



Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power of human connections®



May 2024

CONTACT US

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Sibley, IA 51249

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Phone:

Local: 712-754-2519
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

On evenings, weekends or holidays an answering service will accept power outage or emergency type calls only.

Online:

osceolaelectric.com

FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

Three account numbers are hidden within the newsletter. Notify us if you find your number and we'll credit your account \$5. Confirm your account number on the top of your statement. Account numbers must be yours to claim.

OEC RECIPES

Submit your favorite Summer Vegetable Recipe for consideration to be printed in our August Newsletter. Submission deadline is July 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

Seats are available on the 2024 Basin Tour, see inside for details!

Annual Meeting Review



The 85th Annual Meeting of the Members of Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc., (OEC) was held March 23, 2024 at the Osceola Electric Cooperative Inc., office in Sibley. Board and staff served coffee, juice, and rolls prior to the business meeting.

President Terrence Clark called the meeting to order and welcomed members attending the meeting.

Nominating Committee Chairperson Al Brueggeman reported the following individuals had been nominated as candidates for Director. Area 3: Lindsay Watterson, Area 4: Adam Hoekstra and Michael Raveling, Area 5: Doug Roth. Voting was done by both mail-in ballots prior to the meeting and ballots cast at the Annual Meeting. The results of the Director balloting: Area 3: Lindsay Watterson, Area 4: Adam Hoekstra, and Area 5: Doug Roth. Articles of Incorporation change to Article VIII to extend Director term limits to 18 years from 12 years passed by 77 percent.

Dean Haspels, Secretary/Treasurer gave the financial report. OEC had revenue from the sale of electricity \$8,071,937. Other services, interest, capital credits provided OEC with a total revenue of \$8,860,103. OEC expenses from purchased power were \$5,763,068 or 70 percent of OEC expenses. Other expenses, operations, maintenance, consumer accounting

and information, administrative, depreciation and interest expense totaled \$8,194,357 leaving margins of \$665,746 for 2023.

Manager Jeff TenNapel reported on the activities of the Cooperative. Construction Work Plan projects completed and an update on OEC line crew construction for 2023. Legislative and power supplier updates were reported on. Safety milestone of 1,752 days safe – no lost time away from work was discussed. Steve Voss was honored for his service to the membership. Steve retired after reaching the 12 year term limit.

A reorganizational meeting was held. Officers are Terrence Clark as President, Derek Ackerman as Vice President and Dean Haspels as Secretary/Treasurer. Also, three L&O Directors were elected: Adam Hoekstra, Dean Haspels and Terrence Clark.



MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN

In accordance with Iowa state law, motorists must move over and slow down when approaching ANY vehicle stopped on the side of the road with it's flashing lights activated, including passenger cars with hazard lights. Those who fail to obey the law could receive a traffic ticket or even lose their driver's license.

Steve Voss Retires



Congratulations to Steve Voss on his retirement from the Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors!

Board President, Terrence Clark and General Manager, Jeff Ten Napel recently presented Steve with a Service Award in recognition of 12 years of dedicated service to the Rural Electrification Program and to the families of Osceola County as a director of

Osceola Electric Cooperative Inc. Steve served on the OEC board from 2012-2024. Steve also achieved nine years of service on the L&O Power Cooperative Board, 5 of those years he served as an officer.

Thank you, Steve, we are tremendously grateful for the time and effort you put forth during your years of service to Osceola Electric Cooperative!

Shining the Light on Community Volunteers in June

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Osceola Electric Cooperative encourages our members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest in June to celebrate local volunteers. Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations in June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the growth of this contest in our first three years," remarked Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "We're increasing our three charity donations to \$3,000 each this year to encourage even more participation across the state."

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers during the month of June. If you receive electricity from Osceola Electric Cooperative, you're a co-op member-consumer

and we invite you to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. **40900** Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.

The three winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website starting on June 1. Help us shine the light on community volunteers this summer and consider making a nomination.



Operating Statistics for March 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Billed consumers, farm.....	1,147	1,156
Billed consumers, non-farm and others	121	123
Kilowatts sold, farm	3,047,262	2,691,118
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others	2,741,047	4,204,274
Average consumption, farm.....	2,657	2,328
Average consumption, non-farm and others	22,653	34,181
Average statement, farm	\$277.59	\$269.23
Average statement, non-farm and others	\$1,846.28	\$2,818.22
Total minimum bills.....	24	20
Outage time per consumer—minutes	0	0
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date	March 2025	

Basin Bus Tour



Spots are filling up for the Basin Bus Tour. The 2024 tour dates are June 12-14. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the source of electricity. Tours are scheduled for the Antelope Valley Power Plant, the Coteau Lignite Mine, and the Garrison Dam.

Plans are to depart from Sibley to Bismarck, North Dakota on June 12 with plenty of movies, games and frequent rest stops to break up the day. Tours are planned for June 13 with a riverboat supper on the Missouri River to conclude the day. The trip wraps up on June 14 with arrival back in Sibley early evening.

This member only trip is \$150 per member. The fee includes the cost for the hotel, bus, all meals, riverboat, and snacks.

Osceola Electric Cooperative joins with 2 other co-ops to make this trip possible. **46979** Call Osceola Electric at 712-754-2519 to reserve your seat!

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping

around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

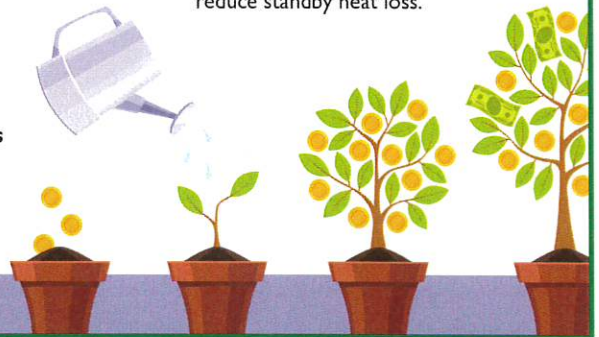
4. Run ceiling fans

for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. Lower your water heater thermostat

to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Feenstra Visits OEC

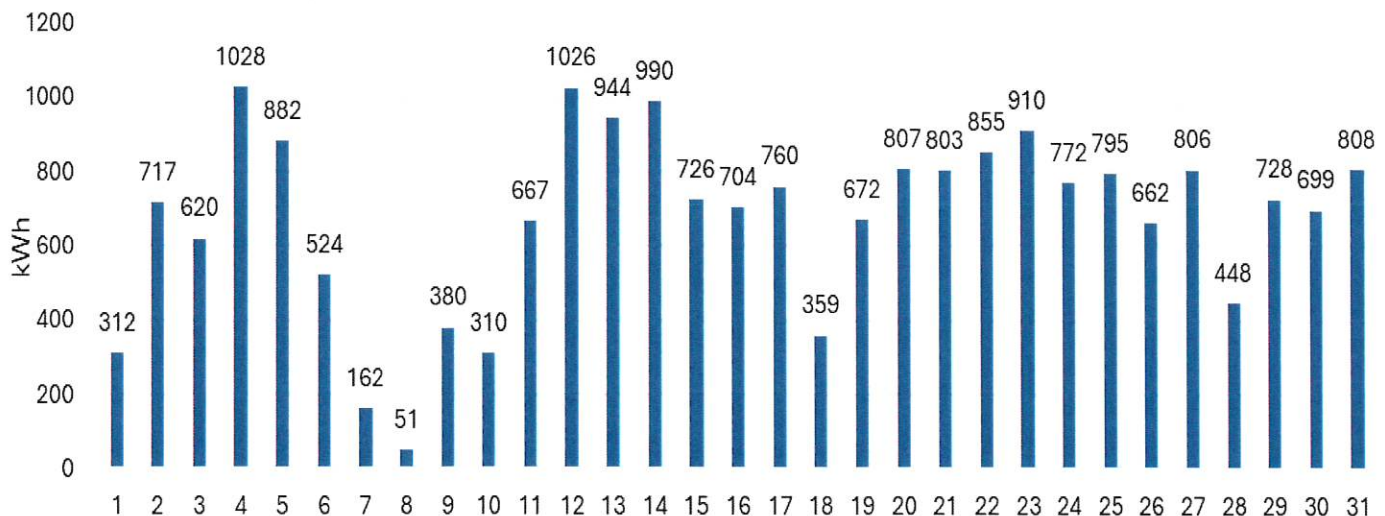
U.S. Representative Randy Feenstra stopped by the Osceola Electric Cooperative office on Tuesday, April 23.

General Manager, Jeff TenNapel and Mark VanderPol met with Congressman Feenstra to discuss topics related to the rural electric cooperative industry. Discussion centered around EPA regulation that affects power supply, preserving the current regulatory framework, and promoting legislation that ensures energy reliability.



Osceola Electric Cooperative works to be an influential advocate to policymakers and candidates to make certain they represent the interests of rural Iowans.

March 2024 Solar Park Production



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are **3941** inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

Member Recipe

Mother's Can't-Leave-Alone Bars Julie Stahly

- 1 pkg white cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup butter

Combine cake mix, eggs, and oil. With floured hands press 2/3 of mixture into greased 9x13 pan. Set aside the remaining mixture. In microwave dish, combine sweetened condensed milk, chocolate chips, and butter. Microwave until smooth (approx. 45 seconds) Pour over crust. Drop the remaining dough over top (flatten out pieces and place them on the bars). Bake 350° for about 20-25 minutes. Enjoy!!



Questions or Complaints

There may come a time when you have a question regarding your electric service or billing. Maybe you have a complaint. If so, we would like to know. Please call us at Osceola Electric Cooperative and ask for the General Manager. Our number is 712-754-2519 or 888-754-2519.

If your complaint is related to ser-

vice disconnection, safety or engineering standards, or renewable energy and Osceola Electric Cooperative does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling 515-725-7321 or 877-565-4450, by writing to 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069 or by emailing customer@iub.iowa.gov.

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those in need of it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in weatheri-

zation of homes of low income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one-time contribution or you may make a monthly contribution that will be automatically added onto your monthly electric bill. You may also make your contribution part of a matching fund, if there is one established. Even a dollar a month pledge will help others.

Customer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed

_____ I will contribute \$_____ per month to RECare. I understand that this amount will be billed monthly.

My gift is a matching fund gift. The matching fund is _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Account Number _____

Mail to: RECare, Osceola Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 127, Sibley, IA 51249