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Notes & Information

Normal Office Hours
7:30 AM - 4 PM M-F
Office Location:
6630 State Route 20
Bouckville, New York

*Office Closed on:
Good Friday March
30th*

Phone Number:

315 893-1851

Call this number 24 hours a day for assistance with power outages and urgent matters. *Please do not assume that someone else has already reported on the issue.*

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

Student Opportunity - 11th Grader Wanted

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. is 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.

The conference is a national lobbying effort by rural electric Cooperatives to inform Members of Congress about rural electric issues and other important issues affecting rural areas like ours. Over 3,000 Cooperative leaders from more than 40 states, representing over 500 rural electric Cooperatives, generally attend this annual conference.

This is an excellent learning opportunity for students. The selected student will gain first-hand experience in how our national government works, while also having opportunities to "witness" over 240 years of United States history. In the past, some participating students have even observed some real time history being made.

The student will also learn about Your very own Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc., and how we are part of a much bigger space consisting of many other cooperative businesses. While in DC, the chosen student will interact with people from all over the country working in a field critical to our nation's security, economy, and future - energy.

The student and other Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. **delegates will travel to Washington, DC on Saturday, April 7th and return to Bouckville on Wednesday, April 11th.**

The student will accompany local delegates from Your utility and other Cooperatives on visits with various Capitol Hill Congressional Members, including ones from New York State. Plenty of time will be reserved for educational sightseeing in the historically unique setting.

Following the trip to Washington, DC, the Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. sponsored student may also be chosen to attend the NRE-

CA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) that will be held during the summer of 2018. The YLC conference will develop the student's oral presentation skills while encouraging 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 2019 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida (March 10th, 2019 through March 13th, 2019).

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, call (315) 893-1851 during normal office hours. **The completed application packet must be received by the Cooperative no later than March 27th at 4 PM.**

In The Beginning: Let There Be Light in Some Local Rural Parts

Today many are thankful that Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Incorporated was born on **May 5, 1942**. The birth was the result of a name change for the entity created on July 18, 1941 known as the Oneida County Electric Association, Incorporated. The initial nine members of the OMEC Board of Directors were: President **Ray Todd** of Oriskany Falls, Secretary **Francis Schindler** of Oriskany Falls, **Jason Sigsbee** of Madison, **Francis Benner** of Erieville, **Aaron Hart** of Eaton, **Nila Jones** of Erieville, **Roy Cary** of Canastota, **Ella Avery** of North Brookfield, and **J. William Maxwell** of Clinton.

Your Map Location number, located on your bill, *may* be found somewhere in this document.
If you find it, contact the office by April 15th and your account will be credited \$10.

UNCLAIMED MONEY, Help Your Cooperative Deliver Capital Credits?

Your Cooperative has been regularly returning money to its members and former members in the form of "capital credits" for decades. All such money rightfully belongs to those members that it was originally "allocated to" or "assigned to". Member money in the form of "capital credits" is officially "released" back to the membership whenever the Board of Directors determines that such a return is feasible (given the overall business condition of Your Cooperative). Unfortunately, sometimes "capital credits" payout checks are returned to the Cooperative's office at 6630 State Route 20 because the payee can not be located. If you have any tips or clues about how the following former members, or their "estates", or successors, can be located, please contact Your Cooperative:

AMA

Arnold, Diana
Bailey, Robert
Baird, Mary
Baker, H A
Balaz, Alexander
Barner, John
Barnes, Colleen
Bennett, Thelma
Benson, Catherine
Brillhart, Russell
Broadwater Estate, James
Bronson Estate, Marshall
Broussard Jr, Robert
Chapin, Stephen

Cole, Charles
Coleman, James
Congdon, Patricia
Conroy, Vincent
Cramer, Nancy
Curren, Ellen
Davis, Robert
Deblois, Paul
Demartino, Gary
Donahoe, Richard
Dougherty Estate, Robert
Dugan, Andrew
Ellis, Paul
Evans, Robert III
Field Estate, Harry
Fluno, April
Fody Estate, Elizabeth
Forsythe Estate, Thomas
Fuller, Frederick
Gagnon, Pamela
Gait, Jaqueline
Gares, Paul
Glass, Darya
Gott Estate, Orrin
Gould, Glenn
Grant Estate, Alan
Grosse, Christine
Hammond, Rhonda
Harris, Leroy
Hatalla Est, Mike
Hawk Estate, Richard
Hayes, Thomas
Henderson, James
Herdman, Patricia
Herring Estate, Lyle
Highers Estate, Elber
Hodges, Beverley
Hughes, Richard
Hume, Leon
Hunt Estate, Edith

F10-1-A1

Huttner, William
Ingalls, Mark
Jellerson, George
Jocz Manning, Cynthia
John Dominique, Mrs
Juhlin, Patricia
Kastens Estate, Anita
Kaulfers, Susan
Koniewicz, Gary
Leahy, James
Lewis, Nancy
Li, Ming
Lloyd, Bonnie
Lounsbury, Brian
Maggio, Helen
Maine, Ronald
Maltz, Robyn
Martin, Jesse
McDonald, Betsy
McDonough, James
McLaughlin, R
Mink Estate, Betty
Molegaard, Dean
Moore, John
Moore, S W
Mortgage Co, Res.
Mott, Lawrence
Mullen, Dave
Murphy, Susan
Murray Estate, John
Naylor, James
Oser, Nathan
O'Shea, Candice
Ostinett, Raymond
Oullette, Paul
Pearson, John
Peereboom, Harry
Penoyer, David
Perry, John
Phillips, Joel
Philo, James
Prentiss Estate, James
Pugliano Est, William
Ratcliff, Elizabeth
Raymond, David
Record Estate, Charles
Reed, Charles
Relf, Louis
Render, Carl
Richards Estate, Bernard
Riedl, David
Roberts Est, Howard
Root, Kevin
Rosenberg, Karl
Ross, Heidi
Rundle, John
Schultz, Dorothy
Shank, Peter
Shuman, Jeff
Simpson, Susan
Sloane, Janet
Smith, Betsy
Smith, Elizabeth
Smith, Reginald
Smith, Richard
Smolinsky, David
Stachowski, Ronald
Strickler, Raymond
Sutherland, Erle
Troy, Gerald
Vuocolo, Philip
Waters Estate, June
Welsh, William
Weyhrauch Estate, Dan
Wilhelm, Tom
Williams Est, Carlton
Wood Estate, Peter
Wootton, Ella
Young Estate, Russell

Lineworker Matt Marriott Achieves Training and Experience Milestone

On February 12, 2018 OMEC's very own Matt Marriott joined the ranks of those with "journeyman" or "1st Class" lineworker status. The process of earning such an achievement is a very rigorous one and demands: a) the development of complicated physical skills, which often call for unusual strength, stamina, and power, b) many hours of practicing the craft, c) creativity and the ability understand highly complex and inherently dangerous electromechanical systems, and d) dedication to serving in the humble role of an apprentice. Mr. Marriott

joined your Cooperative in 2012 as a general laborer and has already worked his way up to the top rung of his technical profession. True to his humble and personal approach to work, Matt chose to turn down an offer to be honored with a glorious party and celebration to recognize his achievement. Instead, he opted to just keep working along steadily to serve the membership. At this time, Your Cooperative employs four fine gentleman, now including Matt, with "1st Class" lineworker credentials. This seasoned veteran group is headed by

Working Line Foreman Brian Bell, your most experienced "1st Class" lineworker, along with Pat Caraher and Barry Tallman. Over the last two decades, Your Cooperative has had a sustained team of four active lineworkers with the noteworthy "1st Class" designation less than 20% of the time. As a result, Your Cooperative is now very well positioned to respond to Your core needs which starts with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the electrical distribution system which gives you what you pay for and want - flowing juice.

Dying Ash Trees Pose Ongoing Threats to Electric Distribution System

An anonymous wiseguy recently said that living ash trees in New York State are dying off and fading away even faster than honest politicians. This point may be debatable, but it is very true that most of the ash trees throughout Your Cooperative's service territory are already showing signs that they

will ultimately completely lose to the emerald ash borer. As a result of this awful plague created by a small "beetle", it has become necessary to cut down numerous ash trees before they have the opportunity to knock out your power. Great progress in removing these threats has been made, but

the battle versus the emerald ash borer created destruction will be a long and expensive one and, from time to time, the dying and falling ash trees do claim successful attacks on the local electrical infrastructure. For all the optimists out there, take note that ash splits quite easily into pretty good firewood!

Local "Tree" Contractors Do Cost Effective, CHILLY, Work for the Membership

Good help can sometimes be very hard to find, but recently Your Cooperative found plenty of it right "next door". Despite frigid temperatures as 2017 wound to a close, Hutchings Tree Service, headed by OMEC member Dave Hutchings, did a remarkable job of removing a number of trees that were threatening to damage your Cooperative's poles and wires. The work was

done efficiently and safely in very difficult field conditions at highly competitive prices. It is great to witness a member of Your Cooperative using a small business to work hard to directly benefit and "protect" many other members. Meanwhile, Above and Beyond Tree and Stump Removal, headed by Joe Robinson and located just minutes from Your Cooperative's of-

fice, made time in December of 2017 to trim and remove some trees on an "urgent basis" that otherwise could have created big trouble for OMEC members as well as the public. Joe and his crew did some highly specialized work that required a combination of skills, tools, and judgment that is rare. Thank you Joe, thank you Dave, and thank you to their teams.

JEN KABAT, Daughter of OMEC Legend, Visits Co-op and Shares Much

Your Cooperative is preparing for its 75th Annual Meeting of the Members coming up on Friday, October 5, 2018. As plans for the extra special "diamond anniversary" gathering are underway, the efforts are being supplemented by some other special activities designed to help connect today's members with the rich and interesting history and future of the Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative. Directors and staff have been reaching out to persons that may be able to help make this "diamond anniversary" era especially meaningful and informative. This effort was launched on February 20, 2018 when Jen Kabat came to Bouckville to share some of her "father's story" with a present day Cooperative Member/Director and staff members. Jen's father was the General Manager of Your Cooperative from 1951 to 1953, at a time when it was a struggling startup, was much smaller than it is today, and served a membership with plenty of doubts about the future of the utility. Jen was so kind as to pass along many memories that she had collected from her father and mother over the years. *Some excerpts (more later) of the memories shared by Jen:*

- Robert Ivan Kabat came to the Cooperative as General Manager when he was about 25 years old
- Bob's wife, Lois "Sandy" Kabat, whom he met at Oberlin College in Ohio, also worked for the Co-op
- Robert left OMEC to join the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in late 1953
- Robert worked for NRECA for over 40 years and obtained Major Responsibilities While Doing So
 - NRECA named its University based Management Training Program after Robert
 - Robert was inducted into the prestigious Cooperative Hall of Fame in 2005
 - Some of Robert and Sandy Kabat's Very Best times were had in Bouckville, New York
 - Robert left this world in 2010, having left his mark on Oneida-Madison Electric and the World
- ***Robert's swift "Turnaround" of OMEC featured battling a terrible storm that devastated the system, yet later he brought Directors to tears when there was enough money to pay them each a \$3 per diem***

Non-Discrimination Statement

Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc.

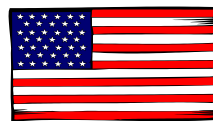
6630 State Route 20, PO Box 27

Bouckville, NY 13310

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\$175,000 in Capital Credits Paid Out as Year Changes- Why It Matters

2017 was yet another remarkable year for Your Cooperative, with performance metrics indicating all sorts of progress and victories. Rates once again remained unchanged since 2011, while a considerable amount of "capital credits" were paid back to

members for their past patronage. Members and former members served in the late 1990s received a sum total of \$175,000 at the end of 2017. For decades, Your Cooperative's Directors have continued to make these substantial payouts a top, and nearly sacred,

priority. They have done so for decades, as a symbol of their deep commitment to "cooperation" and because it is simply the "right" thing to do for those many committed folks that have kept the torch burning. To those benefiting, enjoy YOUR \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

Do You See an Electric System Problem or Threat? - Now What?

Is there a tree branch on a wire, a loose down guy wire, a cracked meter cover, a broken pole or some other observation that strikes you as abnormal? Help Your Cooperative help you. **Stay clear of the "problem" and call, e-**

mail (office@oneida-madison.coop), or write to the office to help keep the power flowing. Please do not distract Your Cooperative's lineworkers regarding your observations, since doing so reduces productivity and may result

in delayed response. Some remedies may involve the use of contractors or consultants. Pictures are welcome, and details are important! **For life threatening or similar emergencies, call 911 for assistance.**

For the Sake of Safety - CALL 811 Before You Dig - It is the LAW

Cooperation Between New York Electric Co-ops and Goodbye to a Friend

The electric Cooperative network is very much so alive and well. At the core of the remarkable, highly collaborative, business network are 838 electric "distribution" cooperatives. These electric "distribution" cooperatives, like your very own Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc., provide their local members with the complex infrastructure that physically connects their "end-use needs" to an evolving system that enables the flow of electricity to them (and sometimes these days, from them as well). Around 42 million people spread across 47 states are served by the electric Cooperative network. New York's 4 electric "distribution" cooperatives include yours, and three larger ones headquartered in Otsego County, Delaware County, and Steuben County. New York's 4 cooperative distributors of electricity regularly participate in na-

tional activities via the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and through the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NYSRECA). By acting and working together, OMEC's approximately 2000 members frequently benefit when Your employees and Directors make use of the broad cooperation and efficiencies that naturally occur when "many heads and hands" are focused on challenges. Electric "distribution" cooperatives: buy together, learn together, lobby together, work together, plan together, study together, insure together, access financing options together, and do many other things together for the mutual benefits of each other. Last summer, NYSRECA's Annual Business Meeting was hosted by OMEC member Daniel Stoltzfus at his business in Knoxboro. Attendees were impressed

by the hospitality and peaceful scenery as they worked on moving the organization and its "common good" missions forward in the spirit of sincere cooperation. One of the keys to fruitful cooperation within NYSRECA is an environment of respect and commitment shared by the chief executives of each of the four "distribution" cooperatives. **OMEC wishes to say goodbye and good luck to outgoing Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC) CEO, Molly Bailey. Mrs. Bailey, during her time of leading SREC, proved to be a trusted and reliable friend to Your local Cooperative and a talented asset that will be missed. Thank you so much Molly, your kind cooperation and time in NYSRECA with us will not be forgotten here in Bouckville as you move on to pursue more of your dreams and to help other people with your positive energy and dedication.**