



SMALL CHANGE CAN CHANGE LIVES

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That’s because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It’s a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it’s so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I’m also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC), you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up® program, your donations help local families and individuals in need through many different organizations. Currently, this program is an “opt in” program; however, starting in January 2023, all members will be automatically opted into the program, and we will change to an “opt out” program. If you do not want to be “opted in,” please contact our office.

When you “round up” your monthly bill and donate to this fund, you’re making a big difference in someone’s life. You are helping to meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares. On average, it will cost each member an

additional \$6 per year, \$11.88 per year at the most.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations, and other giving projects have supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keep the lights on and so much more. If every member stayed “opted in” to the program, OEC would have over \$87,000 to give to different community needs each year. That will have a huge impact on our communities.

You’ve likely heard me say that the cooperative principle “concern for community” is part of Oakdale Electric’s DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1937, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It’s why we created our Operation Round Up® program.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. It’s why we support local organizations. We hope you will think of OEC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community. I encourage you to stay in the Operation Round Up® program when you are opted in January 2023.

I hope all of you have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!



DIRECTOR NOMINATION PETITION FORMS DUE JANUARY 23, 2023

Directors representing Districts 1 and 7 will be up for election at the 2023 annual meeting. If you live in one of these districts and you’re interested in serving on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, collect 15 signatures on a petition nomination form and return the form to Oakdale Electric by January 23, 2023. Contact us at (800) 241-2468 to obtain a petition nomination form.





MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY RETURNS



Oakdale Electric welcomed members back to the co-op for a tried and true tradition, Member Appreciation Day! On October 15, Tomah Lions Club served 757 pancake meals and Oakdale Credit Union provided dessert for members before visiting other event areas. Monroe County Health Department held an influenza vaccine clinic to assist members' health moving into cooler weather season. An event for the whole family, members could paint a craft with Craft Time Studio, get their face painted by Tappy's Face Painting, receive a twisted balloon creation with Balloons by Kevin, and play giant games.



Co-op employees managed booths to educate members on available programs and services. When visiting each educational booth, members had a chance at a baking basket giveaway, which 200 lucky members won. Booth drawing winners were: Instant Pot, Dennis Hull; electric leaf blower, Linda Shisler; and Operation Round Up® basket, Richard Raith. New to 2022, hotline demonstrations were held to showcase common power outage scenarios and procedures to restoring power.



A free family fun tradition for members of all ages, Member Appreciation Day will be held next year on Saturday, October 14, 2023.





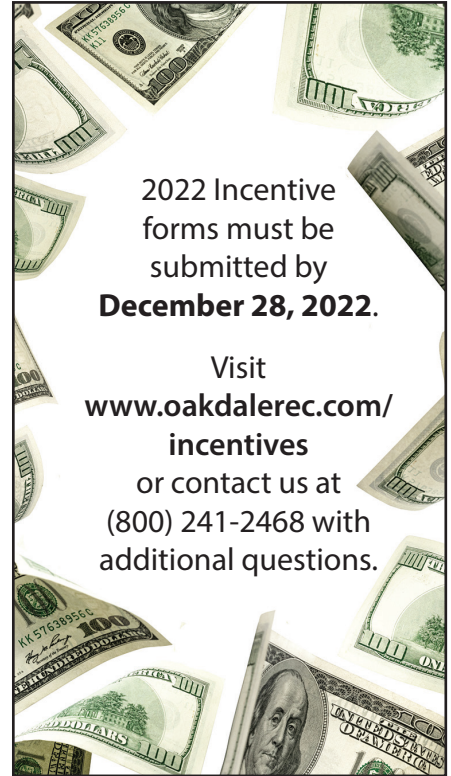
HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE

Do you have a pile of holiday lights that don't work anymore? Or maybe you're replacing them with ENERGY STAR LED lights because they are 75% more energy efficient, and last 25% longer. No matter the reason, don't throw out your holiday lights —RECYCLE them at the co-op!

December 1 – February 1, 2023

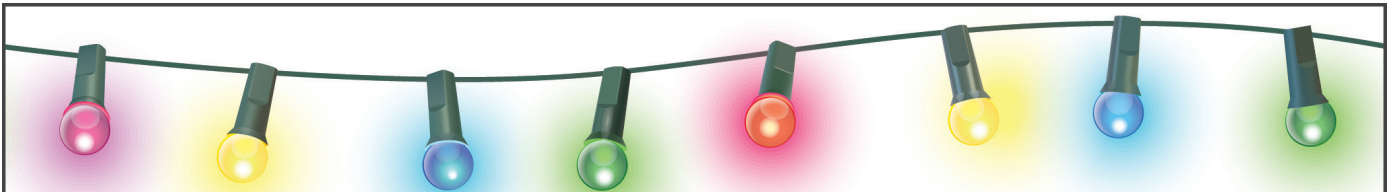
489 N. Oakwood St., Tomah, WI 54660

(collection bins located at the co-op's front entrance— Please remove light strands from bags and boxes and place them into the bins.)



2022 Incentive forms must be submitted by **December 28, 2022.**

Visit www.oakdalerec.com/incentives or contact us at (800) 241-2468 with additional questions.



MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Source: Dept. of Energy

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Andy Steele:

Area Service Foreman Andy Steele has worked for the co-op for 19 years and was promoted to field engineer. Andy reflects on his promotion with, “Besides working with a great group of people, the thing I look forward to most about joining the Engineering Department is the ability to put my thoughts and ideas on paper and seeing them come to life. With having spent almost 20 years in operations, I’m definitely going to miss that side but also excited and looking forward to the challenges this new position brings in the ever-changing electric industry.”



Dane Pasch:

Journeyman Lineman Dane Pasch has 17 years of experience with the co-op and was recently promoted to area service foreman. “I’m thankful to all the past and present guys that helped prepare me to where I am now and I’m looking forward to reciprocating that with more one-on-one time with the younger linemen. My goals are to help maintain and grow our system, especially with the new technology being introduced to our industry,” stated Pasch.



Kyle Aschenbrenner:

Temporary Apprentice Lineworker Kyle Aschenbrenner was hired full-time as a second-year apprentice lineman. Kyle stated, “I’m excited to start my career at Oakdale Electric with this opportunity to gain knowledge from others and I look forward to serving the local communities for years to come.”



Karter Hoag:




Temporary Apprentice Lineworker Karter Hoag, was hired full-time as a first-year apprentice lineman. Karter reflected, “I’m very thankful to the great people at Oakdale Electric for this amazing opportunity and I look forward to beginning my career and furthering my knowledge as an apprentice lineman.”



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from your friends and neighbors at Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


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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 866-392-4307

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