

Member Appreciation Day Draws Large Crowd

Oakdale Electric Cooperative hosted its annual Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 5, with 800 members in attendance. The traditional pancakes and sausage were served to kick start a morning full of activities and entertainment. The children were occupied with a large castle bounce house, bucket truck rides, and Melody the Clown while adults had a chance to learn more about the services their co-op offers at booths and displays.

Monroe County Health Department provided flu vaccinations just in time for flu season. Each family received a complimentary gift bag filled with an assortment of cheese and sausage from Humbird Cheese Mart in Tomah. Members also walked away with many prizes including a weather clock, a calendar featuring OEC members' photographs, drawstring bags, ice cooler totes, and more.

Right: Linemen Dan McGarry and Brock Brown assist the youth in OEC's most popular attraction, bucket truck rides. Melody the Clown and, of course, the pancake breakfast were also popular!

Congratulations to winners of the \$100 credit on electric bills: Susan Kosinski of Necedah, Donna Thomas of Mauston, Bob Austin of Elroy, Michael Gallob of New Lisbon, and Leanne Burnstad of Tomah. Madysen Schweinler of Mauston won a new iPod Shuffle, and Ethan Todd of Wilton was the lucky winner of a Vtech MobiGo 2.

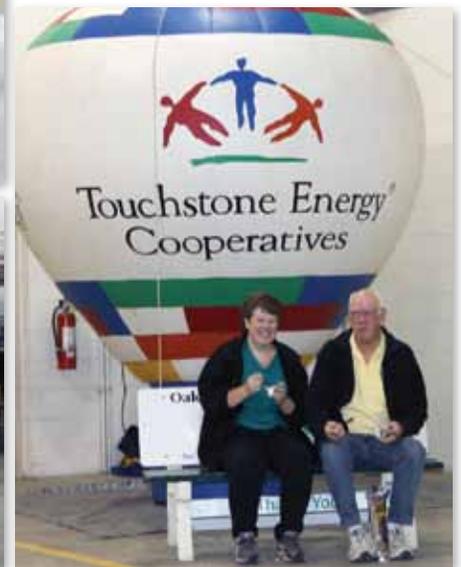
Thank you to all members who came out to celebrate Member Appreciation Day; we look forward to seeing you next year! ■





Above: Meter Technician Al Taylor educates members about marketed whole house energy savers and their effect on electrical usage.

Above: Thank you to Oakdale Credit Union who donated Schwan's Ice Cream cups and face paint. At the OCU booth members signed up to win a \$60 gift card or stadium blanket in honor of their 60th anniversary.



Above center: Member checks out OEC's newest addition to the fleet, a digger truck. Below: Monroe County Health Department gave out 107 flu shots. Right: Members show interest in the 2013 Chevy Volt from Kudick Chevrolet Buick in Mauston.



Cooking Efficiently

Control Energy Costs While Preparing Holiday Feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing. As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:



- Don't peek. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- Turn it down or turn it off. For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.
- Give your burners a break. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- Use the correct burner (and pan) for the job. If you use a large burner for a small pan, you waste electricity.
- Turn the burner down to the minimum setting for the heat you need to cook your food adequately. Also, use the minimum amount of water to boil your food; the more water you use, the more energy is required to heat it up and keep it boiling.
- Don't neglect your slowcooker. Don't forget about your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate either. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- Give your furnace the day off. If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- Make contact. Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update. ■

Williams Earns Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate

Oakdale Director Jonathan Williams recently earned certification in the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. Williams is the secretary of the seven-member Oakdale board of directors. He was elected in 2004.

Williams received his certificate during NRECA's Region 5 & 6 meeting, held in Minneapolis, for his commitment to education and attainment of the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. The director certification program is provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. NRECA is a trade organization that represents more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country.

The program requires utility directors to complete a five-course, 40-hour program of professional education. The training consists of courses in duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles, strategic planning, and financial decision-making.

"Jon's commitment to Oakdale Electric Cooperative members is apparent through his completion of this program," says General Manager Bruce Ardel. "He has gained knowledge through this process that will enable him to serve our members well." ■



Office Closing

OEC's office will be closed Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, for Thanksgiving.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



Annual Load Management Test for Dual Fuel Members

Each year, a test of the load management system is conducted for members of the Dual Fuel program. This year, the test will take place on Wednesday, November 20. The electric heat will be turned off at 5:00 p.m. and will be turned back on starting at 7:55 p.m., with everyone's electric heat scheduled to be back on by 10:30 p.m.

The test is done each year to ensure that your back-up system to the electric heat is working properly and also to make sure Oakdale Electric Cooperative's load management equipment (*pictured at right*) is working properly. Please check your systems on Wednesday, November 20 during the test times and let us know if you experience any problems. Also, please contact us if you have any questions about the test, the load management equipment, or the Dual Fuel program. ■



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Bruce Ardel, General Manager

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

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