margins	1,789,920.00	2,665,187.00
Non-Operating Margins	322,173.00	414,408.00
DPC Capital Credits	1,380,588.00	1,485,982.00
	<b>3,492,681.00</b>	<b>4,565,577.00</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
Net Utility Plant	98,673,150.00	93,395,519.00
Long-Term Investment	23,377,815.00	22,336,607.00
Cash & Temporary Investments	542,958.00	307,464.00
Accounts Receivable	4,568,043.00	4,846,252.00
Materials & Prepayments	1,938,026.00	2,219,770.00
Other Assets & Deferred Debts	532,617.00	573,041.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>129,632,609.00</b>	<b>123,678,653.00</b>
Liabilities & Equities		
Patronage Capital	56,008,369.00	53,824,952.00
Consumer Deposits	238,784.00	254,116.00
Long-Term Debt	63,540,553.00	59,811,196.00
Accounts Payable	3,328,813.00	3,551,080.00
Other Current Liabilities	6,516,090.00	6,237,309.00
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>129,632,609.00</b>	<b>123,678,653.00</b>



Our 2025 financial records and the reports contained herein have been audited by Bauman Associates, Ltd., Eau Claire, WI.

## YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS

For every dollar you spend on electricity, two-thirds goes toward the cost of wholesale power.



# OAKDALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## 2026 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

This amendment proposes to make changes to Article III, Section 2(b) of the Bylaws. The changes are summarized as follows:

- Language in Article III, Section 2(b)(5) will be amended to make a formatting change to the end of the subsection.
- Language in Article III, Section 2(b)(6) will be amended to clarify when a criminal history disqualifies someone from serving as a director. The amendment makes clear: (1) the provision applies to any person who is convicted of or pleads guilty or no contest to an applicable criminal offenses; (2) it adds misdemeanor offenses as applicable criminal offenses; and (3) it lists certain offenses which do not apply and would not disqualify someone from serving as a director, including certain OWI offenses and traffic forfeitures.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

NOTE: Additions are underlined and bolded – e.g., **add these words**. Deletions are indicated by strikeout – e.g., ~~delete these words~~. Explanations of the reasons for these amendments are included after each section proposed to be amended or created.

**Amend Article III, Section 2, Tenure and Qualifications, subsections (b)(5) and (b)(6) to read as follows:**

#### Section 2. Tenure and Qualifications.

(b) Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(5) is now, becomes, or during the immediately preceding

five years has been a claimant in any claim asserted against the cooperative; ~~or~~

(6) has been convicted of, **or pled guilty or no-contest to**, a felony **or misdemeanor offense** in any jurisdiction at any time in the seven years preceding his or her election or appointment, or during the term of office, if the circumstances of the charges are substantially related to the fiduciary duties and expectations of a director. **Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following shall not, by itself, disqualify a person from eligibility to serve as a Director under this Subsection (b)(6): (i) a non-felony conviction for a first, second, or third Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offense under Wis. Stat. 346.63, or a substantially similar law of another jurisdiction, or (ii) a traffic forfeiture.**

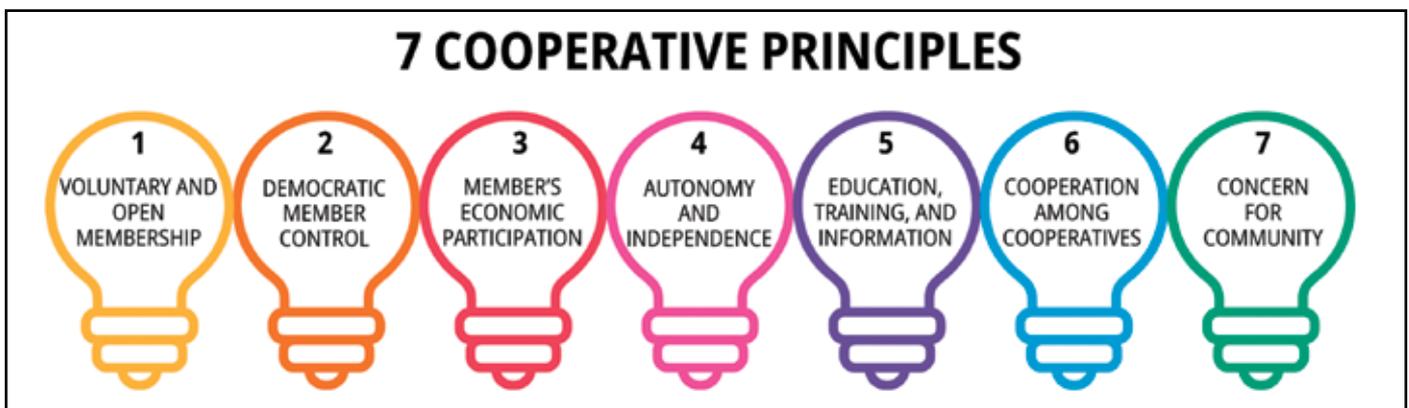
Explanation: There is one formatting change to the language in subsection (b)(5), to make clear a person who meets one or more of the disqualifications listed in subsection (b) is disqualified to serve as a director.

Explanation: There are three changes to language in subsection (b)(6):

**The first change makes clear anyone who is convicted of or pleads guilty or no contest to an applicable criminal offense within the seven (7) year timeframe is disqualified to serve as a director.**

**The second change makes misdemeanor offenses an applicable criminal offense which would disqualify someone from serving as a director.**

**The third change creates certain exceptions to applicable criminal offenses, meaning those offenses listed would not disqualify someone from serving as a director. These include non-felony first, second, and third Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) offenses and traffic forfeitures.**





## MVP OF OPERATIONS RETIRES AFTER 29 YEARS



When Lori Larsen began at Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) 29 years ago, she never thought she would have gained so much knowledge of the electric industry and worked in multiple different departments. Lori began as a customer service representative handling the front desk and then moved to collections. She later went into member services working with the load management program and assisted with mapping. Time in those departments didn't last long as most of her career was spent behind the radio in the operations department.

Although the line crews are out restoring power in various weather elements, there needs to be someone in the office tending to the various outage reporting, map updates, radio communications, and more to keep the work flowing in the field. That person needs to adapt and overcome challenges as they happen, especially when days don't go as planned or weekend plans end up getting cancelled because of a storm. And that person also needs to keep a level head and not succumb to the stress of the job. The title is Operations Administrator and Lori Larsen handled the job and all its responsibilities, effortlessly.

As the 2000s marked a pivotal shift to the digital age, internal and external communications changed quickly. "Technology advanced so much and has allowed the office personnel to assist more with outage restoration," Lori stated. Outages report automatically to the co-op verse waiting for a phone call. Metering technology has advanced to be able to turn members on or off remotely. No more having to read meters and enter readings into the computer.

In 2008, Lori conquered a large project consisting of converting paper maps to digital maps and continued to keep up with the ongoing updates to mapping. New technology like SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) has allowed office employees to assist crews remotely from the office. A project that Lori worked on implementing was operation analytics which reduces outage times by narrowing down where the outage fault occurred.

However, no amount of technology can prevent bad weather from destroying infrastructure. Lori won't soon forget back in 2018 when major parts of OEC service area were flooded, causing poles and underground lines to wash out. The event was declared a major disaster, and the co-op was entitled to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds.

More recently, the June 2022 tornado that ripped through OEC territory at 4 p.m. on a Wednesday evening right at the

end of the workday, left a distinct trail between Tomah and Oakdale. Lori remembered, "watching the outage map and seeing substation after substation go down, I just thought time to buckle up because I'm going to be here for a while!"

Crews were dispatched at 4:07 p.m. with a total of 72 outages that impacted 7,081 OEC members. Additional line crews were called in through the cooperative's mutual aid program known as ROPE – Restoration of Power in an Emergency. After two days, crews replaced 29 poles, strung 13,200 feet of new wire, and fully restored power by 3:21 p.m. Lori and now retired Cheri Ness, spent countless hours assisting crews in the field from the office, during one of the most notable tornado disasters in OEC history.



The entire operations department posed for a photo following the June 2022 tornado.

Operations Director John Ollendick has worked closely with Lori for many years and stated that Lori is a key part of the success of the operations department on a day-to-day basis, as well as after hours and during major storm events. "You would think that she had been a line worker at one point with her knowledge of the field," John divulged. It goes without saying that everyone is happy for her but as one of the linemen proclaimed, "Lori is the MVP of the line department, and she will be greatly missed."

Given that Lori played a crucial role in the operations department, she was able to train in her successor. Brielyn Georgeson started at OEC in August 2025 as a member relations specialist/collections. When the operations administrator job was posted, Brielyn saw the opportunity to move up within the co-op. "I thought it was an area I could succeed and wanted to challenge myself to expand my knowledge of the electric

industry,” Brielyn indicated.

Beginning December 29, 2025, Brielyn was side-by-side with Lori to take in a plethora of information. “Lori is great at explaining procedures and breaks things down in a way that a beginner can understand, which has helped me tremendously on absorbing all the duties involved in the position,”



Brielyn Georgeson

Brielyn mentioned. Fortunately, for the benefit of training purposes, Brielyn got her taste of multiple outages on a windy Friday in March that led to an early clock in and late clock out. “I’m truly grateful that Lori provided a perfect blueprint for me to accomplish this position, I just hope I’m half as successful as her.”

With four months to train in Brielyn, Lori concluded with, “I’m confident that Brielyn will be a tremendous asset to the operations department between her ability to learn quickly and retain information, I have no doubt that she will thrive as the operations administrator.”



Brielyn and Lori have been working side-by-side since December 2025.

## MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST



Natasha Bouchette



Rita Berg



Eric Ingmundson



Debra Galston

### “Life in Rural Wisconsin”

The Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) photo contest for members’ photos to be featured in our 2027 calendar is now open. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications. The contest runs until August 14, 2026.



Alan Baker

**\$25 Co-op Cash to picture winners • \$50 Co-op Cash to cover winner**

#### Photo Contest Criteria:

- Photos must be taken within OEC’s service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, power lines, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- **Only high-resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.**

#### Photo Contest Rules and Details:

- Contest will run from April 1, 2026, until August 14, 2026; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.
- Three (3) photos per member will be accepted.
- Photos must be from at least two (2) different seasons.
- All OEC members 18 years old and over are eligible to submit photos.
- An OEC member under the age of 18 years old is eligible to participate but must submit a parent/guardian form with entry.
- **A completed entry form must accompany each photo.**
- Member must own rights to photo.
- OEC employees will determine the winning photos.

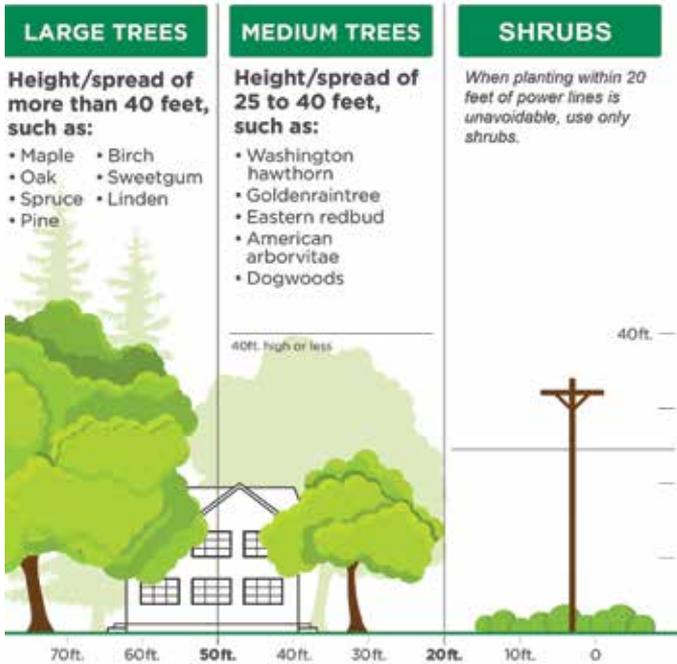
#### Photo Contest Entry Options:

- **Upload** using the Photo Contest Entry Form, found on [www.oakdalerec.coop](http://www.oakdalerec.coop), under the Member Benefits tab.
- **Mail** to P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size and at least 300 dpi)
- **Drop off** at Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office – 489 N Oakwood St., Tomah. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size and at least 300 dpi)

## Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees can beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard...especially to power lines.

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact Oakdale Electric Cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).



Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried lines.



## CALLING ALL THIRD-GRADERS:

You're invited to participate in the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association's

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Submit an original poster supporting electrical safety to your local electric cooperative by **April 30, 2026**, for a chance to win a **\$25 gift card!** The top three posters will be entered into the statewide poster contest for a chance to win one of three great prizes:

- 1st place – Chromebook
- 2nd place – \$100 Gift Card
- 3rd place – \$75 Gift Card

Posters should be at least 8.5x11 inches, but no larger than 11x14 inches.

Entries must include completed entry form and student's name on the back of the poster.

Contact your local electric cooperative or go to [www.weca.coop](http://www.weca.coop) for registration forms.



# Chronicles of the Co-op

## 1966-1976

This month, we'll take a closer look at Oakdale Electric Cooperative's accomplishments from 1966 to 1976, to celebrate Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 90th anniversary.

**1966** – The board of directors began hearing more about power requirement studies, underground conversions, and long-range KWH certification by REA. New challenges were faced with the power needs of members with the changing lifestyle of America in the Sixties.



**1968** – “YOU CAN’T GET THERE FROM HERE YET” banners hung across the interstate from Wisconsin Dells to Tomah to give publicity to the much-needed interchange at Oakdale in 1964.

That victory came to fruition in 1968 after the four-year-long battle to open an interchange off the Interstate at Oakdale with a dedication ceremony in August.

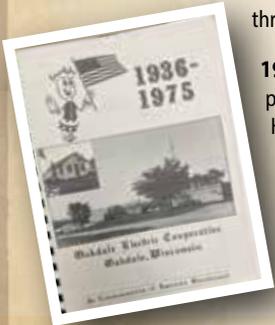


**1971-1972**– Meter readers began appearing on the various routes

through the distribution area, to speed the readings to a Dairyland computer for faster and more efficient billing.

**1974** – A new era of underground construction began with the cooperative's purchase of its first cable plow.

The headquarters began to be manned on a 24-hour basis for the first time with both service calls and fire reports being channeled through the office communications center.



**1975** – The bicentennial history booklet was published that was a historic review written by Harvey Schermerhorn in 1960, and Elinor Cram finished 1960 – 1975. Professional photos of each family that made up the cooperative were featured, along with board of directors, employees, credit union employees, Miss Oakdale Rural Electrification winners, Oakdale fire department, and more.

**1967** – At the 1967 annual meeting, members voted to construct a new service center garage to house trucks and other equipment owned by the cooperative. This then was the last annual meeting held in the huge old tent. That year saw the purchase of land and construction of the new building.



**1969-1970** – Discussion of off-peak electric heating was a term now familiar with the board members as cooperatives working through Dairyland Power sought methods to increase efficiency and economy of operation to keep consumers' costs of electricity as low as possible.

A new office was added in the La Valle area with 210 electric meters, and 57 water heater meters were added to Oakdale lines.



Another mark of changing times was the change in name from the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Electrical Association to Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

**1973** – In January, the Post Office Department began leasing a corner of the cooperative headquarters with the old Oakdale Post Office closing with the retirement of Lucille Maum after 32 years of service to the community.

For the second time, first being in 1970, members burned a mortgage at the annual meeting. The \$72,000 mortgage was burned by Vice President Art Robinson and Mrs. Henry Klipstein, the wife of the cooperative's first Vice President H.J. Klipstein.



**1976** – Oakdale Electric paired with a travel agency and arranged a one-week Hawaiian vacation for the convenience of their member. For the low cost of \$495.00 per person based on double occupancy, it included flight via Northwest Airlines Jumbo 747 jet, in-flight meals, a lei greeting, half-day city sightseeing tour, round trip transfers between airport and hotel, seven-night accommodations, and more.

**Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO**

P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649  
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468

info@oakdalerec.coop

**Jackie McGlin, Editor**



**Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151  
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 855-938-3610

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.

# DIRECTOR DISTRICTS



**Bob Hess**  
District 1



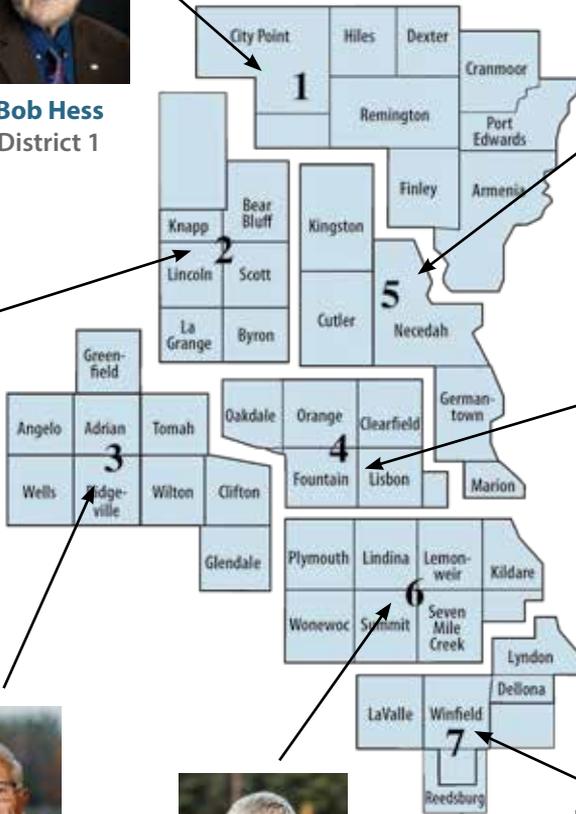
**Martin Potter**  
District 5



**Jim Van Wychen**  
Treasurer  
District 2



**Rick Barrett**  
Chairman  
District 4



**Greg Eirschele**  
Vice Chairman  
District 3



**Jon Williams**  
Secretary  
District 6



**Robin Craker**  
District 7

## MISSION

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing our members with safe, reliable, superior, and competitively priced energy services.

## VISION

Oakdale Electric Cooperative strives to enhance the quality of life for our members, while exceeding member expectations.

## VALUES

- Safety
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Environmental stewardship
- Accountability
- Open, honest communication
- Commitment to members, community, and employees



The first Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors consisted of W.E. Rabe, R.E. Dunlap, C.E. Christensen, I.A. Frohmader, Albert Frei, F.W. Habelman, and James O. McCaskey.

Changes to the board prior to being pictured was the resignation of James O. McCaskey in 1937 and replaced by Arthur C. Schultz, L.T. Mitness replaced C.E. Christensen in 1938, and H.J. Klipstein replaced Arthur Schultz in 1939 to reflect the pictured 1940 Board of Directors.

Front row left to right; R.E. Dunlap, F.W. Habelman, and Albert Frei. Back row left to right; W.E. Rabe, L.T. Mitness, H.J. Klipstein, and I.A. Frohmader.



The Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 2025. Left to right; Robin Craker, Martin Potter, Jim Van Wychen, Rick Barrett, Bob Hess, Greg Eirschele, and Jon Williams.



The current headquarters was built in 2004, with the exterior updated in 2024.



WECA Youth Leadership Congress participants: Chris Shrake, Dan Wagner, Doug Guthrie, Lisa Teebo and Lisa Berhardt.

1984 Youth Leadership Congress delegates

The co-op's first official headquarters was completed in 1947 and now houses Oakdale Credit Union and the Oakdale Post Office.



The farm homes of William Mortensen and L.C. Brown were the first members to be served by Oakdale Electric Cooperative in 1937.



2025 Youth Leadership Congress delegates