



## Oakdale Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

*Watch for your annual  
report booklet in March*

**Saturday, March 28  
Tomah High School**

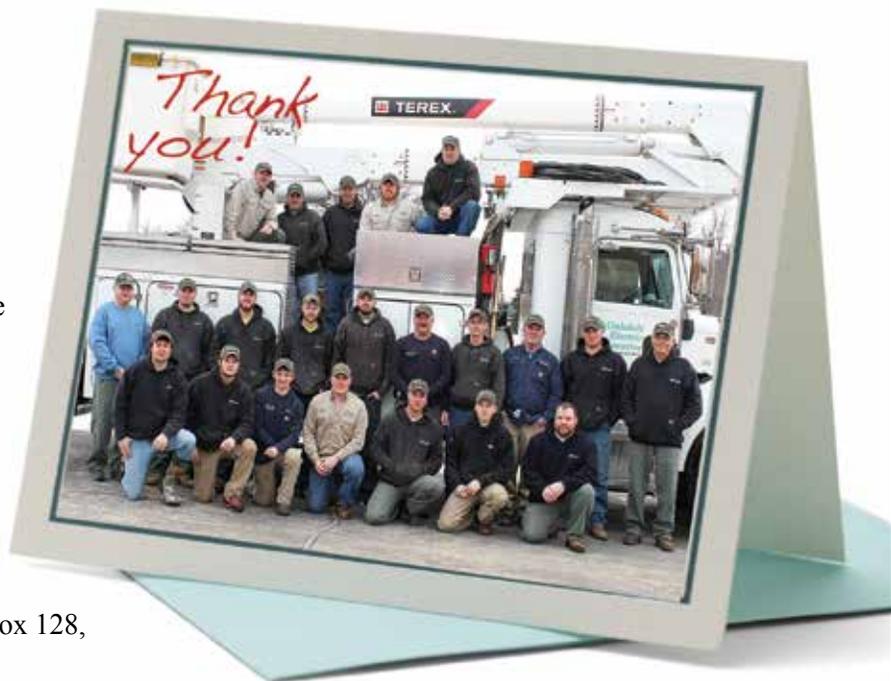
**Registration: 9 a.m.  
Business Meeting: 10 a.m.**



- Director elections
- Annual reports
- Chance to win prizes
- Door prizes
- Lunch to follow business meeting

## We have friends in high places. Let's shower them with thanks!

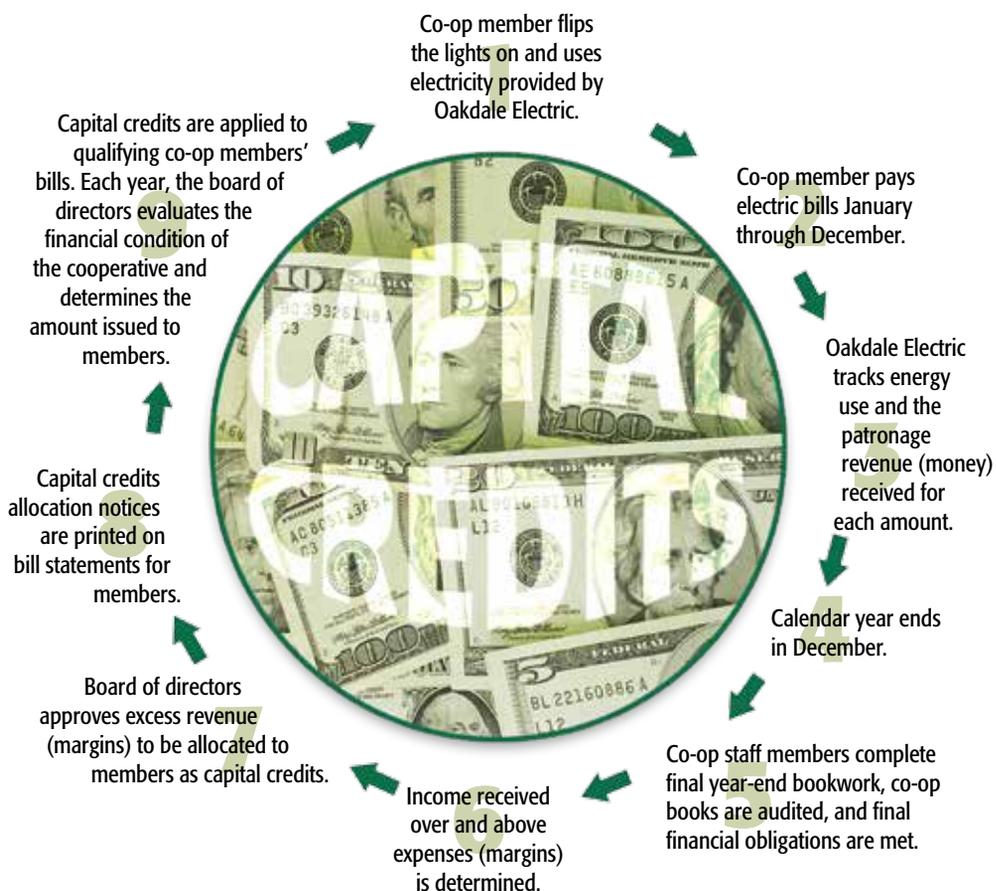
Now's the perfect time to thank those linemen who work through rain, sleet, and snow to keep the electricity flowing! In recognition of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18, we are hosting a card shower for our own linemen. Express your appreciation to the men who keep the lights on by sending cards or notes of thanks to the co-op's office (Att. Card Shower, P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649) by April 18!



## What are Capital Credits?

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in the cooperative. Whereas investor-owned utilities earn profits for their investors, in a cooperative, any margins left over after all expenses have been paid are returned to members in proportion to their electrical usage.

A capital credit allocation was listed on the February bills of members who had patronage in 2014.





## Enjoy a Safe Start to Spring

As the spring season approaches, many will usher in the warmer weather by thoroughly cleaning their homes and tending to yard work. The Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) recommends homeowners ensure that electrical hazards are eliminated along with unwanted dust and clutter.

ESFI suggests starting with the basement, an important but often overlooked space when it comes to home inspection and fire safety. These low-level rooms contain two leading causes of home fires—heating equipment and electrical distribution systems.

- Check the label inside the door or cover of your electrical service panel to see when your electrical system was last inspected. If the date has passed or is approaching, contact a licensed, qualified electrician to schedule an inspection.

- Be sure circuit breakers and fuses are correctly labeled with their amperage and their corresponding rooms, circuits, or outlets. Use correct size and current rating for breakers/fuses.



*Make sure your spring cleaning routine includes checking your circuit breaker box.*

- Increase your fire protection by having a licensed electrician replace your standard circuit breakers with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs).

- Have your furnace cleaned and inspected annually by a licensed professional.

- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment, such as furnaces, stoves, and fireplaces, is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Check for excessive vibration or movement when the washing machine or dryer is operating. This can put stress on electrical connections.
- Make sure the area around your dryer is clutter free and that the dryer lint filter is cleaned after each load. Build up can be a fire starter.
- Don't overlook your basement when it comes to smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. These devices should be installed in these spaces as well as on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. Test these alarms to ensure that they are in working order, and replace the batteries when needed.

Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for more tips on keeping your home and family safe this spring and beyond. ■



## **START SNAPPING!**

### **The 2015 Member Photo Contest is Underway:**

*“Life in Rural Wisconsin”*

**Entry forms and photo release forms can be downloaded from our website at [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com), picked up at our office, or we will email you a copy.**

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2016 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

Photos must be taken within Oakdale Electric Cooperative's service territory and should capture life in rural Wisconsin.

The contest runs through August 21, 2015; however, submitted photos can be taken outside this date range.

Photos can be emailed to [dprotz@oakdalerec.com](mailto:dprotz@oakdalerec.com), mailed to P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649, or dropped off at the Oakdale Electric Cooperative office (489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale).

For a complete set of rules, visit our website at [www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com).

#### **Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**



Source: [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov)

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment, and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5–30 percent on your energy bills!



### **Oakdale Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardel, General Manager  
Deana Protz, Editor

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale WI 54649  
(608) 372-4131 • (800) 241-2468  
[info@oakdalerec.com](mailto:info@oakdalerec.com)

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: (800) 927-6151

Toll-free online bill payment: 866-392-4307

FAX Number: (608) 372-5173

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