

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* October 2022 NEWS



**Oakdale Electric
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Welcome Back to the Co-op

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 15
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

*Located at Oakdale
Electric Cooperative
Hwy. PP, just north of
Interstate 90/94*



FREE Family Fun for All Members!

- Pancake Breakfast by Tomah Lions Club
- 200 Baking Basket Giveaway (see inside cover for more info)
- Co-op Educational Booths
- \$2,000 in Bill Credit Drawings
- Flu Shot Clinic
- Demonstrations
- Oakdale Credit Union
- Focus on Energy
- Gift Bags
- Operation Round Up®
- Popcorn
- Prizes
- NEW Activities

YOU Come to the Co-op!

Baking Basket Giveaway

We have enjoyed visiting members' the past two years with the Co-op Comes to You contest. However, we are ready to invite members back to the co-op! To celebrate You Coming to the Co-op, 200 members will have a chance to win a Baking Basket at Member Appreciation Day.

How to Enter:

- 1) Receive a "recipe card" (entry card) at the cooperative's front desk during Member Appreciation Day, Saturday, October 15, from 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- 2) Visit any three booths listed on recipe card.
- 3) Return completed recipe card to Baking Basket table on Member Appreciation Day, receive a gift and a chance to win a Baking Basket.

Contest Rules:

ONE entry per account number. Employees, directors, as well as immediate family of Oakdale Electric Cooperative, are not eligible.

Details:

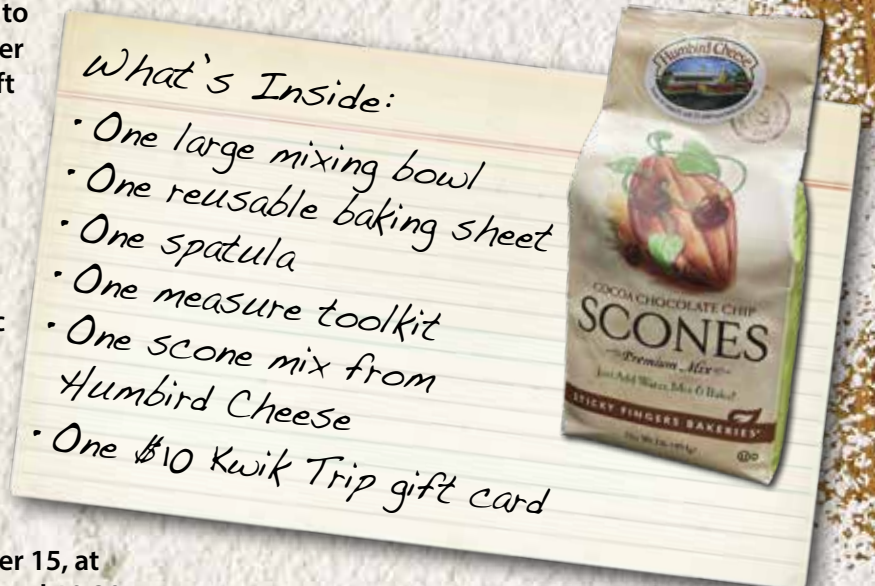
200 names total will be randomly drawn to win a Baking Basket from the completed recipe cards during Member Appreciation Day on October 15, at 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 10:30 a.m.

Winning members' names will be posted at the Baking Basket table.

Pictures will be taken of members and their baskets, if available.

Members who do not pick up their basket will be notified by phone on Monday, October 17. Baskets can be picked up at the cooperative during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

By entering the contest, members agree to the rules and details.





CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP

October is National Co-op Month

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you. After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

OEC works to help our community

thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that is comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Roundup to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.

That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including Focus on Energy, incentives, load management, payment and billing options, and more.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

As a reminder, our Member Appreciation Day Event is on Saturday, October 15, starting at 7:30 a.m. I hope to see you there!



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Notice of forfeiture of funds held by Oakdale Electric Cooperative

You are hereby notified that Oakdale Electric Cooperative has unclaimed funds belonging to our members that was issued in 2018.

You may claim these funds by contacting the cooperative at 1-800-241-2468 or emailing tvonhadn@oakdalerec.com and furnishing proof of your legal interest in such funds on or before November 1, 2022. You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence of your right to receive the same by November 1, 2022, these funds will be forfeited to the cooperative, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03(10).

Please visit Oakdale Electric Cooperative's website at <https://oakdalerec.com/capital-credits> for a complete list of member names and addresses identified as having unclaimed funds with Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

FALL INTO NEW APPLIANCES



Everything you do—from flipping a switch to upgrading your appliances—can add up to big energy savings. Check out Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s energy efficiency rebates at www.oakdalerec.com and rake in the savings with energy-saving incentives!



www.oakdalerec.com
608-372-4131
800-241-2468

ENERGY STAR® Certified Appliance & Lighting Rebates

- LED Bulbs
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- Washer/Dryer
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Offer valid through: **October 24**



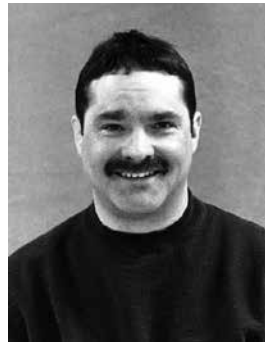
A GREAT LINEMAN SETS THE BAR HIGH

Joe Engel always knew he wanted to pursue a career where he could work outside with his hands. He received a tip from former line superintendent Dan Hoag that Oakdale Electric Cooperative was hiring a summer help position. Joe applied, and the co-op took a chance on him 39 years ago, and hired him that summer.

Joe went on to be the first student from Tomah Area School District to attend a nine-month power distribution program in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. “Nine-month school was new to everyone. Up until that point, you were hired with no experience,” stated Engel. After graduation, Joe was back at

OEC and worked hard to attain his journeyman lineman status. Not long after, he was promoted to a leadership position as construction foreman, which he held for the final 24 years of his career.

“I had great foremen before me that set the bar high,” Joe stated. “I like challenges and felt I had strong leadership skills to be a foreman.” Like any job promotion, there comes responsibility, adaptability, challenges, solid communication and more, all of which Joe had no problem living up to. “My analogy is that it’s like a football team



Joe Engel earlier in his lengthy career at Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

here. When you’re in charge of a group, you’re like the coach. You’ve got your group of guys on your crew for that day and a job to accomplish. I like the challenge, camaraderie, and felt I could place guys in positions that helped them excel,” stated Joe.

Joe will not miss working in extreme weather conditions but he will miss seeing a whole valley light up after a bad storm. The pride and sense of achievement that come with power restoration is a feeling like none other for a lineman. Joe reflected, “I will miss that feeling,” and went on to say, “I’ll also miss my fellow linemen, my friends. I care deeply about every one of them and I hope I left a mark.”

Joe has a strong commitment to his community. He was a volunteer fireman at Tomah Fire Department for 25 years. He stated, “I loved the fire department for the same reasons as I do Oakdale Electric.”



After 39 years at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Joe Engel right, is retiring. Following in his significant footsteps is Kurt Starkey, left.

Oakdale Electric is proud to have Joe Engel dedicate his life and career to our cooperative for 39 years. Following a distinguished career, Joe is looking forward to spending his retirement with his beloved family, which includes wife, Janna; daughter, Olivia (Zane); stepdaughters, Carlee, Kendall, and Sydney; along with his parents, Joe and Sylvia Engel.

Joe Engel joins the list of great foremen who set the bar high for the next journeymen linemen to attain leadership roles, including Kurt Starkey.

Kurt worked as summer help in 2005 and was hired full-time as an apprentice lineman. He completed his four-year apprenticeship through Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire. For the past 17 years, Kurt has worked as a journeyman lineman constructing new distribution power lines.

Working under Joe’s leadership and soaking up his knowledge, Kurt applied for and was promoted to construction foreman. Kurt shared his thoughts on his mentor: “We built miles of line together. Joe has a strong work ethic and taught me almost everything I know. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty and be right in the trenches with you.”

“Safety is my top priority. Keeping the crew motivated and working strong as a team to be proficient and successful is a personal goal of mine as construction foreman,” stated Kurt. “If I can be half the foreman he was, Oakdale Electric will continue to thrive.”

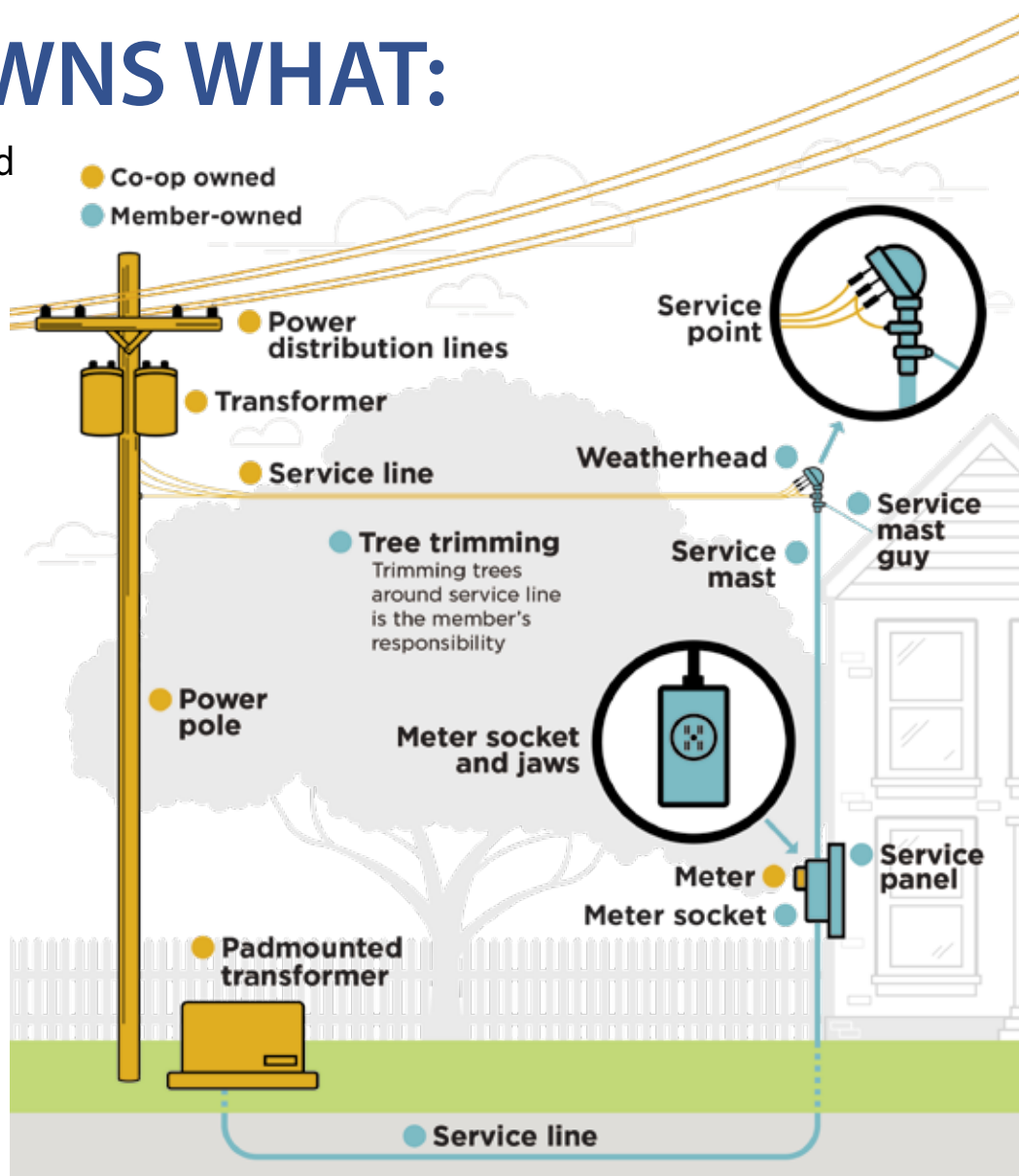
Joe did leave a positive mark on the cooperative, and now Kurt has his opportunity to do the same. The bar will continue to be set high for future linemen at Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

WHO OWNS WHAT:

Electric co-op-owned equipment vs. member-owned equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

NOTE: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.



UNDERGROUND SERVICE REMINDER

All underground construction paperwork and fees need to be submitted by November 1, 2022. If you have construction plans that are not already scheduled, call Oakdale Electric Cooperative TODAY! We cannot guarantee completion of any underground work once the frost sets in; however, we will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and install your electrical service before winter.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

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

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#) info@oakdalerec.com

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.



A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT WE'RE MIXING UP FOR MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

A tried and true favorite, Tomah Lions Club will be serving up pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Beverages provided will be coffee, orange juice, milk, and Ocean Spray juice.

Save room for dessert from Oakdale Credit Union!



Ask **Maribeth** about available energy incentives for qualified home energy-efficiency upgrades, including EnergyStar® appliances, home heating systems, and energy-efficient lighting.

Pictured at left: **Maribeth O'Dell, Consumer Service Specialist**

Visit **Todd** by the Tesla, pull a prize out of the Tesla's frunk, and see if you win a bill credit. A total of \$2,000 in bill credits will be drawn! Todd can answer questions regarding electric vehicles and renewable energy options.

Pictured at right: **Todd O'Neil, Energy Services Director**



Get energy educated with our two equipment technicians, **Alan** and **Jim**. Learn about energy savings, load management, and answers to general service questions.

Pictured at left: **Alan Taylor & Jim Suzda, Equipment Technicians**

Bring in new and gently used winter outerwear to the Operation Round Up® booth and receive a prize. Enroll in Operation Round Up® at Member Appreciation Day to support your local community with an annual average of only \$6.

Check out the *Tried and True & Something NEW* activities!

- NEW! Touch a Truck
- NEW! Face Painting by Tappy
- NEW! Balloons by Kevin
- NEW! Safety Demonstrations
- Crafts by Craft Time Studio
- Giant Games & LEGOS



Parking Options:

- 1) Oakdale Electric Cooperative
489 N. Oakwood St. Tomah, WI 54660
- 2) Granger's, LLC
566 N. Oakwood St. Tomah, WI 54660

Shuttle Assistance Available:



Cooperative employees will be available to assist members with golf cart transportation from parking to the co-op entrance.

