



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

May/June 2018

Otsego Rural Broadband Update



So far 2018 has been a very busy year for our cooperative. We have started construction of the fiber-optic project in the Towns of Laurens, Morris, Milford and Oneonta. We are doing fiber design surveys in the Towns of Burlington, Hartwick and Otsego with construction starting soon. We plan on making a lot of progress in the next few months with the full amount of construction crews here.

There are a lot of similarities with the way this project has started and the way the electric cooperative first got started. The cooperative formed in 1941 but didn't energize any accounts until 1944. There was a lot of preparation for the first accounts back then. The Broadband business is similar in that we have been doing a lot of the behind-the-scenes initial work prior to getting ready to connect our first customers. In 1941 many people and investor-owned utilities counted us out yet with hard work and determination, the cooperative succeeded. We are seeing some of the same reactions to our project as they saw back in the early 40's. We have a lot of talented people working our project and we will succeed.

The work has started along reimbursable routes right now in order to meet our deadlines for reimbursables. We hope to start adding some connections soon.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while the system gets built. We believe it will be worth the wait.

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Timothy R. Johnson, CEO

Board of Directors

Gary Potter	President	Town of Pittsfield
Charles Arnold	Vice President	Town of Edmeston
Wendell Saunders	Treasurer	Town of Plainfield
Steve Child	Secretary	Town of New Lisbon
Fred Braun, Jr.	Director	Town of Unadilla
Edward Clarke	Director	Town of Middlefield
Kathleen Del Plato	Director	Town of Exeter

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: energy.gov



www.otsegoec.coop

Drive Safe!



This time of year, we would like to remind people that you will be seeing our utility trucks on area roads. In addition, we will have several more fiber-optic construction contractors working around Otsego county.



Please slow down when approaching roadside crews. We want our crews and the town, county and state road crews to all be safe.

Let's all work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways! We want all of our workers to go home safe at the end of their shifts.



Position Available!

We are looking for qualified applicants for the position of **Member and Subscriber Support Representative**. A minimum of a High School Diploma is required. An Associate's degree or coursework in business or an information technology field is preferred. For further information, go to www.otsegoec.coop and click on "About Us/Career Opportunities." Return your application, marked Confidential, as soon as possible to:

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Attn: James Foote
P.O. Box 128
Hartwick, NY 13348



May is Electrical Safety Month

Here are some general electrical safety tips:

- Always call a certified electrician to do any wiring in your home.
- Pull the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting an electrical device.
- Extension cords are intended for temporary use. If you need a permanent solution, call an electrician.
- Use only three-pronged extension cords outdoors
- Unplug your electrical gadgets when they're not in use



Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:

- Flickering/blinking lights
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Burning odor from receptacles
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers

May is National Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety

If you're experiencing any of these warning signs, please call a certified electrician.

Somewhere in the body of this newsletter there's a service map location number. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find **your map location** number in this newsletter, please call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.



74th Cooperative Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

The Annual Meeting is an important day for your cooperative. We value your participation and we need you to attend as we need a quorum. This year’s Annual Meeting will be held at Laurens Central School on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. Laurens Central School is located at 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796. There will be music, local service organizations, and local vendors displaying their services and products. We also give away lots of door prizes and drawing prizes such as a free month of electric service, a free month of broadband service, rechargeable power tools, household appliances, an air conditioner, dehumidifier, etc.

A chicken Bar-B-Q will be served between **5:00 P.M.** and **6:30 P.M.** with the business meeting starting promptly at **7:00 P.M.**

Please complete and return the coupon located below along with the \$7.50 per dinner payment. Please make your check payable to “Otsego Electric Cooperative.” Please do not include this payment in your check for payment of your electric bill. Dinner tickets will not be sold at the meeting.

All members not wishing to attend the dinner are still encouraged to attend the business meeting and take part in the election of Directors and other business matters.

We are looking for members who are interested in having a table at the meeting to sell their products or services such as arts and crafts, farm or vegetable products, or any other product or service that you would like to offer for sale or for information to our cooperative members. If you are a cooperative member who would like to set up a vendor table at our annual meeting, please contact Jim Foote, Wendy Millea, or Colleen Kukenberger at 607-293-6622.

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74th Annual Meeting—Chicken Bar-B-Q

\$7.50 Per Serving

Enclosed Please Find \$ _____

Please Reserve _____ Tickets at \$7.50 Each (No takeout)



Name(s) _____

(Otsego Electric Cooperative Members and Family Only Please)

Wednesday, August 15th at 5 P.M. — Laurens Central School



Cut out this coupon and send it in to: Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 128, Hartwick, NY 13348 or return with your bill payment by **August 10th** if you plan on eating.

Student to Washington D.C.

Otsego Electric Cooperative sends a high school junior representative to Washington D.C. each year to tour the Capitol area and to meet with our elected officials. In April, Tim Johnson, Gary Potter, and Kathleen Del Plato attended the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. along with Cooperstown Central School Junior Sarah Parr.

Sarah had the opportunity to meet with Congressman John J. Faso and also got to shake hands with Vice President Pence when she was visiting the Capitol. Congressman Faso has been a supporter of our cooperative's mission and we were fortunate to be able to discuss programs and policies that are important to the future of the cooperative.

Some of the issues we shared with our elected officials were urging them to support robust rural development programs like the 2018 Farm Bill. Rural economic development support is severely needed in our service area and it has been lacking. We urged more investment in rural broadband and specifically in our Broadband project. We also asked for support to decrease our pension plan costs by stopping the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation from charging overly high insurance premiums for Co-op pension plans. This would save cooperatives \$30 million annually. We would also like to see continued protections for Power Marketing Administrations as these organizations provide affordable power to some of our nation's poorest areas. Congress should also reject plans to raise PMA electric rates by switching from "cost-based" rates to "market-based" rates. We also asked for support for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Li-HEAP) as these funds help our members get through the cold winter months when heating bills can be difficult to pay.



Sarah Parr and Congressman Faso

Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 128, Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

Phone: 607-293-6622

Pay-by-Phone 24/7: 1-844-843-6842

After Hours and Outages: 1-866-591-3192

Call **Dig Safely New York** before you dig: 1-800-962-7962 or 811