

OEC Current

76TH Annual Meeting Tentative Plan:

The 76th Annual Meeting of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc. is supposed to be held on Wednesday, August 19th at Unadilla Valley School, located at 4238 New York State Route 8, New Berlin, NY 13411. However, we are not sure we will be able to meet this year because of the New York State COVID-19 restrictions. If we cannot meet in person, we will notify you of our meeting plans. We might only schedule a virtual meeting which will be streamed and open to members mostly for the purpose of postponing the meeting until we are able to meet in person at some date in the future. Our bylaws do not specifically provide for electronic or absentee ballot voting and we would prefer to meet in person. If we are allowed to meet in person, we will probably have a business only meeting with no food or music. We will contact you when we have more information on what the State will allow us to do. Please check our website and social media sites for updates and information on a virtual meeting. We will also send a mailed notice if we will be having an in-person meeting.

Broadband Project Update

We have completed over 700 miles of fiber construction and over 1,400 services have been turned up throughout our service area! We are increasing the installations pace due to the COVID-19 situation especially as more splicing is completed. We are getting excellent feedback from people we have hooked up already and we appreciate your patience. It will be worth the wait! Please call or email us if you want to get on the waiting list.

We also are providing phone service to our fiber customers. This is a full-featured service with call waiting, call forwarding, voice mail, unlimited long distance, etc. This service has been very popular as well.

Operations Update

With spring here and warmer weather on the way, Otsego Electric has started some summer projects. The brush crew is working in various areas throughout the service area doing line trimming and mowing to help avoid outages and keep the right-of-way clear. We also have plans to do necessary line upgrades to keep the system in good shape. Please drive slowly if you see our crews working close to or on the roads.

Otsego Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 128,
Hartwick, NY 13348

Office Hours
7:30 – 4:00
Monday – Friday

Phone:
607-293-6622

Pay-by-Phone
1-844-843-6842

After Hours and Outages:
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Call **Dig|Safely. New York**
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Washington, D.C. Trip Postponed

Otsego Electric Cooperative chose Cole Bobnick, a Junior from Richfield Springs Central School, to go to Washington, D.C. for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference this year. Unfortunately the trip was postponed because of the COVID-19 virus. John Kennedy, a Junior from Cooperstown Central School, was chosen as the Alternate. Congratulations to these fine young student leaders!



COVID-19 and Safety

Otsego Electric and OEConnect have made drastic changes in our regular operations due to COVID-19. The safety of our members and employees is our utmost concern. The front door is locked and there is no public entry into the office for now. If you need something, please call us and we will arrange a method of exchanging documents or doing whatever is needed. There is a Drop Box in our parking lot so please drop off payments or any other documents whenever you want. We have been able to maintain continuous operation with our electric and right of way crews. They are traveling separately in vehicles assigned just to that person and by not meeting in the warehouse every morning. We have continued office operations by having at least three employees in the office while the others worked from home. We have actually accelerated our pace of installs of fiber broadband service to the extent possible at this time. We ask that you clear the area where the modem will be installed and minimize contact with our installers by staying back at least six feet and wearing a mask. Our installers are wearing masks and washing their hands before and after they enter any homes. We have begun to encounter shortages of equipment due to extremely high worldwide demand for broadband materials and electronic equipment but we are optimistic that we will have sufficient supplies to continue at our current pace without interruption. We prefer that you call us here at the office rather than approach anyone in the field due to safety concerns at job sites. If you absolutely need to speak to our electric or broadband crew members, please practice social distancing of at least six feet and wear a mask just in case. These operating procedures will continue until the state of emergency is over.



Automatic Payments

There is no better time than now to set up automatic payment of your electric and internet bills! We are currently offering a \$5 discount to anyone who signs up for auto pay either by SmartHub or bank draft. These payment methods are preferred over cash, checks and credit cards because it saves time and reduces the chance of transmitting the COVID-19 virus on paper currency or checks. Credit cards can create inconvenience when the cards expire. Please let us know if you want to switch to auto pay.

