




Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to its members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health

and priorities for the coming years. The annual meeting is also the time to vote for new board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. It is worth noting that the health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability

and affordability of your energy, and Oakdale Electric Cooperative wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While Oakdale Electric Cooperative provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! Mark your calendar for this year’s annual meeting on Saturday, April 30, at Tomah Recreation Park – Recreation Building, 1625 Butts Ave, Tomah, WI.

87th Oakdale Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

**Saturday, April 30th
Tomah Recreation Park**

Look for the bucket truck!

LATEST SELFLESS SERVICE RECIPIENT LEFT A LIFELONG IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

Oakdale Electric Cooperative [OEC] believes in the power of individuals stepping forward and using their talents for the benefit of others. In an effort to thank these outstanding individuals for their selfless service to their community, the co-op is recognizing one nominated individual quarterly for his or her volunteer work with a Selfless Service Award.

Mark Chew had only been in the Warrens area since 2019 but made a large impact on the community. His restaurant, Marco's Italian and American Grill, is a staple in the Warrens area. Mark not only treated his patrons like family but the entire surrounding communities as well. Mark sponsored the Annual Tree Lighting Festival in Warrens, and invited the community to bring ornaments to decorate the tree while offering a free community meal afterwards.

When the Warrens Cranberry Festival was canceled in 2020, he was instrumental in organizing a golf fundraising event that raised over \$20,000 for the Town of Lincoln Fire Department. Close friend Linda Pierce stated, "If it weren't for Mark, those organizations may not have raised adequate funding in 2020. Mark took it upon himself to do something." A fundraiser that was orchestrated quickly from one man with love for his community is going on its third year as an annual event.

Mark had a heart that just kept giving. He held a multitude of fundraising events for the local animal shelter and supported youth and local organizations in the area, including Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter, Town of Lincoln Fire Department, Warrens Trail Twisters, Youth Wrestling, and more. Pierce stated, "When Mark saw a need for help, he stepped up and did his part, no questions asked."

Linda and Kevin Pierce have been friends with Mark and his wife, Lan (Cindy) Chew, since day one. Kevin stated, "I noticed someone new bought the place and looked like it was open for business. I stopped in and Mark said they weren't open yet but served me a drink anyway. From there on, it's been known that I was his first customer."

A man that may not have been in the area for long, left a lifelong impact on the community. Mark sadly passed away in December and is survived by his wife, Lan (Cindy) Chew, and children in Iowa and Pennsylvania. "His impact on the community will never be forgotten," stated Linda Pierce.



2021 Selfless Service Award Recipients



Sara Moseley



Arris Sullivan



James Sherman



OEC Finance Director Linda Pierce presented the Selfless Service Award to Mark Chew's wife, Lan (Cindy) Chew at Mark and Cindy's restaurant, Marco's Italian and American Grill in Warrens.



NOMINATE A SELFLESS SERVICE AWARD NOMINEE FOR A CHANCE AT \$20!

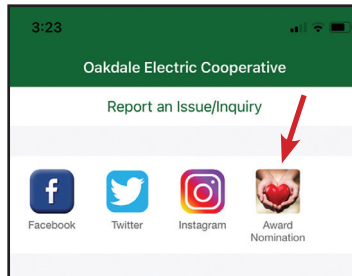
Do you know someone committed to the community and always available to lend a helping hand? Nominate them for the Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s Selfless Service Award for a chance at a \$20 bill credit.

The Selfless Service Award Nomination Contest will be a reoccurring contest for each quarter. To be eligible, you must be an Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) member with an active account number; nominees do not have to be an OEC member. Once the award recipient is selected, the OEC member nominator of the awarded recipient will be notified and receive a \$20 bill credit.

Nominations for quarter one must be submitted by 4 p.m. on March 15, 2022.

HOW TO ENTER:

- Visit www.oakdalerec.com/selfless-service-award and complete the nomination form.
- Login to the SmartHub app and click the icon that says Award Nomination.
- Mail: PO Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649
- Call 800-241-2468 during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Drop off the completed nomination form at the co-op administrative building, 489 N. Oakwood St., Tomah, 54660, or place in the 24-hour secure drop box.



CONTEST RULES:

- ONE entry per account number.
- Employees, directors, as well as immediate family of Oakdale Electric Cooperative, are not eligible to receive the \$20 bill credit.

What is the Selfless Service Award?

This award is presented to individuals who engage in community volunteerism, performing valuable services that benefit and improve quality of life within the communities served by OEC. The award, a \$250 gift card and plaque, will be presented to one individual in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Awards will not be granted, for example, to:

- An individual in a paid position with a nonprofit organization
- A volunteer who assists another individual (i.e., lawn mowing, snow shoveling, etc.)
- Self-nominations

Do what you love and love what you do SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Lineworker

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior pursuing a post-secondary education in an electrical lineworker program. Any applicant enrolling in a lineworker program is eligible. Preference will be given to Oakdale Electric Cooperative members, and residents of Monroe, Juneau, Jackson, Sauk, and Wood counties.

At-Large/Non-Traditional

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is not enrolled in one of the 12 participating public high schools in our

service area (At-Large) or someone pursuing post-secondary education after spending time in the work place or raising a family (Non-Traditional).

To be eligible, the applicant must be a member or the son or daughter (or under the legal guardianship) of an active member of Oakdale Electric Cooperative in good standing and accepted at a post-secondary program or accredited training program.

Applications for the Lineworker and At-Large/Non-Traditional scholarships are due by May 1, 2022.

To apply or for more information about scholarships, visit oakdalerec.com/scholarships.



Journeyman Lineman,
Dalton Linzmeier

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IN MOTION

Principle #5 – Education, Training & Information Principle #7 – Concern for Community

Cooperative businesses, like Oakdale Electric Cooperative, are special because they are owned by their members, approximately 14,055 to be exact, and are guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interest of those they serve.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative regularly exercises co-op Principle Five – Education, Training and Information and Principle Seven – Concern for Community.

Electrical Safety Training

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Safety and Loss Control Manager Ben Bella provides FREE electrical safety training for local businesses and organizations. Ben has presented to local and county police departments, EMS, fire departments, and more.



Ben Bella presented to Gerke Excavating Inc. employees.



Hotline Demonstrations

Oakdale Electric Cooperative visits local school districts annually in spring to promote electric safety to today's youth. The presentation is geared towards kindergarten to fifth-graders.



Area Service Foreman Brock Brown presented at a local elementary school.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is available to provide FREE presentations and demonstrations to schools, civic organizations, and at community events. Topics include:

- Safety Demonstrations
- Hotline Demonstrations
- Energy Efficiency
- Industry Hot Topics
- Renewable Energy
- Career Days
- Electrical Safety
- Lineman Demonstrations

To learn more about electrical safety presentations, visit oakdalerec.com/presentations-and-demonstrations. Contact Jackie McGlin at 608-372-8826 or jmcglin@oakdalerec.com with questions.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO


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608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468

   info@oakdalerec.com

Jackie McGlin, Editor



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

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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.