



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



## 84th Annual Meeting

### CONTACT US

**Office:**

1102 Egret Drive  
Sibley, IA 51249

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Phone:**

Local: 712-754-2519  
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On evenings, weekends or holidays an answering service will accept power outage or emergency type calls only.

**Online:**

osceolaelectric.com

### Official Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members of Osceola Electric Cooperative, INC.

The annual meeting of the members of OSCEOLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., will be held at the Sibley-Ocheyedan High School in Sibley, Osceola County, Iowa, at 9:00 a.m., on March 18, 2023, to take action on the following matters to wit:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees
2. The election of two directors of the cooperative
3. To consider and take action on any and all business which may properly come before said meeting of any adjournment or adjournment thereof.

**THIS MEETING IS IMPORTANT AND YOU ARE URGED TO BE PRESENT  
AT THE TIME AND PLACE HEREIN ABOVE FIXED.**

Dated at Sibley, Iowa, this 7th day of March 2023.

*Dean Haspels*

Dean Haspels  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Sibley, Iowa 51249

### ANNUAL MEETING

Coffee, rolls and fruit will be served at 8:00 a.m. with the business meeting to start at 9:00 a.m.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide our member safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost while being environmentally responsible.

### Program

Rolls and coffee 8 to 9 a.m.  
Call to order 9 a.m.  
Roll Call  
Reading of Notice and Proof of Mailing  
Reading of Minutes  
Nominating Committee Report by Chairperson  
Balloting

For Directors-Election of two (2) directors positions for three (3) years.  
Financial Report of 2022 Operations  
Manager's Report  
Report of Election  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment  
Awarding of Prizes



# Manager's & President's Report

Board President, Ron Jacobs, and I would like to invite the member-owners of Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OEC) to our 84th Annual Meeting. Rolls, fruit, and coffee will be served at 8:00 a.m. with the business meeting to follow at 9:00 a.m. Attendance at your meeting will provide you with the opportunity to vote for two directors and hear updates concerning your locally owned and controlled electric cooperative.

Safety is always OEC's priority. The weather conditions and volume of work that our line personnel operate in speaks to the value we ALL put on SAFETY. SAFETY starts with our Board of Directors; we have policies that demand safety for all employees. Year end, OEC's running total days working safe equaled 1,314.

2022 was another productive year for construction. OEC crews rebuilt four miles of single-phase lines and converted two miles single-phase to three phase. In October contractors completed underground replacement projects totaling six and half miles of 3-phase. Material lead times and cost increases have slowed construction. Historically, wire and transformers could be ordered and received in just a couple weeks. More recently we've seen those lead times pushed out to 30 and sometimes 50 plus weeks, an increase of 30 percent or more.

OEC's FEMA application has been approved and funded. It includes 52 miles of mitigation projects, a very good mix of single and three-phase overhead and underground projects. The majority of miles will be in Harrison, Baker and Allison townships. When these projects get funded and constructed by year end 2024, your overhead system will be 90 percent rebuilt since 2015. Shorter spans and larger poles with aluminum conductor adds to OEC reliability. We have seen outage times decrease annually.

Wholesale power costs continue to be our largest expense and main concern – power costs total 66.2 percent of OEC annual expenses. L&O Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, increased our rate by 4.5 mills the last three years. The board and staff decided to absorb the increases and keep OEC's rate for our member-owners stable with no increases planned for 2023. The board and staff

have implemented a short-range plan of returning money back to you, the member-owner, via a power cost adjustment (PCA), a temporary rate reduction. In 2021 OEC returned \$150,000.00, and in 2022 OEC returned \$216,000.00. We plan to return another \$216,000.00 in 2023.

Sterler Community Solar Park completed its sixth calendar year of operations. The 147 KW (560-panel) solar park generated 233,956 kilowatt hours (kWh) an increase of .7% from last year. The park powers about thirteen homes annually averaging 1,500 kWh per month. This project is an example of the board, membership and staff's commitment to our environment and educating ourselves on this green power technology.

The current administration is not as friendly to coal and has an agenda to move more quickly to renewables and less fossil fuel sources (gas & coal). We embrace renewable power generated from wind, solar and geothermal, but we also have a responsibility to provide power when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining. All fuel types are needed to help keep costs as low as possible. We will continue educating legislators on "All the Above" campaign while exploring wind, solar, and battery technology. Basin Electric Power Cooperative has drastically reduced its carbon footprint and continues to do so. In 2000 ninety-eight percent of their power was from coal. Today, Basin has lowered its carbon footprint by over fifty percent and projects to lower it even more by 2029. Learning how renewables can fill that fossil fuel resource safely and wisely will take several years. No one wants brownouts during our harsh winters or hot and humid summers.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve the membership of Osceola Electric Cooperative and continue the rich history and commitment of Member First.

Sincerely,

*Ron Jacobs*  
President

*Jeff TenNapel*  
GM / CEO



# 2023 Director Candidates

## Area 6:

### Dan Heilman

Dan and his wife, Maureen, live south of Ocheyedan in Baker Township. His wife is a Speech Language Pathologist with AEA. They are parents of Luke and Amelia, 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at S-O Middle School. Dan and Maureen moved to the farm in 2017 and took over operations in 2018 from his parents. The farm consists of a flock of ewes, corn, soybeans, oats and hay crops. He is active at First Reformed Church in Sibley where he has served on consistory. He is also currently serving his 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term on Farm Service Agency County Committee for Osceola County. Dan enjoys coaching youth rec sports for his kids, recreating at the lakes and fishing when he makes the time.



### Janette Schiphoff

Janette and her husband, Brent live north of Melvin. They have 3 children, Mackenzie, Marshall and Grant, they attend Sibley - Ocheyedan School. She has lived in Osceola county her whole life. Janette helps her husband on the farm with livestock and grain farming. She is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley. She is a member of the Melvin 313 Club. She is the secretary for the Friends of FFA. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, camping, side by side rides, and going to cattle shows with her kids. She has been a member of the REC since 2002.



## Area 7:

### Derek Ackerman

Derek and his wife, Megan, live south of Ocheyedan in Ocheyedan Township, where they have one daughter, Quinnley (2), that attends Bright Beginnings Daycare Center in Sibley. The Ackermans attend First Reformed Church in Sibley and enjoy spending their time outdoors on the farm as a family and being active in the community.

Derek has a row crop farming operation, custom feeds hogs and sells Wyffels Hybrids seed corn. He is also currently part of CFE's CORE Young Farmer Program.

Derek is a lifelong resident of Osceola County and has been an Osceola Electric Cooperative member for 9 years, while also serving as a director for OEC for the past 3 years. He has dedicated his time to successfully complete his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and is nearing completion of his Board Leadership Certificate.

If re-elected, Derek would like to see continuation of delivering safe, reliable electricity to the members both now and for the future, to maintain a strong Rural Electric Cooperative.



### Jason Otto

Jason and his wife Sara live east of May City. They have six children: Benjamin (21), Madison (18), Emily (18), Abigail (17), Megan (16) and Moriah (14). Jason's farming operation consists of corn, soybeans, hay, custom swine finishing, and a Registered Angus seed stock herd. Sara is employed at Osceola Rural Water as the office manager. Jason currently serves on the Osceola County Conservation Board and on the Osceola County Cattlemen's Board. In 2022 he was an Iowa delegate for the American Angus Association convention and also graduated from the Iowa Cattlemen's Association Leadership Program. Jason has been a REC member since 1997. In his free time, he enjoys attending his daughter's athletic events, fishing and attending cattle sales and events.





# 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF OSCEOLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**, was scheduled to convene at the Sibley/Ocheyedan High School, Sibley, Osceola County, Iowa, at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on March 19, 2022, pursuant to Notice thereof given in accordance with the By-laws of the Cooperative.

The meeting was called to order by Ron Jacobs, President. Dean Haspels, Secretary, acted as Secretary of the meeting. The audience stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by Mark Vander Pol. Ron Jacobs, President welcomed the members to the meeting and spoke briefly.

Secretary, Dean Haspels reported all members in attendance and those members represented by their mailed in ballots, had been registered and that there were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum. On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was moved that roll call was suspended and that members present were declared a quorum.

## **READING OF NOTICE AND PROOF OF MAILING**

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was moved that the reading of the Notice of Annual Meeting and Proof of Mailing be waived.

## **WAIVER OF READING OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING - 2021**

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was moved that the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2021 be waived, and the minutes be approved as sent out to the members.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The next order of business was election of Three (3) Directors for three (3) year terms each, or until their successors shall have been elected. The Chairman stated that in accordance with the By-laws of the Cooperative, the Board had appointed a Committee on Nominations, consisting of:

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Craig Zylstra | Mark Wynja        |
| Dan Heilman   | Joel Bosma        |
| Wayne Van Wyk | Lindsay Watterson |

The Report of the Nominating Committee was read to members by Lindsay Watterson, Chairperson of Nominations Committee. Said Report nominated the following members as candidates for Directors.

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>AREA # 1</u> | <u>AREA # 2</u> | <u>Area # 5</u> |
| Dean Haspels    | Terrence Clark  | Ed Strouth      |
| Nate Mayer      | Tanner Doeden   |                 |

## **APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS OF ELECTION**

President Ron Jacobs appointed the following as Inspectors of the Election:

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Lindsay Watterson | Maurice Heilman |
|-------------------|-----------------|

The votes were taken by written ballot and the ballots delivered to the Inspectors who proceeded to count same along with the ballots that were properly submitted by U.S. Mail.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dean Haspels, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative read the Financial Report to the members of the Cooperative and informed them that the Financial Report is included in the Annual Report. On motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, said Report was approved.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Jeff Ten Napel, Manager of Osceola Electric Cooperative gave his Report to the Members, none of which required action by the Members.

## **REPORT OF ELECTION**

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election of Directors was then presented by the Chairperson, Lindsay Watterson, which Report certified that the following persons had received the highest number of votes cast and had been elected Directors for the term set opposite each person's name, or until his successor shall have been elected and qualified:

|                |          |                     |
|----------------|----------|---------------------|
| Dean Haspels   | Area # 1 | Three (3) year term |
| Terrence Clark | Area # 2 | Three (3) year term |
| Ed Strouth     | Area # 3 | Three (3) year term |

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Chairman then called for any unfinished business and there was none.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chairman then called for any new business and there was none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, and on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

## **AWARDING OF PRIZES**

Following the meeting there was a drawing for prizes.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY