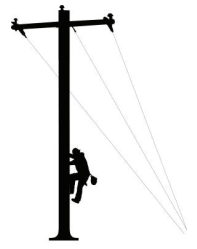


Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



THE OEC CURRENT

People You Can Count On

www.otsegoec.coop

January/February 2017

2017 Update

With every new year comes new opportunities, this year is no different. As 2017 starts to unfold we are eager to get to work and make improvements where we can. Otsego Electric Cooperative has many projects planned and we are taking the opportunity to make many system improvements.

On November 30, 2016, we bid for funding to do a broadband project and we hope to hear whether we will receive the funding soon. We feel that better broadband access is a critical mission for the cooperative to help enhance the quality of life for our members and to foster education and economic development. We are remaining optimistic that we will be able to get our members more robust broadband. The project will provide high speed optical fiber to the home of our members.

OEC continues to automate some of the processes in our office. If you have called to make a payment recently, you may have found that we do not have a live person taking payments anymore. We are using an automated secure line. The main reason we are using a secure line is your security; another reason is it gives our members access to make a payment by phone 24/7. We are encouraging members to take advantage all of our online payments options and our smartphone apps. You can always call the office if you have questions about your bill.

We saw an increase of about 50 new electric accounts in 2016; we are hopeful that number continues to grow. Just over ten years ago we were adding double that amount of new services each year. Our lowest year in many years was 2015 when we only added about 40 accounts. OEC is more aggressively working to retire equipment at inactive properties in order to decrease line losses and to put inactive equipment to use. Inactive services pay a service fee until retirement of facilities, the same as active services.

We are continuing our work plan in 2017 by doing several line relocations and conversions. We will be making upgrades in the Towns of Butternuts, Columbia, Laurens, Middlefield, Morris, Otsego, and Pittsfield. Our crew plans to complete 75 miles of Right-of-Way (ROW) mowing and trimming in 2017. We will also start pole testing and getting GPS points for our poles.

In 2017, we will not be doing a newsletter every month this year, we will be sending one out every other month.

Please Update Contact Information

It is important to keep us updated with your current contact information in case of emergencies, outages and Patronage Capital Credit retirements. In the event we have to make a notification for disconnection for non-payment, it will result in less expense to you. When we have to send a truck to deliver notice of a disconnection, the cost of the trip to notify you will be charged to the account holder.

Commercial Accounts

We will be reviewing memberships and commercial accounts this year. If you own a business and are tax exempt, we will need to have a copy of your tax exempt paperwork to have on file. If we do not have a tax exemption form on file, we will need to charge sales tax on any business/commercial accounts.



www.otsegoec.coop

There is a service map location number in this newsletter. Your map location number is located on your bill. If you find your map location number in this newsletter, call the office within 15 days and your account will be credited \$25.

JOIN ACRE

CO-OP OWNERS FOR POLITICAL ACTION®

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® is a program co-ops can use to reach out to their residential consumer-owners and invite them to be politically engaged in ACRE (Action Committee for Rural Electrification) and in other important grassroots advocacy initiatives.

We have several members who have made a onetime contribution and we currently have several members who have an amount added to their monthly bill.

Support elected officials who:

- ◆ Help my co-op keep my electric service reliable
- ◆ Keep my electric bill affordable because it improves my quality of life
- ◆ Assist my efforts to use electricity more efficiently
- ◆ Make renewable energy affordable
- ◆ Help us rebuild after a storm
- ◆ Protect our economy and jobs when making energy law

If you would like to contribute to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® please visit our website to download the form or call our office and we will send you the sign-up form.

Feel free to contribute any amount or not at all. Contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal.



FREE Trip!

Do you have a High School Junior living in your home?

There is an all-expense paid trip to the 2017 National Rural Electric Cooperative Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., April 22nd through the 26th, available to a high school Junior who lives on the Otsego Electric Cooperative lines.

The deadline to apply is getting close. Interested students will need to contact Mr. Allen at 607-293-6622.

Applications are due by March 1, 2017.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Presidents' Day
The Cooperative office will
be closed Monday, February
20th for the Presidents' Day
Holiday.



Otsego Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Monday – Friday

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Outages:
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Call **Dig Safely**
New York before
you dig **811** or
1-800-962-7962

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