

Jim Hayward Hangs Up His Hard Hat



After 44 years, Jim Hayward gave his fond farewells to Oakdale Electric Cooperative this past September. A kind and generous man with a larger-than-life personality—the last of the *old crew*—hung up his hard hat to enjoy his retirement years.

Jim's history with the cooperative first began in 1969, when he attended the Youth Leadership Congress as an Oakdale Electric delegate. From there, Jim accepted a summer position following his high school graduation where his main duties included assisting line crews. Without the use of trenchers, backhoes, or brushing contractors, much of Jim's time was spent manually digging holes for underground cables and clearing brush. It was strenuous outdoors

work, and Jim loved every minute of it.

Jim intended to continue with college in the fall—he had even received academic scholarships—but the cooperative's general manager offered him the opportunity to continue working through winter. Jim

accepted, but when the deadline approached, his employment was yet again extended through spring. At a crossroads in his life, Jim had a decision to make. He was impressed by how much the cooperative

valued and expressed gratitude to its employees, so he opted to forego the traditional college route and continue working for Oakdale Electric.

The following year, his hard work was recognized and rewarded when Oakdale Electric offered him the opportunity to attend Electrical

Distribution School in Eau Claire. Jim gladly seized the opportunity as he had come to realize this career path and Oakdale Electric were the perfect fit for him. He enjoyed his co-workers, the outdoor work, and the satisfaction of helping the co-op's members.

“Linemen always look out for their fellow crew, and have each other's backs, because their lives depend on it.”

—Jim Hayward



Over the course of his career, those enjoyments never changed for Jim, although his roles at the cooperative did. He made journeyman lineman status in 1975, then assisted with line construction, line inspection, and finally rounded out his career with aiding in collections. Jim was an employee with a can-do and positive attitude, always willing to help wherever needed.

Although many aspects of the lineworker profession have changed and evolved over the years, one major thing has remained steady—the brotherhood.

“Linemen always look out for their fellow crew, and have each other’s backs, because their lives depend on it,” stated Jim. They work in bleak and intense weather

conditions and put in long hours, often spending more time with their crew than their own families. However, the satisfaction of restoring members’ power and aiding their communities makes the tough parts of their job all worth it. Jim reminisced about the indescribable feeling the moment when the lights go back on, which only a few get to ever experience. Thus, it’s another reason for the unspoken lineman camaraderie and lifelong friendships Jim will treasure forever and always.

Jim’s other cherished treasures include the love of his life, Terry Dawn, his children, and his grandchildren. Jim recalled the first time he laid eyes on Terry

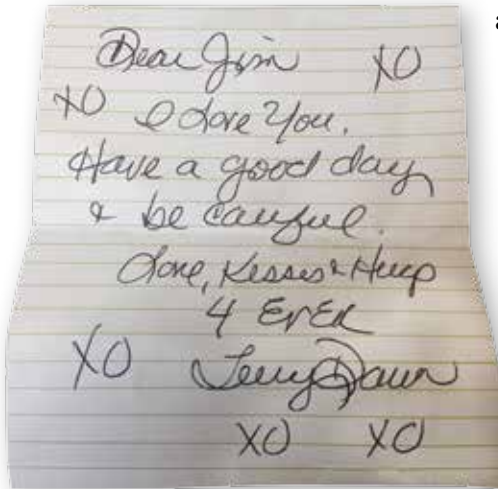
Dawn. She was fishing with her father on a pier, and he was hooked. Jim and Terry Dawn were married in 1973 and have three children, Jim Jr. (Amy), Angela (Ryan), and Nicole (Brian), along with seven grandchildren, Brady, Carter (Jim Jr.), Max, Sam, Lydia (Angela), and Ellie and Clara (Nicole). Terry’s love for Jim was evident every day, as she included a special handwritten note in his lunch pail since the day they were married. Imagine, more than 10,000 notes to have a good

day, stay safe, and affirmations of love! Jim confessed she may have taken a few days off only when she wasn’t too pleased with him.

Fishing is a passion the two still enjoy together and look forward to

doing a lot more of in the coming years. Trips to Canada to catch some *big ones* are most likely in the works. In addition, Jim’s grandchildren are quickly filling his calendar with their extracurricular activities, but he doesn’t mind that one bit. Jim and Terry Dawn are a couple on the move, and they don’t plan on slowing down any time soon.

Jim’s humorous wit and spirit touched many lives during his tenure at Oakdale Electric Cooperative. He is a one-of-a-kind individual who will never be replaced. We thank you for the 44 years of devoted service, Jim. You made a positive difference to the cooperative and in the lives of our members. Enjoy retirement! ■



Gobble Gobble Giveaway

It’s time to talk turkey! Just complete the drawing ticket below and mail it to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, and you could win a turkey for your holiday dinner.

Five lucky winners will be drawn from all entries received. You may submit up to two entries per family. Drawings will be once a day from November 10–14. There will be one winner per day, with only one winner per family during the drawing period. Turkeys will not be shipped or delivered and must be claimed by December 1, 2014.

Good luck! Hopefully, we’ll be calling you soon!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # _____

ACCT. # _____

EMAIL _____

Return this form to Oakdale Electric Cooperative, 489 N. Oakwood St., P.O. Box 128, Oakdale, WI 54649. The form must be filled out completely to be valid.

Employee Updates

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is proud to announce and welcome **Kurt Spolum** as our GIS/AMI specialist. Kurt is a graduate of UW–Stevens Point and brings over 11 years of experience with Auto CAD and ESRI to the cooperative. He will be responsible for analyzing the metering and mapping data in order to identify ways to make the system more reliable and efficient. Additionally, Kurt will be assisting members with energy usage concerns.



A lifelong resident of Tomah, Kurt and his wife are kept very busy with their two children's active schedules. However, when time allows, Kurt, an avid outdoorsman, enjoys camping, hunting, and fishing.

"I am excited to be part of the team and am eager to learn from the talented individuals here at Oakdale Electric Cooperative."



Tina Von Haden has been promoted to billing & CIS specialist at Oakdale Electric Cooperative. She has 15 years of experience working for the cooperative, and has most recently been serving as our consumer services specialist. With her great understanding of the cooperative programs, as well as her skills and knowledge

assisting members, Tina will excel in her new role. Oakdale Electric Cooperative is proud to retain and promote such a high-quality employee.

Tina and her family reside in rural Tomah. Tina and her husband, Scott, recently added a third bundle of joy to their family this past May. Tina's older children's extracurricular activities keep her running, but in her downtime she enjoys reading, camping, and spending time with friends and family.

"I am motivated by the challenge this new position brings, and I look forward to setting and accomplishing new goals with Oakdale Electric Cooperative, while assisting our members." ■

Watch Your October Bill for Your Capital Credit Refund

Oakdale Electric Cooperative members will be experiencing one of the benefits of membership this month when capital credit refunds are applied to all active accounts. Refunds were applied to the October bills, which members should receive around November 1.

Capital credits represent your ownership of this non-profit, member-owned cooperative. Capital credits are created when the cooperative has earnings, income minus expenses. At the end of each year, these earnings are spread proportionately to all active cooperative members according to the amount of money each member spent at Oakdale Electric Cooperative that year.

Capital credits accumulate in an account in each member's name and are paid as a percentage each year. Members are eligible for capital credit refunds following three consecutive years of receiving electric service from the cooperative. The size of the percentage is determined by Oakdale Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors according to the cooperative's financial condition.

Checks will be issued to those who no longer receive electric service from Oakdale Electric but are still owed capital credits. All current members will see a refund in their October bill. ■



Oakdale Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28.

2014 Member Appreciation Day



Clockwise, starting left: Dale Ludeking received his annual flu vaccination, courtesy of Monroe County Health Department; the Tomah Lions Club served up a pancake breakfast to more than 700 people; new this year, kids colored their own Willie Wiredhand T-shirts; Sandi Bloom welcomed and passed out goodie bags to all members; Jim Suzda educated a member on lighting options.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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

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

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