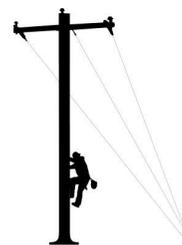




Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

September/October 2017

Annual Business Meeting Recap

We would like to thank all our members who attended our 73rd Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's meeting. Three Directors were each re-elected to serve three year terms: Charles Arnold (Edmeston), Edward Clarke (Springfield), and Kathleen Del Plato (Richfield). OEC members also approved a proposed amendment to an existing Bylaw regarding non-electric services to nonmembers and approved an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to add broadband services. We value your participation because Cooperatives are operated with democratic member control and all members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

We were fortunate to have many vendors, local service agencies, representatives from other New York cooperatives, and distinguished guests in attendance. U.S. Representative John J. Faso and NY State Assemblyman Peter D. Lopez addressed the OEC membership at the annual meeting. Their support is very important to our cooperative. We appreciate their continued support for issues that are important to our rural community.

The Cooperative's Board President, Gary Potter, addressed the membership and gave an update about the cooperative's status.

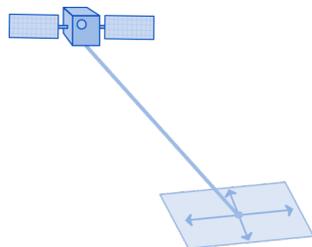
Cooperative CEO, Timothy R. Johnson, addressed the membership and gave an update about the current status of the cooperative. He explained how we have found ways to cut costs and some operating expenses including health insurance premiums and real estate taxes. We have reviewed and successfully contested several property assessments and we will continue to do so if we feel they are unreasonable compared to others in the community. In addition, the costs of the New York Clean Energy Standard with the imposed Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and Zero Emissions Credits (ZECs) were explained. The importance of our continuing ROW (right-of-way) maintenance program was emphasized. He also updated the members on our plans to start building a fiber optic network across a portion of our system. This deployment of broadband service is supported by a grant awarded to Otsego Electric Cooperative by New York State through the New NY Broadband Program. Crews should start stringing fiber optic cable in some areas by late fall. As each day goes by without access to robust broadband service in rural America, the digital divide between our rural and non-rural populations widens.

We are extremely excited about our future and we hope to see you at next year's 74th Annual Member's Meeting.

Broadband Update

On August 31, 2017 we submitted bids through the New NY Broadband Program to serve additional areas around Otsego County that were not included in the previous award areas. This program is administered by the new New York Broadband Office under the Empire Development Corporation. Stay tuned for updates.

GPS Data Collection



Our crews are working on getting GPS information for all of the poles and meter locations on our system. Prior to this project, only a portion of our electric distribution system was accurately located (Unadilla and Butternuts). In the past, we used contractors to get GPS data. Doing this project ourselves gives us great flexibility. In addition, when we build new lines in the future, we will be able to enter the new GPS locations immediately.

We are also inventorying our poles so we can verify pole attachments and check for damage or rot to identify poles that need to be changed. This is a great opportunity for us to put eyes on every pole. We are making great progress; our Laurens, Otego, Pittsfield, and Edmeston areas are almost complete.

In the next few months we will be working in Oneonta near the airport and moving towards Hartwick. We will also be working in New Lisbon, Exeter, Otsego, Richfield and areas served by our Oaksville Substation.

This data is critical for our operations: mapping, engineering, outage management, and system inventory. It will be also be very important for our broadband FTTH (Fiber-to-the-Home) project design and construction. Our system maps were in pretty good shape but the GPS locations will make them accurate to under two feet. All of the data is updated automatically at the end of each day so the data is available to us immediately.

www.otsegoec.coop

There is a service map location number in this newsletter. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find your map location number in this newsletter, call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.

Space Heater Safety

With cool air moving in, it's a good time to remind people to be safe. Here are some space heater tips to help keep you warm and safe this fall.

- Space heaters should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Do not plug them into a power strip. You should not plug any other devices in to the same outlet other than the space heater.
- Never leave a heater unattended; turn off when you are leaving the room, going to sleep or leaving the home.
- Heaters should be at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Maintain a three foot "kid-free zone".
- Inspect for cracked or damaged, broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.



You can find more safety tips at www.nfpa.org.

Save water, save energy

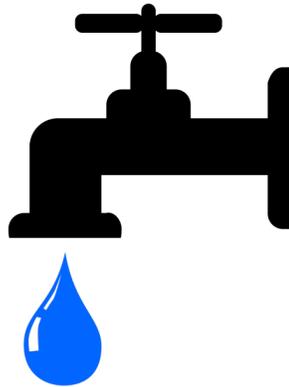
Cutting water use can help save energy in a number of ways. It takes electricity or gas to heat water, so it makes sense that the more hot water you use, the less energy-efficient you are being. Did you know that running a hot water faucet for five minutes consumes as much energy as using a 60-watt light bulb for 14 hours? That can really add up!

The EPA reports that showering accounts for 17 percent of all residential water use. According to the EPA, replacing a standard showerhead with a WaterSense model will not only save the average family 3,900 gallons of water a year, but it will also save 370 kilowatt hours of electricity!

In the laundry room, the ENERGY STAR®-certified clothes washers use about 25 percent less energy and 45 percent less water than regular washers. That's because they don't use a full tub of water on wash and rinse cycles, but rather rely on sophisticated spray and tumble systems.

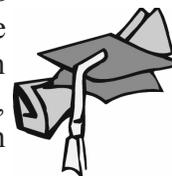
The EPA provides information about specific products that can help you save water and energy on its WaterSense website.

www.epa.gov/watersense



Marlette Scholarship Winners

Did you know that a scholarship is awarded annually in honor of Howard Marlette, our former President of OEC and long-time board member? There were two recipients of the Howard S. Marlette Memorial Scholarship in 2017. We would like to congratulate Matthew Harrington from New Berlin, and Luke Woroby from Jordanville for winning a scholarship award in 2017. We would like to wish them both lots of success in the future!



October 2017

The Cooperative Office will be closed Monday, October 9th, for the Columbus Day Federal Holiday.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system *before* the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



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