

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative

October 2024 NEWS



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, October 12  
7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

Kids Activities

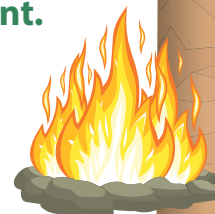
Drawings



Members who attend  
**MEMBER  
APPRECIATION  
DAY**

on Saturday, October 12, will get to experience all that Co-op Camp has to offer. Review the checklist of all the fun that's available at this family-friendly event.

**FOOD**



Come hungry to camp and the Tomah Lions Club will fill your bellies with their hearty pancake breakfast. When you are ready for dessert, Oakdale Credit Union will fulfill your craving with ice cream sandwiches. Also, grab a bag of popcorn from the popcorn stand to fill in the cracks.



Tomah Lions Club (left)  
Oakdale Credit Union – Pam Jorgenson and Colleen Woggon. (right)

**LANTERN**



When you enter the front entrance of the co-op, you will receive ONE goodie bag per member number. Inside will be the 2025 member featured calendar, which will showcase the winners of the member photo contest, one registration card, and a collapsible lantern.

*Continued on the back cover*



# ELECTRICITY PROVIDES POWERFUL VALUE

Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car, and drive to the office. I might have to stop for gas and then go into the store and purchase something to eat and/or drink. At lunchtime, I sometimes drive to the nearest location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries, and a drink sets you back \$10 or more, and a Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what is the real value—short-term satisfaction? Even if you started packing your own lunch, a latte will still cost about \$120 a month. This got me thinking—is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.58, and the average monthly electric bill for members of Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) is \$140. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. You could brew your own coffee, cook your own meals, binge a series, and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge

devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

As a cooperative, OEC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, OEC always puts you top-of-mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte.

## Interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors?

### What to do next!

**Oct. – Dec. 20**

Request a Nomination Petition Form by contacting Deana Protz, or scan the QR code to fill out a form online.

**Dec. 20, 2024**

Submit completed Nomination Petition Form by 3:00 p.m. on **December 20, 2024.**

**April 26, 2025**

Attend Annual Meeting and Director Election on **April 26, 2025.**



Scan code to fill out a Petition Nomination Form online.

Questions? Contact Deana Protz at [dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com).

# MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!



Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) members hit the outdoors photographing “Life in Rural Wisconsin”. Approximately 60 photos were submitted this year, which called for extra meticulous judging by OEC employees. Photos were judged anonymously and the photo with the most votes was then deemed the cover photo winner.

Congratulations to our member winners and honorable mentions! Get a copy of the 2025 Member Photo Featured Calendar at Member Appreciation Day on October 12, at the co-op headquarters.



Cover Photo – Rita Berg of Tomah



January – Alan Baker of Necedah



February – Eric Ingmundson of Sparta



March – Rita Berg of Tomah



April – Jesse Cantwell of Reedsburg



May – Debra Galston of Mauston



June – Eric Ingmundson of Sparta



July – Sisomphou Campbell of Camp Douglas



August – Mike Tucker of New Lisbon



September – Rita Berg of Tomah



October – Aidan Duneman of Tomah



November – Jesse Cantwell of Reedsburg



December – Mike Tucker of New Lisbon



Honorable Mention – Charles Christensen of La Valle



Honorable Mention – Kristen Keehan of Necedah



Honorable Mention – David Riley of La Valle

## UNDERGROUND SERVICE REMINDER



All underground construction paperwork and fees for this year need to be submitted by November 1, 2024. If you have construction plans that are not already scheduled, call Oakdale Electric Cooperative today at 1-800-241-2468. We cannot guarantee completion of any underground work after this date due to possible frost conditions; however, we will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and install your electrical service before winter.



## UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS Notice of forfeiture of funds held by Oakdale Electric Cooperative

You are hereby notified that Oakdale Electric Cooperative of Oakdale, Wisconsin, has unclaimed funds belonging to our members.

You may claim these funds by contacting the cooperative at 1-800-241-2468 or emailing Tina Von Haden at [tvonhadn@oakdalerec.com](mailto:tvonhadn@oakdalerec.com) and furnishing proof of your legal interest in such funds on or before November 4, 2024.

You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence of your right to receive the same by November 4, 2024, these funds will be forfeited to the cooperative, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03(10).

Please visit Oakdale Electric Cooperative's website at [www.oakdalerec.com/capital-credits](http://www.oakdalerec.com/capital-credits) for a complete list of members' names and addresses identified as having unclaimed funds with Oakdale Electric Cooperative.



**Tina Von Haden**  
Billing & CIS Specialist

## HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK



### Chris Tackmann, General Manager & CEO


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

   [info@oakdalerec.com](mailto: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: 1-855-938-3610

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

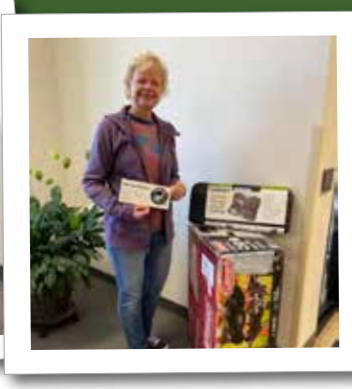


## GOODIES

Members can collect different prizes by following the instructions on the registration card. Once the card is completed and member information is filled in, members can submit it at the camper in the middle of the shop for an additional prize. This will get you entered for a chance to win one of many camping-inspired giveaways. Kids attending Member Appreciation Day will receive a goodie bag at the co-op entrance with an entry card to place in one of three prize drawings.

### Drawing Rules:

- Winners will be drawn and contacted the next week.  
\*No drawings will take place during Member Appreciation Day.
- ONE entry per member number.
- Kids Drawing – ONE entry per child and parent or guardian must be a member.
- Employees, directors, as well as immediate family of Oakdale Electric Cooperative, are not eligible.



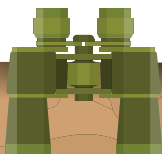
## CONVENIENCE

2023 Kids Winner Elliana (left)  
2023 Winner Vicki Prudhomme (middle)  
2023 Winner Dennis Malone (right)

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

### Parking Options:

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





# SAFETY

- Learn about electrical safety by watching a hotline demonstration at 9 and 10 a.m.
- Fight off the flu this fall and get your flu vaccine from Monroe County Health Department. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be found at [www.oakdalerec.com/member-appreciation-day](http://www.oakdalerec.com/member-appreciation-day), or scan the QR code and pre-register now.



Area Service Foreman Brock Brown and Journeyman Lineman Dalton Linzmeier present the electrical safety hotline demonstration.

# ACTIVITIES



Co-op Camp wouldn't be complete without activities! Play a game at one of the co-op educational booths and be sure to stop at the following:

- **BALLOONS BY KEVIN**
- **CRAFT TIME STUDIO**
- **FACE PAINTING BY TAPPY**
- **GIANT GAMES & LEGOS**
- **TAKE YOUR PHOTO IN A BUCKET!**

\*For safety purposes, parents or guardians are responsible for watching their children at all times.

Future members participating in activities at the 2023 Member Appreciation Day.

