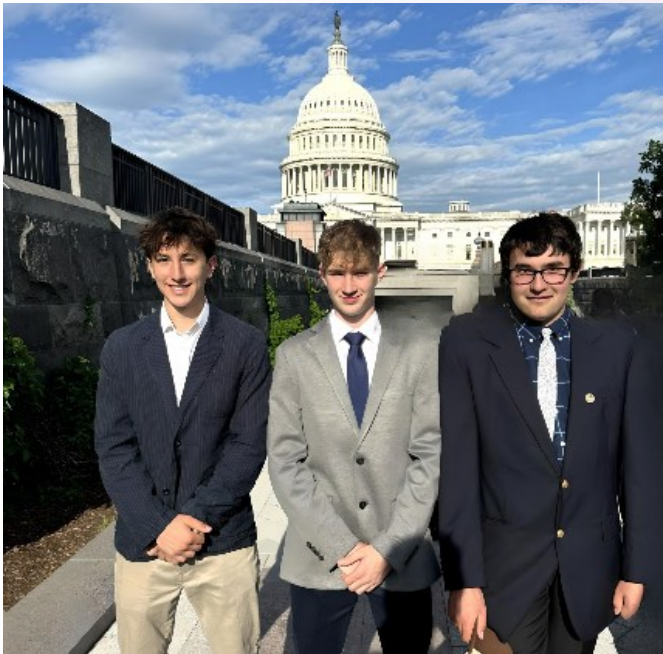




COOPERATIVE NEWS



Bugbee Named NY State Student Representative

Each April, a team from Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative (OMEC) joins representatives from the three other New York State electric cooperatives—and more than 2,000 cooperative leaders from across the country—in Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) Legislative Conference. The purpose of this annual event is to meet with members of Congress and advocate for issues that directly impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities they serve.

This year, OMEC’s delegation was led by Dan Saulsgiver, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors and a dedicated veteran with over 40 years of service. He was joined by Vice President John Lehr, Operations and Member Engagement Coordinator Kyla Lawrence, and Youth Scholarship co-recipient Thatcher Bugbee of Hubbardsville. OMEC’s other co-recipient, Sebastian Gebers of Cazenovia, was unfortunately unable to attend due to prior academic commitments.

Pictured: Niko Kryzston (DCEC), Thatcher Bugbee (OMEC), and Elias MacLeish (OEC)



Notes & Information

Normal Office Hours are as follows:

**7:30am-4pm,
Monday-Friday**

Office Location:
**6630 State Rt 20
Bouckville, NY 13310**

Call **(315) 893-1851** 24 hours a day for assistance with power outages and/or emergencies

Your Board of Directors

Rudy Brouillette, President
John Lehr, Vice President
Dan Saulsgiver, Secretary/Treasurer
Scott Bugbee
Seth Howard
James Nassimos
Kurt Peavey

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Thatcher was joined in D.C. by two fellow scholarship students: Niko Kryzston from Delaware County Electric Co-op and Elias MacLeish from Otsego Electric Co-op. In addition to learning firsthand about the legislative process, these students had the opportunity to explore the nation's capital—visiting historic monuments, museums, and other landmarks—while building meaningful connections with cooperative leaders from across the country.

Following the trip, the CEOs of the four participating co-ops came together to select one student to represent New York on the NRECA's prestigious Youth Leadership Council (YLC). We are thrilled to announce that *Thatcher Bugbee* was chosen as New York's 2025 delegate!

As a YLC representative, Thatcher will return to Washington, D.C., this July for an all-expenses-paid leadership experience hosted by NRECA. The four-day program is designed to strengthen leadership, public speaking, advocacy, and communication skills through hands-on workshops, team-building activities, and meetings with NRECA executives. According to NRECA, the YLC helps participants “build strong connections with fellow YLC members, NRECA's senior leaders, and their local and statewide cooperatives, while gaining a deeper understanding of the cooperative industry and its mission to support rural America.”

C9B-26-02

*Your map location, found on your billing statement, may be found somewhere in this newsletter. If you find **your own**, contact our office by August 1, 2025, and your account will be credited \$10!*

Thatcher is a junior at Brookfield Central School, where he shines both academically and athletically. He is the son of Scott and Amanda Bugbee and is also an active member of the North Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department. In addition, he volunteers at local youth sporting events and serves as a little league umpire—demonstrating a strong commitment to his community.

While in D.C., Thatcher impressed everyone with his curiosity, enthusiasm, and genuine friendliness, making him a clear standout among his peers.



Congratulations, Thatcher! We are incredibly proud of your accomplishment and know you will represent New York—and OMEC—with distinction.

Letter From Board President Brouillette

Greetings, Members,

When I woke this morning you were on my mind, so I pen you this note. When people are invested financially, they're looking for a return on their investment. When people are invested emotionally, they're looking for a way to help out. That goes to the heart of the *Cooperative difference*.

At your Annual Meeting in October I told you about Operation Round Up; a voluntary program where Oneida-Madison members can choose to round up their bills to the next nearest whole dollar each month in order to help those in need. For example if your bill is \$167.49, it would be rounded up to \$168. Your monthly contribution could be as little as a penny, but never more than 99 cents.

It seems like a small amount, however the accumulation of many contributors can make a significant impact. Participation is growing as we just passed 100 members enrolled in the program! So thank you to those of you whom are already signed up! If you haven't already enrolled but you'd like to, you may do so via SmartHub or by contacting the office at (315) 893-1851 or office@oneidamadison.com.

With the potential for donation matching from some of our financial partners, all of the proceeds raised will be given to a local charitable organization of the memberships choosing, which will be voted on at your Annual Meeting October 3, 2025. If you have an organization you'd like to be considered in the voting process, please contact Operations & Member Engagement Coordinator, Kyla Lawrence via email at kyla@oneidamadison.com.

Together we can do great things with our pocket change and collectively it can go toward what we care about in this world!

Something nice to consider,

Happy Spring! Rudy B.

Save the Date

The office will be closed for the following holidays:

Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2025

Labor Day

Monday, Sept 1, 2025



For the most up-to-date information on outages, contests, rebates, and more, like and follow us on Facebook!

Don't have social media? Check out our website at <https://oneidamadison.coop>



Energy Efficiency Upgrades Don't Have to be Expensive. In fact, we help make them CHEAP!

With the Cooperative Home Energy Audit Program (CHEAP) we can help you save money and energy! Our new two-part program can save you \$400¹ or more on your electric bill!

Follow these simple steps to participate!²

1. Schedule a Home Energy Assessment through NYSERDA's Residential Energy Assessment Program. This program is FREE for all NY homeowners of 1 to 4 family homes. To schedule, find one of the participating contractors in your county by visiting <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Contractors/Find-a-Contractor/Residential-Energy-Assessment> There is no application; your selected auditor will take care of the paperwork to receive your no cost energy assessment.
2. Submit proof of completed Home Energy Assessment to Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative, Inc. and receive a \$50 bill credit!³
3. Customize a plan to lower your energy bills. After your assessment is complete, review the results with your auditor to determine which of the recommended energy improvements make the most sense to you. Energy-saving home improvements can include everything from adding insulation and energy-efficient light bulbs to installing a heat pump and ENERGY STAR certified appliances⁴.
4. Finance the Plan. Pay outright for the upgrades or take advantage of NYSERDA's financing assistance for low to moderate income households through the Empower+ Program⁵.
5. Complete the Work. Start saving money and enjoying a more efficient, comfortable home. Submit proof of project completion as outlined in the Home Energy Assessment⁶. Any out-of-pocket expenses paid by the member may be reimbursed by the Cooperative in the form of a bill credit up to \$350.⁷

1 Members are eligible for a maximum \$400 energy efficiency rebate credits per 12-month calendar year.

2 Member's bill must be in good standing to qualify.

3 Proof of Home Energy Assessment includes, but not limited to, written documentation from the NYSERDA approved contractor who performed the assessment.

4 Rebates for Energy Star appliance replacements do not require a Home Energy Assessment.

5 Co-op Members may only qualify for the Empower+ program, as other NYSERDA-sponsored programs are subsidized by a System Benefits Charge, which we do not impose.

6 Proof of project completion includes, but not limited to, copy of the Home Energy Assessment plan recommendation for the project, along with all receipts for out-of-pocket expenses related to the project.

7 Rebates are subject to funding availability. OMEC reserves the sole right to deny reimbursement for any reason. To ensure funding availability and project eligibility, members are encouraged to seek pre-approval from OMEC before beginning any project.



ACCOUNT HOLDER INFORMATION (Please Print)

<i>Name:</i>		<i>Account #</i>	
<i>Service Address:</i>		<i>City:</i>	<i>State: Zip:</i>
<i>Telephone:</i>		<i>Email:</i>	

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT CONTRACTOR

<i>Name:</i>
<i>Telephone:</i>
<i>Date Assessment Completed:</i>
<i>Recommended Actions:</i>
<i>Repairs Completed:</i>

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

By signing my name below, I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

<i>Signature:</i>	<i>Print Name:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Beginning **Monday, June 2, 2025**, OMEC will be seeking your feedback and opinions on our performance and how we can better meet your needs. Your feedback will be instrumental in shaping the way we serve our members in the future. This **confidential** survey will only take 5-10 minutes of your time.

A link and QR code to this survey will be found pinned at the top of our facebook page and our website at <https://www.facebook.com/oneidamadisonelectriccoop/> and <https://oneida-madison.coop>, respectively.



Data collection for the survey will close once the target number of completed surveys are received but no later than Friday, July 18, 2025.

These surveys are being facilitated by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives which according to Cooperative.com, is “a national brand that supports its network of electric cooperatives across 45 states in achieving outstanding member satisfaction with our innovative partnerships, resources, and services to help member cooperatives and their employees better engage and serve their members”.

We are participating in this survey to get real and honest feedback and sincerely hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to let us know how we can better serve you.

At Home With Hazel

These decadent muffins can be eaten for breakfast or for dessert with fresh berries when in season, or frozen. All out of blueberries or just don't like them? Substitute for blackberries, raspberries, or strawberries!

Blueberry Muffins

Ingredients:

Muffins:

2 C + 1-2 TBSP all-purpose flour, divided
3 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
2 large eggs
1 C granulated sugar
1 C plain yogurt
1/2 C canola oil
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 1/3 C berries, divided (1 1/3 C for batter, 1 C for topping)

Streusel Topping:

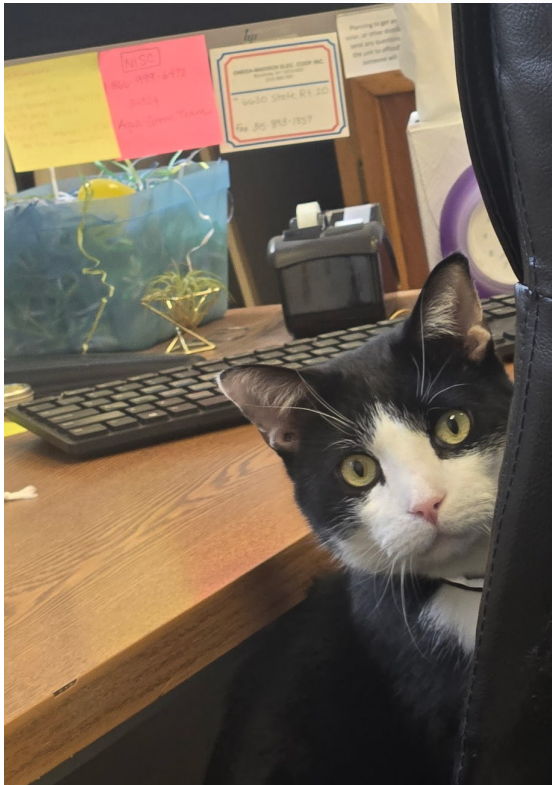
1 C all-purpose flour
2/3 C granulated sugar
1/2 C salted butter, melted
1 tsp cinnamon



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400° and line standard muffin pan with paper liners.
2. Whisk together streusel topping ingredients in a small bowl, set aside.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt, set aside.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs and sugar until combined. Add yogurt, oil, and vanilla, whisk. Mixture should be pale and yellow.
5. Fold wet ingredients into dry ingredients and mix by hand using wooden spoon until moistened.
6. In a small bowl, sprinkle 1 1/3 C of berries with 1-2 TBSP flour until coated. Gently fold into batter.
7. Spoon batter into prepared muffin tins, about 2/3 full. Top batter with remaining berries, then sprinkle generously with streusel topping.
8. Place in the oven and reduce heat to 375°. Bake about 18-20 minutes or until inserted toothpick comes out clean.
9. Cool in pan for 5 minutes, then remove from tin, and finish cooling on wire rack.

Wattson's Window



Friends, one of the things I love most about life at the co-op is how everyone *shows up*. And I don't just mean at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays or when there's an outage—I mean they truly show up. For the members. For each other. For our sister cooperatives. And, if I'm being honest, for *me*.

My dish is always full at mealtime. My water? The perfect temperature. My bed is exactly where I left it, my litter box is fresh, and my favorite toys are never far from a paw's reach. The treats? Let's just say they're never in short supply. No, not every day is perfect—but every day holds a little bit of *greatness*.

The employees here work with and for one another, all to make sure you, the members—and yes, me—are well cared for. For me, that means getting a new jingle bell toy when one goes missing under the heat register or gets stepped on in a moment of chaos. For the

members, it means real conversations with real people—not a maze of automated messages. In an age where live customer service feels like a relic of the past, this place stands out. I know, because those lovely office folks often pause mid-pet to answer a call or assist someone at the counter. I'm somewhat of an expert in co-op operations, after all.

And sure, they may not always have the answer you're hoping for—but they'll always do their best to give *an* answer. That's what a cooperative is all about, right? It's about cooperating. It's about showing up. It's about working together to find solutions and lifting each other up when times get tough.

So here's my message to you:

If you're struggling with your bill—call. Vanessa will walk you through your options and help you find a solution that fits.

If you've got a question—call. Amy's been here long enough to know just about everything, and if she doesn't, she'll find out for you.

Want to nominate a charity for Operation Round Up? Or have a topic you'd like to see in this newsletter, on our website, on Facebook, or at the Annual Meeting? Call. Kyla will make sure your voice is heard.

And if your power goes out, no matter the hour, call **315-893-1851**. Barry, Dylan, Ethan, and James will be on it—restoring your service as safely and quickly as possible.

Because here at the co-op, we show up.
All you have to do is call.