



Having Trouble Paying Your Bills?

Contact Us First, BEFORE You Fall Behind in Your Payments

One of the hardest things we have to do here at Oakdale Electric Cooperative is handle collections of past-due accounts. We understand that in life there are often bumps in the road that can cause financial hardship and make it difficult to keep current with your bills, especially in this challenging economic climate. We will do everything we can to help members through these difficult times.

But we cannot help you if you don't take action yourself, starting with letting us know of your situation before it gets out of hand. Waiting until we have no choice but to turn off your power—the last thing we want to do—is about the worst way to handle a bill you are unable to pay. Not only will you be left without power until you're able to straighten out your situation, but you'll be left with an even greater debt thanks to reconnection fees and deposits necessary to ensure that your fellow members won't have to bear the burden of more delinquent bills. Consider this example:

Past due amount	\$150
Current amount	\$150
Reconnect fee.....	\$175
Security deposit.....	\$300
Total charges.....	\$775

As you can see, by avoiding a \$150 bill that this member was unable to pay, the member ended up owing more than four times the amount of the delinquent bill. If the member had contacted us immediately, we might have been able to work out a payment arrangement or direct the member to an agency or organization that might have helped. That way, the member could have avoided the inconvenience of having power disconnected and all the associated costs.

Please, if you are having financial difficulties and cannot pay your electric bill, contact us at 1-800-241-2468 to discuss the steps required to avoid disconnection. Remember: We want to help you. You might also qualify for energy assistance; here are numbers to call for help:

ENERGY ASSISTANCE OFFICES:

Coulee Cap	608-634-7379
Juneau County	608-847-5988
Jackson County	715-284-4301
Monroe County	608-269-5021
Sauk County	608-356-8887
Wood County.....	715-421-8600

Operation Round-Up® is Making a Difference

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's voluntary Operation Round-Up® program is funded by cooperative members who have agreed to "round up" their electric bill to the next highest dollar amount. On average, these members each contribute 50 cents per month or about \$6 per year to the Operation Round-Up® fund. A summary of your contributions will appear yearly on your January bill. This small, tax deductible contribution may not seem like much, but the dollars add up quickly when enough members participate. When an Oakdale member signs up for the program, our computer is programmed to round up the bill. If you change your mind about participating, simply contact our office.

To the members who have already signed up, there is nothing else to do. There is no need to sign up again each year. However, if you have not yet signed up, it's certainly not too late to join.

Individuals and community service organizations in Oakdale Electric's service territory are



encouraged to apply for donations from the Oakdale Electric Trust Fund. Requests for assistance from Operation Round-Up are evaluated by the Oakdale Electric Trust Board. Application forms are available at the co-op office by calling 608-372-4131, e-mail us at info@oakdalerec.com or by contacting one of these Operation Round-Up® board members, pictured above: Connie Albert,

Bonnie Anderson, Barbara Brooks, Pat Christensen, Sandy Chroninger, Tom Clay, or Lillian Jorgensen.

The fund was established to allow members of Oakdale Electric Cooperative to support local charities, individuals and families in their community. If you would like to participate, you can sign up online or fill out the form below and return it to our office. ■

Operation Round-Up® ...
Making a difference for just pennies a month!



Yes, I want to participate in Operation Round-Up®

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____



Ryan Hubbard - 5 years



Dan McGarry - 10 years



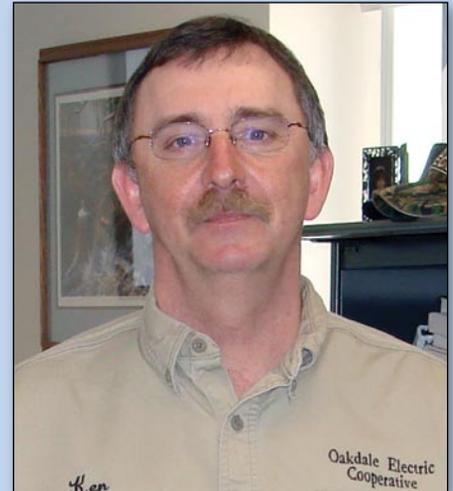
John Ollendick - 10 years



Pat Eirschele - 20 years

Congratulations, and Thanks!

Oakdale Electric Cooperative is fortunate to have a staff of dedicated employees who work hard providing our members with affordable, quality service. Ten of these employees were recently recognized for reaching milestone years of service to the cooperative. Thanks to all of them!



Ken Murray - 30 years



David Stelter - 25 years



Left to right: Tina Von Haden - 10 years; Rose Bartholomew - 30 years; Linda Pierce - 10 years; Dale Ludeking - 10 years

Best Wishes, Danny; Congratulations, Andy!

Oakdale Electric Cooperative offers best wishes to Danny Moore, who recently retired after 38 years of service to the cooperative. His last day of work at the cooperative was January 4, 2010.

Danny began working at Oakdale Electric on December 18, 1972, as an apprentice lineman. He completed his journeyman lineman training and graduated in June 1977, and went on to be promoted to area service foreman on July 5, 1981, a position he continued to hold throughout his career.

Promoted to replace him is Andy Steele, who had previously worked as a journeyman lineman since December 2007. Andy has been with Oakdale Electric since May 2000, when he was hired as summer help. He became an apprentice lineman in July 2003 before achieving journeyman lineman status in 2007.

Thanks, Danny, for your hard work and dedicated service, and congratulations Andy! ■



Left: Andy Steele has been promoted to area service foreman, a position held by Danny Moore (below) for almost 30 years before he retired early this year.



We're always looking at ways to help our members save electricity. And then we thought, why stop there?



Oakdale Electric members saved more than \$8,000 in 2009 by using the Co-op Connections card at local pharmacies!

For additional information, please contact Tina Von Haden at Oakdale Electric Cooperative.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Bruce Ardel, General Manager 

P.O. Box 128, Oakdale WI 54649
(608) 372-4131 • (800) 241-2468
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.

Happy Easter! Our office will be closed April 2 for Good Friday.