

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2024

OCNTO ELECTRIC
OEC
COOPERATIVE

**CELEBRATING THE ART
OF THE DRIFTLESS AREA**

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

TYPES OF HEAT PUMPS

HONEY HULLABALOO

Member Appreciation

 MY CO-OP

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

OCONTO ELECTRIC
OEC
COOPERATIVE

Saturday, October 5

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Join us at OEC - 7479 REA Rd, Oconto Falls

**Fun and Food
FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY**

**Door Prizes
Kids Activities**



Bring this portion to the 2024 Member Appreciation Breakfast to register for door prizes.

Member Name _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Phone Number _____

MAKING PAYMENTS SHOULDN'T BE A HASSLE

PAYMENT OPTION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Secured Payment Online Through SMARTHUB Cost of payment: FREE	• Pay your bill • Store payment information • View usage/payment history • Report an outage • Select paperless option
Automatic Bill Payment System Cost of payment: FREE	• Payments can be deducted from your checking or savings account • Payments can be deducted from a debit or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) • Automatically withdrawn from your account the third of every month. (If the third falls on a weekend it will be withdrawn on the following Monday. This is not considered past due). • Statement will still be mailed or you can choose paperless option
Secured Payment by Phone Through bank account or credit card Cost of payment: FREE	• Call 1-855-356-6335 • Use your OEC Account Number • Available 24/7
By Mail To PO Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 Cost of payment: Postage	• With check or money order
After Hours Deposit 7479 REA Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 Cost of payment: FREE	• Located at the main entrance of OEC office building • Very secure and payments in the after hours deposit are processed the next business day • Cash, check, money order
In Person At our office, Mon.-Fri. 9 AM - 3 PM 7479 REA Road, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 Cost of payment: FREE	• Through cashier • Cash, check, money order, credit/debit card accepted



The Center of Customer Engagement

SmartHub provides convenient account access and two-way communication to OEC online or via your mobile device. Manage payments, notify customer service for account and service issues, check your usage and receive special messaging from OEC all at the touch of a button.

- Bill reminders
- Safe and secure
- Contact customer service
- Bill payment
- Service usage details
- Free

Account Management at your Fingertips

 Check Usage
  Pay Bill
  Report Service Issues
  Secure
  Customer Service

Safe & Secure



SmartHub provides a safe and secure environment for bill payments and transaction between OEC and your financial institution.

How do I get SmartHub?

From your device or computer, go to www.ocontoelectric.com.
Click on the SmartHub icon.

iOS Users

Available on the iPhone




Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store.

Android Users

Download for Android




Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Android market.



DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS AT YLC

Suring high school junior Tucker Hischke and Lena high school sophomore Lucas Koslowsky were OEC's delegates to the 2024 Wisconsin Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), held July 16–18 at UW-Stout. Throughout the three-day event, students met friends from around the state, experienced life on a college campus, and learned more about honing their own personal leadership skills from dynamic speakers and activities.

Highlights for the students included motivational speaker Craig Hillier's message on Breakthrough Leadership. He told students that leaders must learn how to turn their setbacks into comebacks, respect differences, and take responsibility for their actions rather than playing the victim. Craig's workshop kept the students engaged through interactive activities, discussions, and stories.

The second night was the formal etiquette dinner, where students had the opportunity to learn basic etiquette for social and professional situations.

The students were also divided into six cooperative districts, where they developed their leadership skills and cooperative knowledge with students from other schools. Each district was given a cooperative principle and they had to come up with a TikTok video. This activity kept the students and their district chaperones very engaged.

There is no reset button in life

Ben Bella, safety and loss control manager, was my favorite presenter at the conference. He started off his session talking to the students about safe driving. You need to be a defensive driver and watch out for the drivers around you. This discussion led into how decision making is a process.

"How many of you have ever made a bad decision?" asked Ben. Many raised their hands. "Okay, that bad decision, how can it affect your life or someone else's? We never know what the consequences will be," said Ben.

He then broke it down into the five steps of bad decision making:

#1 Not Thinking — We have two brains, the fast side and slow side. Fast makes 95% of our decisions and what we are



Tucker Hischke



Lucas Koslowsky

trained to do and react to. Slow is like well...let me think about that. The fast brain takes over when trying to use that side.

#2 Validation — You're at a vulnerable age. You might be making decisions on what someone else's thoughts are on you. (99801)

#3 Consequences — Everything we do has consequences but we do it anyway.

#4 Follow your plan and not your mood — impulse. If you are really excited or in a bad mood, don't make any quick decisions. This is a fast brain decision. You need to count to ten to slow down your brain to make the right choice. Ben compared this to our actions and our words. You can't take them back. He compared it to a tube of toothpaste. Once you squeeze it out, you can't put it back in.

#5 Self control — If we had a rear-view mirror to make our decisions we would make better ones.

Ben shared the following quote: "There is no reset button in life. You can't take anything back, and you can't undo anything. All of your actions have consequences, and the things you say and do today will have a lasting impact on the rest of your life. You have to understand that, and you have to be aware of it while making your decisions."

The dates for next year's Youth Leadership Conference are July 15–17. If anyone is hesitant to go, I highly recommend going! — *Katie Jagiello*





National Night Out

The Peshtigo Police Department and community partners hosted a Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday, August 6, at Badger Park in Peshtigo. National Night Out is a chance for police departments to build connections with community members.

The free family-friendly event featured bounce houses, a dunk tank, emergency vehicles, the Eagle III rescue helicopter, emergency vehicles, music and food. (1284101) Marinette county officers also did a demonstration with their K9 unit on how the officer and dog work together to catch suspects.

Oconto Electric Cooperative was at the event with their high-voltage demonstration table that shows a variety of contact hazards with overhead and underground service.

(Pictured above is lineman John Havemeier, Jake and Carter Nasgovitz)

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep you home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.



HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The August account numbers belonged to Amanda Belongia, Abrams, and Chong Thao, Krakow.



Ryan Miller, CEO

Katie Jagiello, Communications and Marketing

7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154
www.ocontoelectric.com

Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Hours of Lobby: 9:00 a.m.– 3 p.m. Friday

Non-emergencies: 920-846-2816

Emergencies & outages: Toll FREE 800-472-8410
 24 hours a day, 7 days a week