

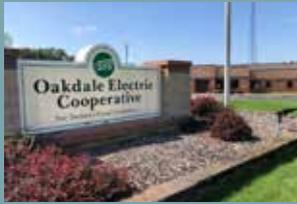
# First Time Attendee's Member Appreciation Day Guide



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## START



**PARK IT** Find ample parking at the co-op (489 N. Oakwood St) or visit Grangers, LLC (556 N. Oakwood St.) across the street. Golf cart shuttles are available for anyone needing walking assistance. Enter through the main doors and be greeted by friendly employees. Members will receive a warm welcome and goodie bag!



**LET'S EAT** Follow the delicious smells of pancakes, sausages, eggs, and coffee to the garage for a complimentary breakfast, prepared and served by the Tomah Lions Club. Satisfy a sweet or salty tooth with an ice cream sandwich, provided by Oakdale Credit Union, or freshly popped popcorn!



**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE** Visit the variety of booths, sure to please people of all ages, and even teach a thing or two! Co-op tables feature fun interactive games and activities for adults, including a photo booth and prize table, as well as educational booths. Speak directly to employees to gain knowledge on SmartHub, solar, or even electric vehicles. Kids will enjoy bounce houses, giant games, face painting, balloon art by Funny Faces Family Entertainment, and crafts with Craft Time Studio.

Whether this is your first year attending Member Appreciation Day or your 30th, Oakdale Electric encourages all members to attend this special day at the co-op!

## Member Appreciation Day

### Saturday, October 19 • 7:30–11 a.m.

Located at Oakdale Electric Cooperative  
Hwy. PP, just north of Interstate 90/94

## FINISH

Call, click, or visit with any questions!

 608.372.4131

 [info@oakdalerec.com](mailto:info@oakdalerec.com)

Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[www.oakdalerec.com](http://www.oakdalerec.com) October 2019



# BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween, and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason—it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Oakdale Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Oakdale Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the

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## October is National Co-op Month.

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common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Oakdale Electric's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the

co-op, lives locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels, or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op

apart from a traditional utility are two of our core principles, “Concern for Community” and “Cooperation among Cooperatives.” A partnership with Oakdale Credit Union and CoBank allowed for a total donation of \$22,500 to be gifted to the communities of La Valle, Elroy, and Kendall to assist with necessary park repairs still needed from the 2018 flood.

We participate in the Youth Leadership Congress, where we take our community’s young people to the University of Wisconsin–River Falls for a three-day conference to develop

their leadership skills while learning the purpose, operation, and scope of cooperative businesses.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Oakdale Electric Cooperative as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

**A partnership with Oakdale Credit Union and CoBank allowed for a total donation of \$22,500 to be gifted to the communities of La Valle, Elroy, and Kendall...**

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built *by* the community, *for* the community.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative contributed \$7,500, which was matched in full by CoBank, a national cooperative bank, through CoBank’s Sharing Success program. Oakdale Credit Union contributed an additional total match of \$7,500. This is the eighth year Oakdale Electric has taken advantage of the Sharing Success program.

“A public park is essential to every community. Parks improve people’s physical and psychological health, strengthen communities, and make local cities and villages more inviting places to live, work, and visit,” said Bruce Ardel, Oakdale Electric Cooperative general manager.

MY CO-OP



Can't beLEAF  
your energy  
usage this  
month?

Visit SmartHub to view your energy usage in monthly, daily, and 15-minute time intervals to help you manage your energy consumption.

While you're there, check out the other benefits you can take **fall** advantage of when using SmartHub:

- Pay your bill online
- Register for AutoPay
- Manage your account
- Sign up for paperless billing
- Communicate directly with the co-op

**Rake your energy usage questions to the curb by signing up for SmartHub online.**

It's OEC's FREE and mobile online payment system. Click on the signup link and follow the prompts to create your user name and password.

Questions? Call, click or visit us at 608-372-4131 or oakdalerec.com.

## BETTHAUSER PROMOTED TO APPRENTICE LINEMAN

The line department at Oakdale Electric Cooperative expanded with the recent hiring of Ryan Betthausen, apprentice lineman. Ryan started his employment as a summer employee, where he trained one-on-one with the crews, and gained valuable hands-on experience of the lineman trade. He will now work towards his completion of 8,000 on-the-job hours and 640 hours of classroom-based learning at Moraine Park Technical College over the next four years.

Ryan is appreciative for this new opportunity, and proud to continue training and working for Oakdale Electric Cooperative. "I chose this career path because of my desire to help others by keeping their power on," Betthausen stated.

A commonality among linemen is their love for the great outdoors, and Ryan is no different. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and riding his ATV.

## UNDERGROUND SERVICE REMINDER

When the ground freezes in Wisconsin, all underground cable construction comes to a halt until the spring thaw. If you have construction plans that are not already scheduled, call Oakdale Electric Cooperative TODAY! We cannot guarantee completion of any underground work once the frost sets in; however, we will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and install your electrical service before winter.



### Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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### Deana Protz, Editor



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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.