Oakdale Electric Salutes Members at Annual Meeting

akdale Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, April 5, at Tomah Senior High School. Doors opened at 9 a.m. for registration, with the business meeting starting at 10 a.m. Members socialized with Oakdale employees and other members prior to the meeting, while enjoying coffee and doughnuts.

Ron Churchill, board president, called the meeting to order, Joan Spohn sung the national anthem, and Greg Eirschele provided the invocation. The theme of this year's meeting was "Our Members, Our Purpose" to which Churchill's opening remarks stated, "It's you—our members—who have ensured our success over all these years." He reinforced this fact by declaring it is our members who serve on the Operation Round Up board and director nomination committees. contribute to the Operation Round Up fund, read the WEC News, attend the annual meeting, and vote in our elections.

Bruce Ardelt, general manager, continued on with the theme noting, "There's a deeper *purpose* for electric cooperatives...and that is to improve the lives of those we serve." Ardelt highlighted Oakdale Electric's growth and accomplishments this past year that ensure the cooperative's bright



Bruce Ardelt received two Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News awards from WECA Manager Share Brandt.

future continues. This included 179 new services added, increased kWh sales from larger loads, line and system upgrades, and right-of-way maintenance. Oakdale implemented automated vehicle location (AVL) systems in all trucks to increase effectiveness and safety. Ardelt noted the cooperative's great commitment to the communities we serve through employee volunteerism, donations, and sponsorships.

Rates are always on the forefront of members' minds, to which Ardelt was pleased to announce rates have been stable in 2013 and 2014; however, the future remains uncertain due to new sources and rules for energy provision.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is committed to working with our state and national organizations to ensure that reliability and affordability are maintained for the best interest of our members. Ardelt wrapped up his presentation by promising, "Oakdale is genuinely concerned and focused on helping our members lead a better life now and for years to come."

Dairyland Power Vice President of Strategic Planning John Carr was the annual meeting's guest speaker.

Incumbent directors Ron Churchill and Bob Hess were up for re-election and retained their positions in a contested race. Both directors will serve an additional three-year term.

Members in attendance had the opportunity to participate in a solar survey, sign up for Operation Round Up, and win one of five \$100 electric bill credits. Following the business meeting, members were served a hearty Kentucky Fried Chicken lunch. Rain gauge door prizes were dispersed to members upon departure.

Incumbent board officers retained their positions in a reorganization following the meeting. Ron Churchill continues as president, Robert Hess as vice president, Jonathan Williams as secretary, and Jim Guilbault as treasurer.

The Oakdale Electric Cooperative board of directors with attorney Thomas Zaremba (far right). Left to right: James Van Wychen, Robert Hess, James Guilbault, Gregory Eirschele, Jonathan Williams, and Rick Barrett.









Oakdale Electric Cooperative 79th Annual Meeting

Clockwise, starting upper left: Sandi Bloom and Sherry Anderson pass out rain gauges; Al Taylor serving up a smile and doughnuts before the start of the business meeting; Joan Spohn singing the national anthem; members enjoying Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch; Board President Ron Churchill (right) greeting OEC employee Jim Haywood; Linemen Kurt Starkey, Tommy Liddane, and Ethan Benson showing their Badger pride in front of the Touchstone Energy balloon.







Oakdale Electric Cooperative





Danzic Balcom
Pittsville High School
Parents: Lance and
Stacey Balcom
Mid-State Technical
College in Wisconsin Rapids
Criminal Justice



Margaret Baumgardt Nekoosa High School Parents: Julie Bennett and Tony Baumgardt UW-Platteville Pre-Veterinary Science

Est,000 scholarship from Oakdale Electric Cooperative. Winners were selected based on their essays on the topic of "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World" following their attendance at the Youth Leadership Congress in UW–River Falls in 2013. Scholarships are funded directly through the Federated Youth Foundation by unclaimed capital credits.



Connor Coyle
Pittsville High School
Parents: Tina Ellis Coyle
and Scott Coyle
UW–Platteville
Public Relations



Trystan Houzner Royall High School Parents: Richard and Mary Houzner UM–Duluth Political Science



Adrianna Jereb Tomah High School Parents: Jeff and Amy Jereb Macalester College Journalism



Josh Marten
Brookwood High School
Parents: Jeff and
Jean Marten
Moraine Park Technical
College
Electrical Power
Distribution



Trae Ness
Royall High School
Parents: Phil and Cheri Ness
UW-Platteville
Industrial Technology
Management with an
emphasis in Construction
Management



Tom Neumann Royall High School Parents: Kayela and William Neumann UW–Eau Claire Business



Anne Peterson
Tomah High School
Parents: Brian and
Patricia Ellsworth
Viterbo University
Nursing



Thomas Sass Bio
Reedsburg Area High
School
Parents: William and
Jeanne Sass
Madison Media Institute
Digital Art and Design
Program



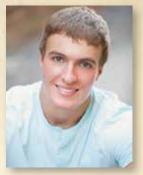
Anna Blasco
Mauston High School
Parents: Peter and
Patricia Blasco
UM–Twin Cities
Bioproducts and Biosystems
Engineering



Casey Brummund
New Lisbon High School
Parents: Kirt and
Connie Brummund
UW-Madison Farm and
Industry Short Course



Carly Johnson
Mauston High School
Parents: J.C. and Christy
Johnson
Edgewood College
Psychology



John Costello
New Lisbon High School
Parents: John Costello
and Cindy Costello
Viterbo University
Pre-physical Therapy/
Nursing



Cierra Coyle
Pittsville High School
Parents: Tina Ellis Coyle
and Scott Coyle
UW–Milwaukee
Marketing



Ethan Karls
Oregon High School
Parents: Randy and
Nanette Karls
UW-Platteville
Electrical Engineering



Angela Kimball
Necedah High School
Parent: Susan
Christopherson
Winona State University
Paralegal



Jennifer Kosinski Necedah High School Parents: Ronald and Susan Kosinski UW–La Crosse Art Education



Alaina Laursen
Mauston High School
Parents: Peter and
Jennifer Laursen
UW–Madison
Engineering



Nicole Lynch
Necedah High School
Parents: Tom and
Donna Lynch
UW-Oshkosh
Nursing



Sydney Scott
Tomah High School
Parents: Beth Oemichen
and Craige Scott
UW-Madison
Business/Marketing



Allison Woggon
New Lisbon High School
Parents: Tom and
Colleen Woggon
Western Tech of La Crosse
Early Childhood
Education



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardelt, General Manager

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