

OAKDALE ELECTRIC BOARD ELECTION ON THE HORIZON

Districts 3 and 6 are up for election

Members in Districts 3 and 6 have an opportunity to serve on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative board of directors by running for a position on the board in the April 2016 co-op election. Two positions will be up for election; terms are expiring for Gregory Eirschele, Tomah, representing District 3, and Jonathan Williams, Lyndon Station, representing District 6.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is owned by its members and guided by directors elected from the membership. Board directors serve three-year terms and represent co-op members at monthly meetings. Candidates must meet the qualifications outlined in the cooperative's bylaws and be full-time residents of the district they represent. For applications or more details about



board elections, visit oakdalerec.com or contact Cherlyn at cmoseley@oakdalerec.com or 800-241-2468.

Director Qualifications

In order to serve as a representative on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a member must...

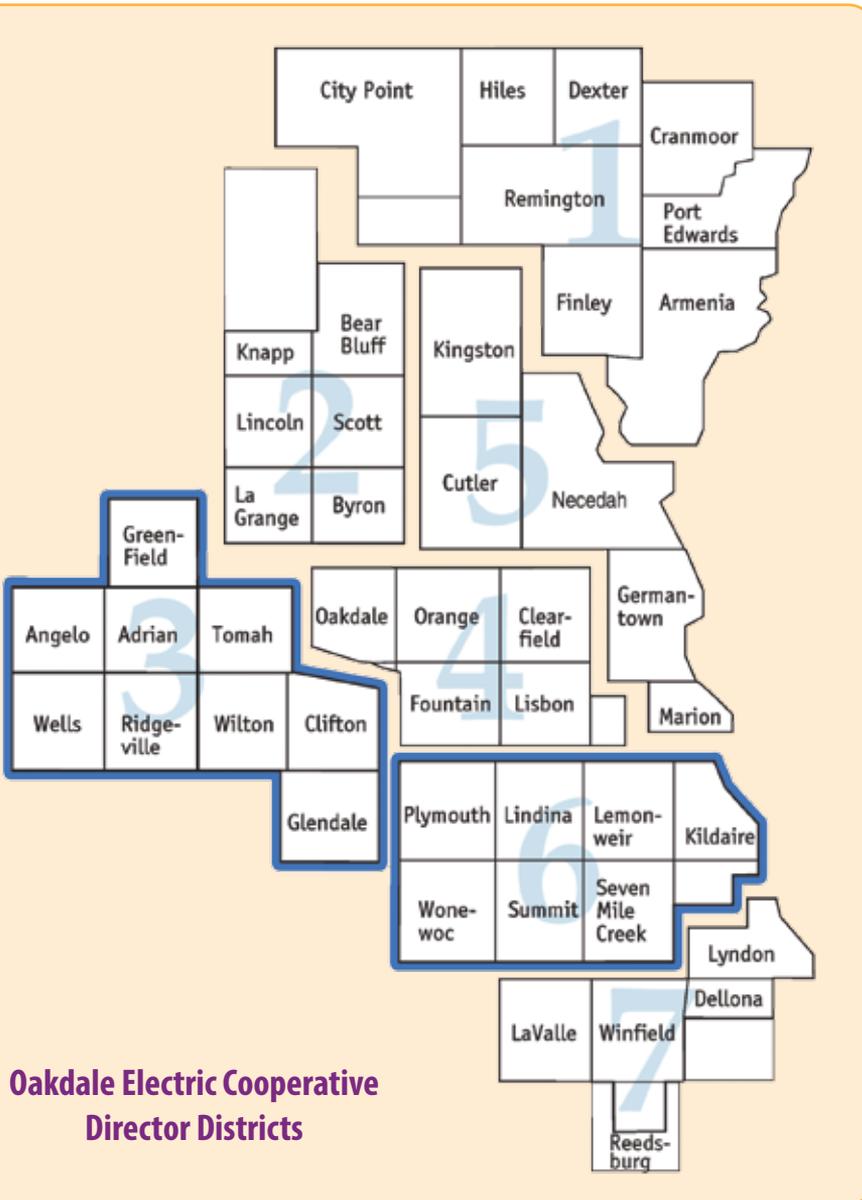
1. Be a member and primary resident in the district from which elected.
2. Not be employed by or have any financial interest in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or engage in selling electrical or plumbing appliances or supplies to members of the co-op.
3. Not be employed by the cooperative.

Director Duties

A director must have the time to attend monthly board meetings, other special meetings, and educational seminars that are designed to keep directors informed on the various aspects of Oakdale Electric Cooperative and the electric utility industry. Their decisions are made in the best interest of the cooperative, and they represent the entire membership.

Grassroots democracy is one of the hallmarks of belonging to an electric cooperative. Two directors will be elected at the annual meeting of Oakdale Electric Cooperative on April 2 at Tomah High School. Cooperative members will vote for directors in Districts 3 and 6. Are you interested in serving as a board member for Oakdale Electric Cooperative? Do you reside in one of the two districts listed above? Consider becoming a part of your electric cooperative by submitting your name as a director candidate in this year's election.

MY CO-OP





By wearing jeans, co-op employees show **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

At Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC), our people are more than just employees; they are also members—owners living in the heart of the cooperative’s service territory. With this relationship comes an appreciation for the importance of the seventh cooperative principle, concern for the community. Outside of work, OEC employees voluntarily donate their time to school and church groups, serve on various non-profit boards, and even volunteer for local fire departments. You’ll see our people in the stands cheering on high school athletic teams, attending local fairs and festivals, and participating in fundraising events. Concern for community is a way of life that is second nature for cooperative employees.

This steadfast concern for community also continues at work through a program called the Blue Jean Fund. Through this program, employees voluntarily donate a couple dollars per week in order to wear jeans while at work on Fridays. When a sizable dollar amount is collected, a collaborative decision is made on how and where it would be best invested back into the community.

Blue Jean Fund donations are made throughout the year, but during the holiday season, employees believe it is their duty to dig a little deeper into their pockets to support those in need. This past October a challenge to raise \$750 was given, and as always, our people rose to the occasion. After assessing the needs of the communities within the five counties served by Oakdale Electric Cooperative, funds were split among three organizations: Brighter Tomorrows of Monroe

County, New Lisbon Community Supper, and HUD-VASH (The Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing).

Brighter Tomorrows

Brighter Tomorrows works to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault in Monroe County, advocating for a non-violent society. Operating with a staff of only three, the organization provides crisis intervention, legal and personal advocacy, information/referral services, support groups, community education, and public awareness. According to Program Coordinator Jan Bruder, Brighter Tomorrows has been providing this free, public service since 1996 to approximately 600 individuals annually. Their funding comes solely from grants and from the support of local individuals and businesses.



Left: OEC employee, Chad Schauf presenting Jan Bruder of Brighter Tomorrows with a donation. Right: Community Supper Organizer Janiece Zablotzki with chef Darleen Ulrich accepting the holiday donation.

As with most non-profits, Brighter Tomorrows' wish list is ever growing and changing to meet the needs of the community. The cooperative recently learned of the group's desire to create a fund that would assist survivors of domestic abuse or violence pay for their first month's rent, or security deposit, when moving into safe housing. Oakdale Electric Cooperative employees made a donation from their Blue Jean Fund to make this wish a reality and help survivors get a fresh start on life.

To learn more, visit www.mocobrightertomorrows.com or call 608-269-7853. **If this is an emergency, please dial the 24-hour crisis line at 1-888-886-2327, to speak with a trained professional.*

New Lisbon Community Supper

New Lisbon Community Supper organizer Janiece Zablotzki never understood why people only got together to enjoy a meal during the holidays. She was determined to create a free, open-door event where people could dine with old and new friends alike. That was just four short years ago, and Zablotzki has never looked back.

"This is not just about feeding people in need. This is about bringing the community together," she said. "It's a time to put away the electronics, and sit back and talk to the person across from you."

The New Lisbon Community Supper serves an average of 175 individuals per month, but has fed up to as many as 300

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's concern for community will never waver.

individuals traveling from New Lisbon, Necedah, Hustler, Camp Douglas, and Mauston. Not only are diners served a home-cooked meal, they are encouraged to stick around for some bingo fun. It takes multiple volunteer groups to make each meal flow seamlessly, including students from New Lisbon High School



HUD-VASH program staff accepting the donation of nine bed frames.

and members of the New Lisbon Community Church, which also provides the paper products. Local businesses and citizens sign up to cover the food costs each month. Through OEC's Blue Jean Fund, OEC employees' holiday donation will sponsor the 2016 November New Lisbon Community Supper.

The New Lisbon Community Supper is served the last Tuesday of every month at the New Lisbon American Legion, 110 Welch Prairie Rd, from 4-6:30 pm. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Janiece Wablotski at 608-847-3005.

HUD-VASH (The Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing)

Since 1992, the HUD-VASH program has been working hard to move veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. The Tomah VAMC currently has 121 participants enrolled in the program, and continues to receive new referrals from outside community agencies including the Salvation Army, CouleeCap, and County Veterans Services.

HUD-VASH Case Manager Cierra Phillips stated, "There are specific criteria a veteran must meet and follow in order to be eligible for the program. Besides housing, participants are provided case management services

designed to improve their physical and mental health, and enhance their ability to live in safe and affordable permanent housing."

Veterans do not have the added worry of a deadline looming over their head. "As long as they remain eligible, support will be provided for as long as it is needed," Phillips said.

When moving into permanent housing, most veterans are starting from scratch and are in need of all household items. This includes furniture, bedding, dishes, appliances, and even cleaning supplies. The HUD-VASH program staff relies heavily on donations from businesses and individuals in order to provide these basic living necessities. After a recent donation of mattresses, their direst need was for mattress frames. The OEC employees' Blue Jean Fund donated nine bed frames to the HUD-VASH program.

For more information on the HUD-VASH program, visit www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp, or call the Tomah VAMC at 608-372-3971.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's concern for community will never waver. Our employees are committed to serving you, our members, based on a foundation of honesty and integrity, while improving the economy and quality of life in the communities we serve. 



2016 MEMBER PHOTO CONTEST



"Life in Rural Wisconsin"

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest for members' photos to be featured in our 2017 calendar. Winning photos may be used in future newsletters or cooperative publications.

- Photos must be taken within the Oakdale Electric Cooperative service area.
- Photos should capture life in rural Wisconsin (seasons, wildlife, landscape, people, etc.).
- Photos must have a horizontal (landscape) orientation.
- Photos can be in color or black and white.
- Only high resolution photos can be used. Photos must be at least 300 dpi.

Contest will run from February 1, 2016, until August 26, 2016; however, submitted photos can be taken outside of this date range.

Photo Contest Entry Options:

- Email: Deana Protz – dprotz@oakdalerec.com
 Mail: P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI, 54649. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)
 Drop Off: Oakdale Electric Cooperative Office - 489 N. Oakwood St., Oakdale. (photo(s) must be 8"x10" in size)

For a complete set of rules as well as entry forms and photo release forms, visit our website, www.oakdalerec.com.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT?

We'd like to hear from you!

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is looking to move forward with plans for a Community Solar Project. However, we are still trying to measure interest among our members to determine the size of the project.

We'd like to hear from you! If you're interested in participating in a Community Solar Project at Oakdale Electric Cooperative, please contact us at info@oakdalerec.com or 800-241-2468 and provide the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone number

We've got the answers to your questions! Visit our website at www.oakdalerec.com and view the Community Solar Information located in News & Events. For additional questions, please contact Todd O'Neil at 800-241-2468 or toneil@oakdalerec.com.



Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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Deana Protz, 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 866-392-4307
FAX Number: 608-372-5173

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