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Normal Office Hours:
7:30 AM to 4 PM
Monday—Friday
6630 State Route 20
Bouckville

*Office Closed on:
Good Friday (April 3rd)
Memorial Day (May 25th)*

Phone Number:
315 893-1851

Please call this number anytime for response to emergencies and outages. For all other matters, call this same number during normal office hours.

www.oneida-madison.coop

Your Board of Directors
Rudy Brouillette, Pres.
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Members Benefit Big-time as Directors elect to Distribute \$175,000.08 in Patronage Capital

As 2014 wound to a close, Your Board of Directors decided to continue a long-standing Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. practice by approving the “retirement” of a significant amount of previously allocated “patronage capital”, also known as “capital credits”. For those of you that are new to the Cooperative, and for those of you that are interested in a review of the hows and whys of patronage capital, read on. Otherwise, skip what follows, no offense taken. To understand the “big picture” you have to understand the nature of Your very own electric Cooperative. **OMEC exists solely for the purpose of**

servicing its members. It costs money to serve you and you get a bill each month as a reminder of that. Although you are an owner, electric service is not free. When both in-house and independent experts get done reviewing the books each year, the Cooperative’s “margin” (sort of like a profit) is determined. Over the last 60 years, there has been just one year when no “margin” was achieved. Annual “margins” are then allocated to every single active member, with the margin being divided up per the relative financial participation/contribution of each individual member. Aging allocations are then

“retired”, on a “first in—first out” basis after the margins have been used to support the Cooperative for a period of time. When bills were issued in late December of 2014, past and present members enjoyed the return of their “capital credits” - in the form of the balance of their unreturned 1992 credits, all of their 1993 credits, and a portion of their 1994 credits. \$175,000.08 back into the pockets of the those deserving people and businesses! Electric cooperatives are the only electric utilities in New York that directly track and payback consumers for their dedicated “patronage”. What a beautiful business model!

Your Linemen and Nearby Friends conquer Mother Nature’s attack on Electric System’s Highlands

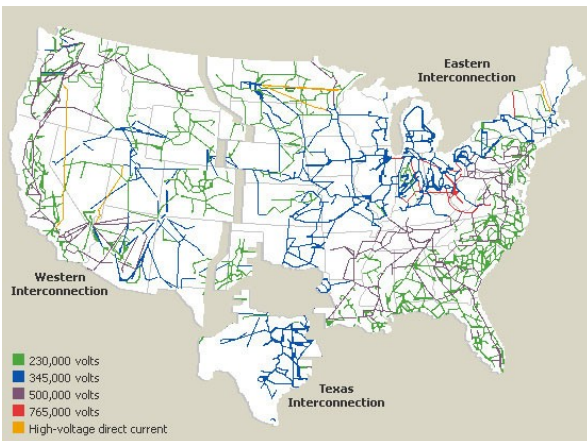
December of 2014 will not be forgotten for some time. Heavy wet snow and ice buildup hit the higher elevations and a few isolated areas of Your Cooperative’s system very hard. Unfortunately, some members spent over 24 hours straight without the benefits of electric service. The system damage that was done at that time also left some latent problems that persistently nagged maintenance crews on into January and perhaps even February of this year. Now that March has arrived, it appears that the impacts of the attack by mother nature late last year have been fully put to death. During the peak of the attack, on or about December 14 and December 15, the hardworking linemen of OMEC were fortunate to have assistance from linemen from the Village of Hamilton, the Village of Sherburne, and the City of Sherrill. These nearby utilities are part of a powerful network of mutual aid providers that are able to help each other out when hard times befall a particular electric distribution system. At one juncture, ice as thick and 5” stuck to poles, trees, and wires in the Town of Fenner and in the Town of Smithfield. Other areas and times saw healthy snow laden trees break, and in some cases totally collapse, under the weight of ice and heavy snow. Compounding the challenges of repairing a damaged electric system, Your Cooperative’s linemen and the small army of mutual aid providers faced heavy fog and darkness for one prolonged stretch of the recovery period. Your gracious patience and comments (both positive and negative) were appreciated during the difficult times that hit home.



Fenner Substation Improvement Plans

Engineering work is well underway and implementation plans are being made! In 2015, the Fenner substation, serving about a third of Your Cooperative’s members, will be improved dramatically. The wiring and physical supports connecting one of Your Cooperative’s three high voltage power substations to the power transmission grid will be re-vamped resulting in a more stable, higher capacity, more robust, and more weather resistant (not to mention nearly 40 years newer) overhead “service”. This project is one of many in the Long Range Capital Improvement Plan that was developed and approved in 2014 to set the tone for numerous infrastructure and system improvements that will help keep the power flowing to you steadily for decades to come. Vanderweil Engineers, headquartered in Boston with an office in Syracuse, New York, will complete their design work on the project soon and project construction is set for mid-2015 or late-2015. At this time, it has not yet been determined if and when service interruptions will be necessary. However, any impacted members will be notified well in advance if such actions become necessary. The Fenner Substation, in its present form, has proven to be a highly reliable station over the last almost 40 years and can intake power from multiple physical directions.

The Fenner substation is directly coupled to what is known as the Eastern Interconnection (EI), a remarkable “MEGA” power grid which under normal operating conditions connects and “synchronizes” one giant power network functioning throughout portions of Canada, west to as far away as eastern Montana, south to Florida, and even encompassing states such as Kansas and Nebraska. One of the advantages of a very large network such as the Eastern Interconnection is redundancy and flexibility. Different power generation plants and transmission lines can often support remote sections of the network if and when called to do so. We should all be very thankful to live in a large peaceful country with friendly northern neighbors, making modern marvels like the EI both possible and super reliable!



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Some More History of Your Cooperative — Did You Know?

- In 1948, consideration was given to a merger with Otsego Electric Cooperative and Delaware County Electric Cooperative.
- A special meeting was held in 1963 to consider a merger with Otsego Electric Cooperative.
- In the 1940s, the Towns of Stockbridge, Vernon, and Cazenovia opted not to grant franchise permissions to electric Cooperatives.
- In 1970, OMEC received a Safety Award from Employers Insurance of Wausau for “exceptional achievement in accident prevention”. The award was obtained because the system had no disabling injuries from May 1958 through December 1969. 11+ straight years of solid safety in an era well before electric utility safety was the high profile subject of magazine articles, dedicated conferences, corporate mission statements, and governmental scrutiny.
- The year was 1982, when Your Cooperative entered the era of “computerization” by purchasing its very first computer, hoping that it could “alleviate work on implementing the purchased power adjustment” on electric bills. It seems to have worked out pretty well. Today, Your Cooperative and other electric utilities would have a very hard time functioning without multiple computer based systems. Over the last 33 years, the computer has become an essential business tool.
- In 1983, Directors polled members to see if any were interested in performing as part of a talent show at the Annual Membership Meeting. The historical record is unclear as to whether or not any “talent” actually surfaced. However, one talented man did make his mark at that Annual Meeting. Current Director Dan Saulsgiver of Lebanon was first elected to serve You that evening.
- OMEC bought Bouckville School for \$524.45 in 1946.

Non-Discrimination Statement

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complain of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

3rd Party Notices for “Discontinuance of Service” — Available by Choice B9C-10-01

If you think it would be helpful to you, Your Cooperative will send a written “3rd party notice” to someone of your choice in the event that you are being issued a “notice of discontinuance of service” (for failure to pay your electric bill or for other appropriate reasons). For your convenience, mailings can be sent out to the person that you choose at the same time they are sent to you. However, the “3rd party” indi-

vidual must be willing to be named as such and must give Your Cooperative written permission to be designated as the receiver of 3rd party notices. Designated 3rd parties **are not** financially responsible, unless they are liable by law as a guarantor or otherwise, in any way for Your account. However, they may be able to help you out if you have special circumstances warranting such help. Your Cooperative is not

responsible for any unintentional failure to provide such notice. You must update Your Cooperative if any of the “3rd party” information, such as name and address changes, requires updating. Call Your Cooperative at 315 893-1851, write Your Cooperative at PO Box 27 Bouckville, New York 13310, or email Your Cooperative at: office@oneida-madison.coop to initiate a “3rd party” designation.

C-Line Trunk proves to be Stronger Thanks to Local Members and Tree Crews

There is nothing like a challenging test of something improved and strong. Last autumn, Your Cooperative utilized the services of Asplundh (a specialty contractor) to clear extensive vegetation, numerous failing trees, and many line encroaching trees along the main “trunk” of the C-Line. This extensive undertaking was made possible through the community minded cooperation of many members and land

owners in the southern portions of the Town of Madison. Without the support of those members, all members of the C-Line, not just those along the “trunk”, would have been exposed to the possibility of more and more frequent outages and other problems when heavy snow, ice, and wind came later on as winter boldly and coldly moved in. THANK YOU MEMBERS and THANK YOU LANDOWNERS.

Because of your dedication and cordial support of Your Cooperative, it looks like the C-Line is “stronger” than ever. Selected line areas off the “trunk” portion of the C-Line will be targeted for more strengthening by more “treework” later this year. Other prospective “trunk” portions of the F-Line and the G-Line are also presently being evaluated for major “treework” consideration before 2016!

When Will Power be Restored? Should I Buy/Start a Generator? Why am I out?

Despite the amazing sophistication of modern monitoring, control, and communications systems, Your Cooperative’s field personnel, with support from the office staff, often must physically patrol the system to gather information before reacting to outages. With over 250 miles of primary lines, spanning

rugged hilly areas, safe restoration plans and coordinated efficient schedules can often be established only after observations. Repeated patrols may also be necessary, because circumstances can rapidly change creating new and repeated outages and safety hurdles. When you call to report Your concerns,

please be patient, since often those answering the phones may not yet be aware of the results of sometimes dangerous, stressful, and lengthy field patrols. At times, just like you, office staff members do not know all of the answers and do not have any magical forecasting ability.

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. Congratulations to two lucky \$10 winners from the August 2014 newsletter - Stephen Cleary & Debra Mensche.

Student Opportunity - 11th Grader WANTED

Your Cooperative is most pleased to offer an opportunity for a high school student (must be an 11th Grader) to participate in an all expense paid trip to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. Over 3,000 Cooperative leaders from more than 40 states, representing over 500 rural electric Cooperatives, generally attend this annual conference. The selected student will learn about Your very own Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc., and how it is part of a much bigger space consisting of many other electric Cooperatives. While in Washington, DC, the student will get to interact with key people from around the country working in a field critical to the world's security, economy, and future - energy. Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. delegates, including the 11th grader, will travel to Washington, DC on Saturday, May 2nd and return to Bouckville on Wednesday, May 6th. The student will make visits to Capitol Hill Congressional Members and/or their staffs from New York State. Plenty of time will be reserved for educational sightseeing as well. Following the trip to Washington, DC, the Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. sponsored student may also be chosen to attend the NRECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) that will be held in Washington, DC (July 19th through July 23rd). The conference will develop the student's oral presentation skills and give them a broader understanding of the electric cooperative industry and the cooperative business model. Upon completion of the YLC, the student may be selected to represent New York State's Electric Cooperatives at the NRECA 2016 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana (February 13, 2016 through February 17, 2016). **All student applicants must be in the 11th grade and must live in a home served by ONEIDA-MADISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** To receive application materials or more information, contact the office at (315) 893-1851. **The completed application packet must be received by the Cooperative no later than March 24th, 2015.**

Past 11th Grade Participants have reported that their trip to Washington, DC, as a representative of Your Electric Cooperative, was "the event" that inspired them to later become active in "public" organizations, like cooperatives, which are based upon the principles of DEMOCRACY.