



Upcoming Annual Meeting of the Members
WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

Inside this issue:

Student goes to DC twice	2
History of Your Co-op	2
Extensive "Treework" ahead	3
Directors to be Missed	3
Trespassing Squirrel	3
State Energy Plan & REV	3
Annual Meeting Meals etc.	4

Notes & Information

Normal Office Hours
 7:30 AM — 4 PM M-F
 Office Location:
 6630 State Route 20
 Bouckville
*Office Closed on:
 Labor Day
 September 7th (Monday)*

Phone Number:
315 893-1851
 Call this number 24 hours a day for assistance with power outages and emergencies. Please do not assume that someone else has already called — you may be the only one experiencing problems.

www.oneida-madison.coop

Your Board of Directors
 Rudy Brouillette, Pres.
 Thomas Stone, VP
 Dan Saulsgiver, Sec./Tr.
 John Lehr
 Greg Moon
 Jim Nassimos
 Kurt Peavey

Far less than 1% of the people, businesses, and organizations in New York State obtain electricity from an electric cooperative. For the other 99%+, their serving utilities are owned, regulated, and controlled by various entities spread around the world. Your electric cooperative is fundamentally different than the "norm" and features democratic local control and purely local ownership. You, the members, have the uncommon opportunity to participate in and take advantage of having virtually all of the "say" in the future of your very own electric utility. All democracies

rely on **the active participation of well informed members** to succeed and to function for the good of "the people". Many Americans boldly fought and died to create and maintain a democratic country that permits great freedoms such as the privilege to be a part of a democratic electric Cooperative. By coming out to participate and learn at the Annual Meeting you will be paying back and respecting those who came before you. The "fight" for the creation of OMEC was surely not an easy one, but here we are at our 72nd Annual Meeting. Today, OMEC is a rock solid successful business

that has consistently grown in both membership and financial prowess for more than 7 decades. How thankful are you to be in the less than 1%?

- There will be one proposed By-Laws change this year — **a change to reduce the number of Directors from 9 to 7.** This change is being presented for consideration as an avenue to save on Director training expenses and to improve governance efficiencies. The decision is yours and more written details will be provided soon for your evaluation.

TO RESERVE YOURSELF A GOOD MEAL RIGHT BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS - JUST RETURN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER. IF YOU ARE TOO BUSY OR NOT HUNGRY, YOU ARE CERTAINLY MORE THAN WELCOME TO ATTEND JUST THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS. SOME GOOD LIVE MUSIC WILL BE PERFORMED BEFORE THE MEETING AS WELL.

Directors Reduce PPA Rates — Repeatedly — YES!

2015 started off with a billed Purchase Power Adjustment (PPA) rate of 2.0 cents per kilowatt-hour. You may have noticed that this rate has been dropping. It was lowered to 1.5, then to 1.0, and effective this month it will be absolute 0.0 cents/kwh. This great development was possible for two main reasons: 1) wholesale power markets, where Your Cooperative purchases some of its electricity, have

featured prices this year which have been considerably lower than 2014 prices, and 2) Your Cooperative, unlike many other utilities, has no incentive to keep "your money" when it starts to look like we are living in land of milk and honey. Why? See the above article - You own and Control Your Cooperative and Your Cooperative's Board of Directors that You elected exists to serve only You. Your

Cooperative's "base" electric rates have not changed since 2011. This "rate stability" can be attributed to a combination of factors including prudent leadership and cautious spending by the Board of Directors and the hard work of the 7 dedicated and talented employees who tirelessly carry out Your Cooperative's daily business while serving You day or night with great pleasure - day and night!

Your Map Location number, located on your bill, *may* be found somewhere in this newsletter. If you find it, contact the office within 15 days of receipt of the newsletter and your account will be credited \$10. Last newsletter — two such prizes went unclaimed — if you snooze you could lose too.

High School Student Jennifer Hilts Goes to Washington, DC — and is So Popular She Gets Invited Back!

Jennifer Hilts, pictured to the left, traveled to Washington, DC in May to take part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference. Following her May trip, the talent laden Ms Hilts returned to Washington, DC in July after being selected by the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association to partake as a statewide representative in NRECA's Youth Leadership Council, where she sharpened her leadership and public speaking skills in an environment focused on rural America and the electric cooperative industry. Jennifer lives on a real family dairy farm that is powered by Your Cooperative and is the daughter of John and Jean Hilts. Cooperative Directors working with her at the Legislative Conference, a number of her peers, and NRECA staff members all described her the same way: she is a tribute to what growing up in rural America is all about — she is hardworking, smart, responsible, and committed to active citizenship. With that type of review and popularity, let's hope that someday she can use her recent positive experiences in rural electricity as a springboard into further representation and advocacy for all of us who love Rural Electric Cooperatives and have a passion for passing along our rural lifestyles and heritage to the next generation. Thank you Jennifer and thank you to the Hilts family for making Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. look very good to the rest of the world. We are so proud!!!!



G15A-3-2-01

PRESIDENT FDR QUOTED

"It is particularly important that extensions of rural electrification be planned in such a way as to provide service on an area basis. The practice has been too frequent in the past for private utility companies to undertake to serve only the more prosperous and more populous rural sections. As a result, families in less favored and in sparsely settled sections were left unserved. I believe that our postwar rural electrification program should bring modern service of electric power to the farm families in the back country.

- September 1944

Some History of Your Cooperative — Do you recall?

- ◆ In 1983 the Cooperative purchased the Cooperative's present day headquarters building on Route 20 in Bouckville for 50 grand.
- ◆ March 1985 — the Federal Government deleted all of the Cooperative's "remaining loan funds". This was a difficult blow to the Cooperative, but at the time the Cooperative's leaders reported "we will survive". They were correct. Today, 30 years later Your Cooperative has a stellar credit record and knows of many entities willing to finance its projects.
- ◆ In 1965, Don Brown was hired as a lineman. He became the Manager of the Cooperative in 1986 and today enjoys his retirement in the Brookfield area. It was strong and bright men like Don who made the Cooperative what it is today — thanks Don.
- ◆ In 1944, OMEC's first 36 members were energized out of the Eaton substation which was located on River Road near the present day Eaton substation.
- ◆ In the mid 1970s plans for building the Fenner substation were complicated as the "cost of money" went from 2% up towards 5% - 7%!
- ◆ The late 1940s were very tough and rates were raised to make ends meet.

Extensive Line Clearance “Treework” scheduled for Fall of 2015

Your Cooperative will be investing considerable sums of money this Fall to keep the lines and trees peacefully separated for your benefit. Sometimes this means trimming trees and at other times the complete removing certain “danger” trees is appropriate. Interference from trees is one of the undisputed leading causes of local power outages. Let’s not demonize trees though, they are often very beautiful, provide energy saving shade, help filter foul air, provide lumber, and even produce lots of life sustaining oxygen for us to breathe. One could easily argue that humans can not live without trees. On the other hand, modern society has come to demand and depend on electricity, which in OMEC’s heavily “treed” service ar-

reas means that compromises must be made to balance the needs for reliable power with tree rights. Much of the “treework” this coming Fall will be done by the contracting firm Asplundh. Asplundh’s workers did a great job of “treework” on critical areas of the “C-Line” last year. **This Fall they will be focusing mainly on key portions of both the “F-Line” and the “G-Line”.** A second contractor, Leggett Tree Service, has been doing and will continue to do some more targeted “treework” throughout the rest of this year on various portions of lines spread throughout the service territory. Members are asked to be patient and especially cooperative as the needed “treework” takes place in the power line right-of-way

areas. In addition to the contract “treework”, OMEC workers are often seen doing important “treework”. While doing so, they often must use their expertise to make difficult judgment calls about just how far to cut back and/or properly shape trees that may be a serious threat to the power lines and Your electrical service. These folks do dangerous and important work and do appreciate your respect and cooperation at all times. *Also, please remember when dealing with any tree near a power line: consult a professional first, prior to taking any matters into your own hands. Just call the Cooperative office at 315 893-1851 for assistance, prior to risking a serious injury or death.*

Director Earl Nourse Retires and Director Donald Ford Resigns

C11-3UI

The Cooperative will miss two Directors who recently left their positions as members of Your Board of Directors. The Cooperative was blessed to have received many years of dedicated service from these two fine gentlemen. Mr. Earl Nourse served on Your Cooperative’s Board of Directors for about 21 years, fully committed to the “cooperative spirit” until he retired

earlier this year. Earl literally grew up on the Cooperative’s lines and has been a “lifelong” eager recipient of Cooperative power. He and his wife Sylvia remain proud fans of their electric Cooperative as they continue to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Town of Nelson while they pay close attention to their family. Donald Ford spent about 12 years serving you and your

fellow members as a very astute member of the Board of Directors. He remains on the Cooperative lines as an active and keenly interested member of OMEC and looks forward to the Cooperative’s continued success. Both Donald and Earl will be remembered as dedicated contributors, putting the needs and interests of the membership at the very top of their priority lists.

Trespassing Small Squirrel Causes Big Problems at Fenner Substation on July 31

More than 500 members on the “F-Line” and the “G-Line” experienced just under 3 hours without service when a squirrel somehow wedged itself “just exactly in the wrong place” in the Fenner Substation. The late squirrel shorted out an automatic circuit recloser knock-

ing out power. Its wandering actions lead to over \$20,000 in damage to valuable equipment. Fortunately, it was otherwise a nice, sunny Friday morning and temporary repairs were able to proceed expeditiously. Animal caused outages do seem to be more frequent in the sum-

mer time, but there are no nuts stored in the substation, so it is unknown as to what the squirrel was doing or thinking that infamous morning. One member has offered to have her dog patrol the substation to prevent recurring nuisance animal problems and damages!

New York State Energy Plan and Reforming the Energy Vision

The legally required comprehensive “State Energy Plan” has just arrived, effectively retiring the previous one that was released in 2009. This new plan is very bold, aggressive, and contains plenty of very interesting developments. One of the stated goals in the Energy Plan is for 50% of the electricity genera-

tion in New York State to come from renewable energy sources by 2030. If we are all to meet that lofty goal, as a State, it will be a truly remarkable accomplishment. Another key development is Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (also known as REV), a comprehensive energy plan featuring a

complete overhaul of the ways electric utilities are regulated. Your Cooperative’s leadership continues to monitor these major unprecedented changes that are forthcoming in the industry. Fortunately, much helpful information is streaming in from organizations such as the NY Association of Public Power.

FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

@ the 72nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2015

MADISON CENTRAL SCHOOL

PRE-MEETING MEAL, FEATURING BOUCKVILLE'S VERY OWN



\$6.00 PER PERSON

SERVING TIME: 5:30 PM TO 6:45 PM

MEALS WILL NOT BE SERVED AFTER 6:45 PM

MENU: CHOICE of ½ BBQ Chicken OR Big Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich

AND Salt Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Cornbread, Cookies, and Drinks — Buffet Style

DINNER RESERVATIONS AND FULL PAYMENT MUST BE IN TO YOUR

COOPERATIVE OFFICE NO LATER THAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

Return this portion with payment

Name of Person Making Reservation _____

Address _____

Map Location Number (located on your bill): _____

Number Attending Choosing 1/2 Chicken _____ x \$6.00 = _____

Number Attending Choosing Pulled Pork _____ x \$6.00 = _____

Meals are available by advance purchase only

No Refunds

No Takeouts