




# WE'RE READY FOR STORM SEASON. ARE YOU?

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO



**Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Now that summer is here, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather, especially after the cold, wet, and windy spring that we have had. Summer brings many of my favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, afternoons on the water, and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause issues with our electrical system, but I want you to know that Oakdale Electric's crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur in your area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for additional resources.

- 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.
- 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 a portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

If you plan to use a generator during a prolonged outage, 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. Also, please make sure to contact us if you have one so that our line crews are aware of it while restoring your power.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check Oakdale's app, website, and social media sites for power restoration updates.

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

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. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and follow us on social media to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict the weather. At Oakdale Electric Cooperative we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. I hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:**

### DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

### OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

**NEVER GO NEAR** downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.**

[SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)



# Congratulations



## 2022 OAKDALE ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**McKenzie Woods**  
Brookwood High School  
Travis and Stephanie Woods  
Western Technical College –  
La Crosse  
Nursing



**Katelyn Haschke**  
New Lisbon High School  
Eric and Lady Eiyen Haschke  
University of Wisconsin  
Platteville – Baraboo  
Biology



**Mackenzie Shankle**  
New Lisbon High School  
Rusty and Stephanie Shankle  
University of Wisconsin Platteville  
– Baraboo Sauk County  
Major: Elementary Education  
Minor: American Sign Language



**Ethan Briner**  
New Lisbon High School  
Robert and Michelle Briner  
University of Wisconsin –  
Stevens Point  
Clinical Laboratory Science



**Ethan Dvoárk,**  
New Lisbon High School  
Jason and Jenny Dvorak  
Western Technical College  
Automotive Technician



**Caden Schneider**  
Reedsburg Area High School  
Troy and Jennifer Schneider  
University of Wisconsin –  
Platteville  
Business



**Jacob Hanratty**  
Royall High School  
John and Mary Hanratty  
University of Wisconsin –  
Stevens Point  
Psychology



**Madelyn Gruen**  
Royall High School  
David and Jennifer Gruen  
University of Wisconsin –  
Eau Claire  
Nursing



**Emma Green**  
Royall High School  
Nathan and Jody Green  
University of Wisconsin –  
Madison  
Physician's Assistant



**Alejandra (Ali) Pacheco**  
Royall High School  
Jessica Wetley and Omar  
Pacheco  
Western Technical College  
Phlebotomy



**Kaelan Sharp**  
Sparta High School  
Tony Sharp and Kristine Picha  
University of Wisconsin –  
La Crosse  
Radiation Therapy



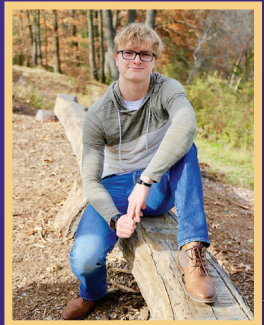
**Ronan Sharp**  
Sparta High School  
Tony Sharp and Kristine Picha  
University of Wisconsin –  
La Crosse  
Statistics



**Sierra Steele**  
Tomah High School  
Ryan and Shana Steele  
University of Wisconsin –  
La Crosse  
Pre-Physical Therapy



**Sabin Steinhoff**  
Tomah High School  
Julie and Kris Steinhoff  
Montana State University  
Major: Photography  
Minor: Entrepreneurship



**Lineworker Scholarship**  
Spencer Strohmeyer  
Tomah High School,  
Andrew Strohmeyer and  
Jacquelyn Williams  
Milwaukee Area Technical College  
Lineworker Program



# OAKDALE ELECTRIC HOLDS 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 87th Annual Meeting for Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) was held on Saturday, April 30, at Tomah Recreation Park.

Attendance was close to years prior to the pandemic with 100 registered members and 256 total members in attendance.

General Manager & CEO Chris Tackmann shared his remarks how the pandemic is still having an impact on co-op operations.

“Even though COVID appears to be behind us, there are still supply chain issues that we are dealing with,” Tackmann stated. “We are already looking at what our needs are for 2024 and looking at getting our orders in so we are ready.”

The co-op continues its commitment to community programs including \$18,500 presented in scholarships last year. OEC also partnered with CoBank on the Sharing Success Donations program, which provided \$20,000 to six community meal sites last year.

Tackmann opened the floor to member comments and questions. Much of the discussion related to the transition to clean energy and concerns about the lithium shortage and battery disposal.

“What is happening right now in our world—we can’t fix everything. But we need to do the best we can,” Board Chairman Richard Barrett stated.

Cooperative members had the opportunity to exercise their right to vote by absentee ballot prior to the meeting, with 1,337 ballots cast in the contested director election. Incumbent

Jonathan Williams ran unopposed for district 6 and was re-elected. In district 3, incumbent Gregory Eirschele was re-elected against opposing candidate Todd Scholz.



Jonathan Williams

Gregory Eirschele

Five \$100 bill credits were drawn and the winners are as follows: Allen Pasch, Tomah; Ray Wadinski, Wilton; Tom Ewing, Tomah; Bruce Palamaruk, Kendall; and Vincent King, La Valle.

Special guests in attendance was Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s attorney, Mary Beth Peraneau; Wisconsin State Representative Nancy Vandermeer; and Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association representative, Julie Lund.

At the reorganizational meeting, all officer positions remained unchanged. They are as follows: board chairman, Richard Barrett; vice chairman, Gregory Eirschele; secretary, Jonathan Williams; treasurer, James Van Wychen; assistant secretary, Deana Protz; DPC director, Robert Hess; and alternate DPC director – Richard Barrett.

Refreshments and donuts were served prior to the meeting. Following the business meeting, members were given a cheese and sausage to-go snack and a \$10 Kentucky Fried Chicken gift card.



Annual meeting attendance was back to pre-pandemic levels. Left: The board of directors, left to right: Robert Hess, Richard Barrett, Martin Potter, Jonathan Williams, Gregory Eirschele, and James Van Wychen.





# 41st Annual Monroe County Dairy Breakfast

**Saturday, June 4, 2022**  
**7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Hawk High Dairy**  
**21130 Cty Hwy T, Norwalk, WI 54648**  
**Hosted by Bob & Connie Radke and family**

Support your local neighbor and family-owned dairy farm for a fun-filled morning. Enjoy omelets, pancakes, milk, Culver's sundaes, and other dairy products. Activities will be available for all ages including children's activities, dairy farm viewing, wagon rides, animal education, and more.



### How to Fill Your Freezer for Energy Efficiency

1. Defrost and dry your freezer.
2. Move food items toward the front for quick easy access.
3. Fill interior central cavity with water-filled milk jugs.
4. Leave air space around the edges and top for your freezer's thermostat to sense the temperature.

### *Savor more in June Dairy Month* Milk the energy efficiency out of your freezer with this helpful tip!

A full fridge or freezer is an energy efficient one. Each time you open your freezer, cold air escapes and warm air flows in. Therefore, the majority of the energy your freezer uses goes towards cooling down the air that comes in when you open the freezer door. When your freezer is full, there is less room for warmer air to take up, and the items that are in there help to cool down any air that does sneak in. Instead of recycling your milk jugs, fill them with water and place them in the freezer.

#### 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.