

RECEIVE A \$10, \$20, \$50, OR \$100 BILL CREDIT

Since 1940

WISCONSIN  
**ENERGY**  
*Cooperative*  
March 2020 NEWS

**A NEW**  
**TWIST**  
on our 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**NEW MEAL • NEW TIMES**  
**NEW MEETING LENGTH**  
And meet our  
**NEW GENERAL MANAGER**

**Saturday, March 21**  
Tomah High School



**Oakdale Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# A NEW TWIST

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**Saturday, March 21**

Tomah High School

**7:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Registration & Breakfast.** Register for Annual Meeting then enjoy a meal of pancakes, sausages, eggs, coffee, milk, juice, and sweet treat.

**Bill Credit Gift.** Receive a \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100 bill credit on electric account. One per member number. Member must stay for the duration of the Annual Meeting for the bill credit to be valid.

**9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Annual Meeting & Director Elections.** Learn about co-op business, vote on a bylaw amendment, and elect two directors by a ballot vote.

**Meeting Length.** The Annual Meeting will be kept to 60 minutes.



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# FRESH

## *new look*

If you haven't been to our website lately, it's time to pay it a visit. oakdalerec.com has recently gotten a fresh new look and we think you'll like the changes.

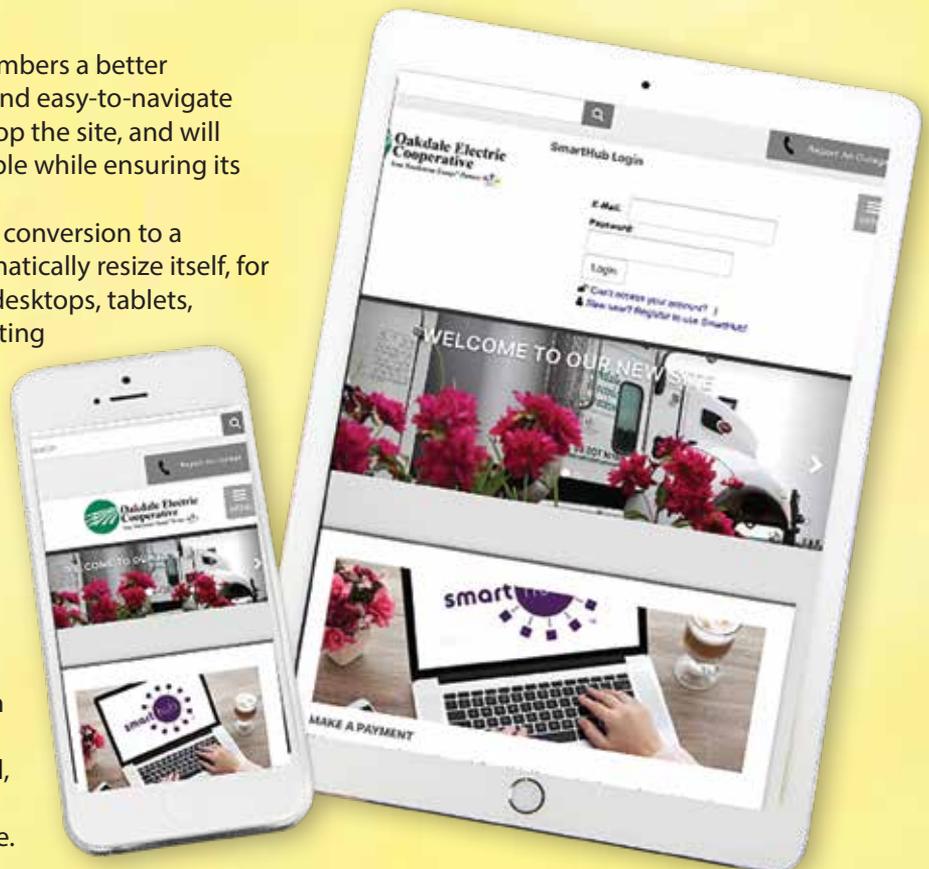
The new website will help provide members a better experience with a useful, attractive, and easy-to-navigate website. We've worked hard to develop the site, and will continually expand the information available while ensuring its value for members.

One of the most notable changes is the conversion to a responsive website. The website will automatically resize itself, for optimal viewing, on any device including desktops, tablets, and smartphones. With more members opting to use mobile devices over desktops or laptops, it was essential for the site to be practical and convenient.

Another new feature is the creation of a storm center webpage to allow members to view current outages and sign up to receive outage alert texts. Simply click on, or use the search bar to locate, **Storm Center** webpage.

Log into oakdalerec.com to check out the other great components. Members can start or change service, submit incentive forms, read cooperative news, pay their bill, sign up for Operation Round Up, request a presentation and demonstration, and more.

We hope you agree, fresh is always best.



*Members are encouraged to send feedback to [info@oakdalerec.com](mailto:info@oakdalerec.com)*



# BREAKING THE

# ICE

# WITH CHRIS TACKMANN

**L**et's break the ice with Chris Tackmann, the fifth general manager in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 85-year history.

To start, he's worked in the rural electric cooperative industry since 2002. Chris began his career at Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (Ellsworth, Wisconsin) as an intern. He accepted a full-time position following graduation from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF), where he dual majored in business administration and management information systems. Chris continued his education by earning his Master of Business Administration, also from UWRF.

As vice president of member and administrative service, Chris was involved in all organizational aspects at Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services. His areas of focus were marketing, communications, office administration, billing/

accounts receivable, information technology, and member relations.

Chris shared, "I cherish my time spent working for my prior co-op. It has prepared me to confidently step into the leadership position at Oakdale Electric Cooperative."

Chris began his new role as general manager for Oakdale Electric Cooperative on January 13. "Oakdale Electric Cooperative is strong, and has a culture for success that I am proud to be a part of. Likewise, my family and I are eager to become part of the community, and put down roots. We are look forward to a long career ahead with our new cooperative family."

To chip away at the ice further, Chris answered a wintry mix of questions. Light-hearted ice breakers start off the list, followed by a flurry of more details about Chris.

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**Oakdale Electric Cooperative is fortunate to have Chris plow the way, and lead our great cooperative successfully into the future.**

**What is your favorite breakfast cereal?**

Cocoa Puffs or Captain Crunch with crunch berries

**What is your cellphone wallpaper?**

The standard wallpaper that comes with an iPhone.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was working for my grandfather's business, Tackmann Sheet Metal & Furnaces, in the seventh grade. I helped install ductwork for heating and cooling system, loaded and unloaded trucks, and performed various cutting/bending of sheet metal.

**Winter, spring, summer, or fall?**

Spring, with fall in a close second place.

**What movies do you recommend?**

I'd recommend the Star Wars movies, the Marvel Movies, and The Usual Suspects. There are a lot of others that I enjoy as well but it would take too long to list them all.

**What was the last book you read?**

"The Book of Fate" by Brad Meltzer

**Are you a dog or cat person?**

Dog. We have a 12-year-old beagle named Billy the Beagle.

**Do you collect anything?**

Growing up, I collected dinosaur toys and anything with a picture of a dinosaur. Now that I'm older, I collect golf balls, because I tend to lose a lot of them while golfing.

**Do you have a favorite quote?**

"Do or do not. There is no try." Yoda



Chris pictured with wife, Katie, son Jackson (age 10), and daughter Sophia (age 7).

**What is the favorite place you have ever visited?**

Washington, D.C., because I enjoyed touring the different monuments and buildings.

**Who had the most influence on you growing up?**

My parents. They taught me what a strong work ethic should be and always tried to set a good example in everything they did.

**Who is your hero?**

My dad and Batman.

**What is something you are looking forward to?**

Traveling to Florida with my family within the next few years to see Disney World, Star Wars Land, and Harry Potter World.

**What is something you would like to learn?**

Learning to speak Latin fluently would be interesting.

**What is your perfect day?**

My perfect day is spending time with family and friends, and taking part in whatever activities we have going on, including sports, social activities, etc.

**How do you spend your weekends?**

Cheering on my children in their various sporting activities. My son participates in a traveling basketball league, and my daughter competes in gymnastics.

**What is at the top of your bucket list?**

I'd like to travel to Europe and explore the vast historical areas.

**What has been the best day of your life, so far?**

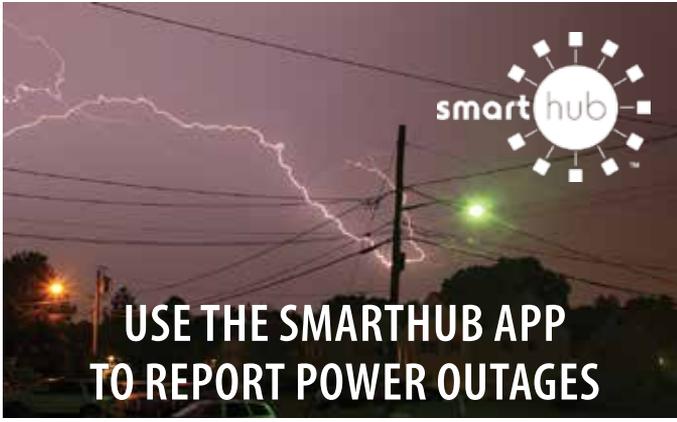
I have three. The day I married my wife, Katie, the day my son, Jackson, was born, and the day my daughter, Sophia, was born.

**What has been the greatest accomplishment of your career?**

My greatest accomplishment is being named general manager for Oakdale Electric Cooperative. It is my privilege to hold such a prestigious position and follow in the footsteps of four honorable men, Lloyd McCaskey, Darwin Schendel, Gene Edgerton, and Bruce Ardel.

**What are you most looking forward to in your new position?**

Working hand-in-hand with the Oakdale Electric Cooperative board of directors and employees as we move forward. There are a lot of challenges and changes taking place in the electric industry. I'm looking forward to working together to meet and exceed these challenges and changes. We have a strong foundation of dedicated individuals that are always looking to better the cooperative for the benefit of the membership.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative does everything it can to avoid interruptions in your electric service. We're committed to delivering you the most reliable electrical power possible, and work towards finding and improving ways to achieve that goal. However, there are situations beyond our control that may cause power outages—severe weather such as lightning storms, ice, small animals or birds, unforeseen equipment failures, vehicle accidents, and tree branches touching power lines to name a few.

When an outage does occur, Oakdale Electric Cooperative's focus is on restoring service interruptions as quickly as possible without sacrificing safety. You can now quickly and efficiently report a power outage using **SmartHub** when you download the free app on the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

It's easy and the SmartHub App will walk you through the process of reporting your outage.

**Step 1:** Tap **Problem with your service? REPORT AN ISSUE**

**Step 2:** Select **Power Outage**

**Step 3:** Tap **Accept**

**Step 4:** **Select the Outage Details** (Loud Bang, Tree Down, Line Down, Lightning Strike, Power Out) and add any additional comments.

**Step 5:** Tap **Send**

If the SmartHub App isn't for you, don't worry! You can always report an outage by calling **(800) 927-6151**. Save this number for easy access when you need it.

## OUTAGE SAFETY

- **PLAY IT SAFE:** Never touch downed power lines or anything contacting power lines. Although you may see lines that are down, they could still be energized. Never attempt to move trees from power lines. Only qualified employees from your electric cooperative handle the clearing and repair work.
- **LIGHT:** Always have alternate sources of light on hand. It could be a flashlight with extra batteries, candles, kerosene or oil lamps. Keep your alternate light source in an established place where it can be found easily in an outage situation.
- **INFORMATION:** Have a battery-powered radio available. The radio, TV, and websites will bring you weather reports, local news bulletins, and other important emergency information.
- **FOOD:** Stock emergency food and related items along with a manual can opener. Keep your refrigerator/freezer doors closed as much as possible to reduce the chance of food spoilage.
- **WATER:** If your water supply comes from a well with an electric water pump, you need to prepare prior to a storm. Sanitize and fill spare containers with water for drinking and cooking. Also, fill your bathtub with water for other uses.
- **HEAT SOURCES IN WINTER:** When the power goes out, so do most heating systems. If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, keep plenty of wood during the winter. A portable electric generator is another option for back-up power, as long as it is properly installed and operated.
- **PROTECT YOUR APPLIANCES:** Turn off all large appliances that come on automatically and disconnect sensitive equipment such as VCRs, DVD players, stereos, computers, and televisions to avoid damage from lightning or a power surge. If all of these appliances were to come back on at once, they might overload your home's electric circuits. Leave a single lamp turned on to let you know when your electric service has been restored.

### Chris Tackmann, General Manager

P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649  
608-372-4131 • 800-241-2468  
info@oakdalerec.com

### 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

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

# Who, what, when, where, & why

## INCENTIVES PROGRAM

**C**onsumer Services Specialist Maribeth O'Dell is Oakdale Electric Cooperative's go-to employee for all questions related to incentives. As the administrator for the co-op's incentive program, she is well versed in eligibility criteria, and eager to share that knowledge with members.

"The Incentive Program is another great benefit to being a member of Oakdale Electric Cooperative. We appreciate the opportunity to put money back into our member's pockets, when they take steps to be energy efficient," Maribeth explained.

To help more members take advantage of this valuable program, Maribeth put together the Incentive Program's Who, What, Where, When, and Why.

**Who.** Any member who recently invested in energy efficiency updates. To learn if those improvements qualify, review the eligibility criteria on the incentives forms for complete details, or simply call Oakdale Electric Cooperative Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. and ask for Maribeth. Members can also email questions directly to Maribeth's attention at [maribeth@oakdalerec.com](mailto:maribeth@oakdalerec.com).

"Or better yet, call before you start your project. I'm always happy to help members be informed consumers," stated Maribeth.

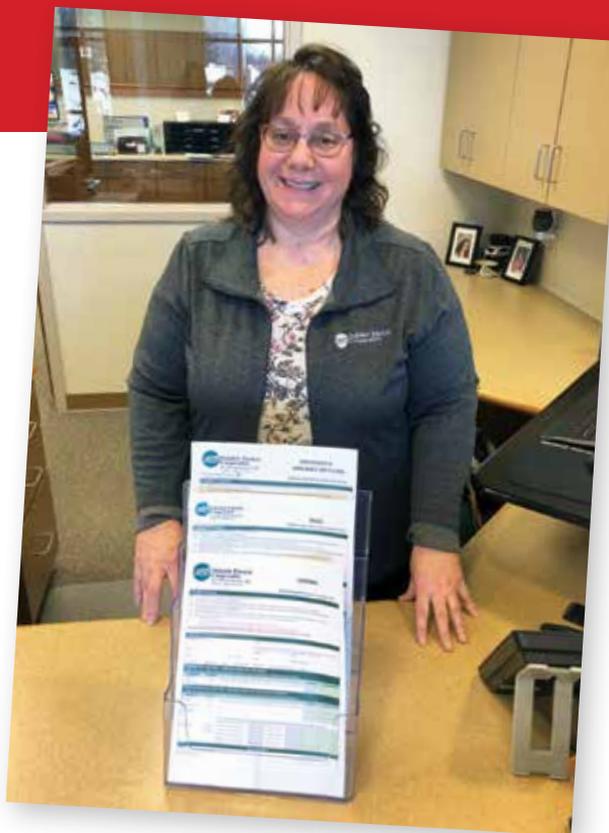
**What.** An incentive is a financial rebate that appears as a credit on electric accounts, offered to qualifying members. Credits range in value from \$2.50 to upwards of \$500. Current incentives are available for ENERGY STAR® appliances and recycling, furnaces and heat pumps, water heaters, lighting, and other agricultural and commercial equipment.

"Don't forget to submit a form when an ENERGY STAR dehumidifier is purchased," stated Maribeth, "as this incentive is often overlooked."

It's important to review the Incentive Program annually as it does change, and often does include new options. "Freezers are now being accepted for new ENERGY STAR appliances purchased," informed Maribeth.

**Where.** The quickest option to locate incentive forms is by visiting [oakdalerec.com](http://oakdalerec.com). Select **Energy Solutions** on the main menu, and then **Incentives**. Browse through the tabs to view incentives currently available. For ease and convenience, all PDF forms are fillable.

Members can visit the co-op office located at 489 N. Oakwood St to pick up forms, and speak to Maribeth in



person. Otherwise call 608-372-4131 to request a form be mailed to a residence or place of business.

**When.** Completed incentive forms must be submitted within three months of purchase. Incentives are in place through December 28, 2020. Funds are limited, and members are encouraged to submit documentation as soon as possible.

Use the **Submit Incentives** button, located on the incentive's web page, to send forms directly into Maribeth's email inbox.

**Why.** Oakdale Electric Cooperative is founded on the Seven Cooperative Principles. We pride ourselves on providing valuable education to members by teaching reasonable measures that promote smart energy usage. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates the typical household can save up to 25% on electric bills with energy efficiency measures, which amounts to over \$2,200 annually.

"We want what is best for our members, and that includes helping them understand how their lifestyle can impact their monthly bill," stated Maribeth. "I enjoy helping members save on their monthly expenses. Receiving thanks from a member for my assistance in their quest for finding savings is a highlight of my day," she smiled.

## Appliance Rebates

Clothes Washer.....	\$25
Clothes Dryer.....	\$25
Dishwasher.....	\$25
Dehumidifier.....	\$25
Refrigerator.....	\$25
(must be larger than 10 c. feet)	
Freezer.....	\$25
(must be larger than 10 c. feet)	
Heat pump clothes dryer.....	\$50
Inductive Range.....	\$25

All appliances must be ENERGY STAR certified. \*The ENERGY STAR Certification Mark (see right) will be labeled on qualifying appliances.



Energy Star Certification Mark

To receive your rebate, fully complete the rebate form, attach a detailed and legible copy of the receipt, and either:

1. Make a copy of the Energy Guide that includes the ENERGY STAR Certified Mark.
- OR**
2. Cut out the ENERGY Certification Mark and product model number from the packaging.

## Appliance Recycling Rebates

Refrigerator/freezer recycling.....	\$25
Room air conditioner recycling.....	\$25

Proof of recycling must be submitted, to confirm item(s) in working condition and must be removed from service and fully disposed of following federal, state, and local laws.

## Electric Water Heater

50-79 gallon .....	\$150/unit
80 gallons or larger.....	\$300/unit
*Heat pump water heater .....	\$300/unit
Solar storage water heater.....	\$300/unit
w/electric back-up	

The water heater installation will be inspected by the Oakdale Electric Cooperative load management department and a load management control must be installed. A copy of the receipt is required.

A controlled water heater qualifies for a \$3.00 monthly credit, unless you are on the dual fuel rate.

\* A control is not required for heat pump water heater.

## Lighting Rebates

Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs....	\$.50
(min. 5 bulbs)	
<i>(does not include LED holiday lights)</i>	
Occupancy Sensor .....	\$5
LED Exit Sign .....	\$5

To receive your lighting rebate, you must submit the rebate form and a copy of your receipt. If the receipt does not indicate it is a LED bulb, you must submit proof from the package.

*Additional lighting fixture rebates are listed on the form.*



## HVAC Rebates

Heat Pump	
Air Source & MiniSplit .....	\$250/ton
(SEER 14+/ EER 11+/ HSPF 8.2+)	
Commercial Air Source.....	\$250/ton
& PTHPs	
(UNDER 20 TON: EER 11+; 20 - 60 TON: EER 10.5+; 60+ TON: EER 10+)	
Geothermal.....	\$500/ton

New furnace with Efficient ECM.....\$35 Blower Motor  
The AHRI certificate must state whether the unit is either:

1. Variable speed
- OR**
2. Efficiency (AFUE) >=95% & kWh/yr (Eae) <=670



## Home Energy Audit Rebates

Implementation rebate..... up to \$500

- Professional labor costs can be included in the cost. Cost of audit cannot be included.
- Improvements must be completed within 24 months of audit.
- Each member account qualifies for only one Audit Recommended Improvement incentive every five years.

## IMPORTANT REBATE DETAILS:

- Rebates must be submitted within three months of purchase and installation.
- Rebates are in place through December 28, 2020, or until funds, by incentive or in total, are depleted.
- Rebates will be applied as a credit on your electric account.
- Please refer to the forms for detailed criteria.
- The incentive program is subject to change without notice.

## Ag, Commercial, Industrial Rebates

Low/Zero Energy	
Livestock Waterer .....	\$50

*Additional Ag, Commercial, & Industrial rebates are listed on the form.*